



The Grumman-Northrop Grumman Retiree Club

Newsletter



February 2015

Volume 48, Issue 2

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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, Bob Watkins (772-283-8638)

Georgia - Peach Pit / Milledgeville
President, Ted Zarkowsky (478-452-6442)

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

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

New Jersey - Garden State / Lakehurst
President, Bill Staples (732-350-9454)

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, Ronald Girardin (843-903-7116)

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

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

ROBERT MORACE

March 29, 1911 - January 2, 2014

Robert (Bob) Morace was President of the Grumman Retiree Club in 1989 and 1990. He served on the Board of Directors for a number of years and was a volunteer with the Golden Donor Blood Drive for many years as well.

His son Bob sent an email to inform us of his passing and wrote the following: "Bob Morace was a long-time Grumman employee, starting in the 1940s, and specializing in Quality Control. Leaving Grumman in the 1970s, he was an even longer-term retiree. My father greatly enjoyed his years at Grumman, and his part in the Grumman Retiree Club was an especially important part of his post-employment life."

Bob lived to be 103 and remained the kind, friendly gentleman he had been for all of his life. He and his wife Josephine lived in Bethpage until they moved to Western New York three years ago to be near to their son and his family. Josephine recently celebrated her 101st birthday.

The Blizzard of 2015

For Club members who need a reminder of why we live on Long island: Tuesday, January 27 brought a major snowstorm that dropped eight and a half inches of snow in NYC, twelve to fourteen inches in Nassau County, and sixteen to thirty inches to Montauk. The Governor stopped all mass transit and closed all roads to all traffic except emergency vehicles and snow removal equipment. And, the conditions caused the Bethpage Chapter January meeting to be cancelled.

Wonderful Long island!

The Cradle of Aviation Celebrates the 45th Anniversary of Apollo 13

Apollo 13, the flight that saw the Lunar Module become a "lifeboat" that brought the astronauts home safely, will be celebrated at the Cradle of Aviation on April 16, 2015.

Apollo Astronauts Jim Lovell and Fred Haise, and NASA Flight Director Gene Kranz, who is best known for his role in directing the successful Mission Control team efforts to save the crew of Apollo 13, will all be at the celebration.

Dinner at 6PM, followed by a panel discussion. (No autographs permitted.) Seating is limited and reservations are required. Reserve your seat by calling 516- 572-4066. More information can be found at CradleOfAviation.org



Scholarship Program Contributors

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

- Avati, Samuel
- Bischoff, Willard
- Blyseth, Priscilla
- Ciminera, Michael
- Dwyer, Maria
- Marinara, Theda
- Michelon, Lawrence
- Saxe, John
- Walters, John

Grumman Retiree Club

2015 All Chapter Scholarship Awards Program

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

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

Bethpage Chapter Calendar

Luncheons/Meetings

Membership luncheon-meetings are generally held on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

February 25: Luncheon Meeting, Milleridge Inn

Speaker: Club Member Henry Prodromides
Topics: Fire Safety; Our New Blood Drive
Reservation form: page 18 of this Newsletter

March 25: Luncheon Meeting, Milleridge Inn
Reservation form: page 18 of this Newsletter

2015 Defensive Driving Course

Attention Chapter Members - As previously announced, Liz McGowan, who for years has handled the Club's Defensive Driving courses four times a year, is no longer able to continue. The Club needs another volunteer to take over her activities in 2015 and beyond, or we will be forced to end our Defensive Driving courses.

A little bit of time; a small amount of effort; a very big help to many Club Members.

Please volunteer now
Call the Club office: 516-575-3777

Senior Blood Drive

Northrop Grumman has graciously invited our Club to participate in future NGC blood drives, which will be held in Plant 15, in Bethpage. For details about participating in the NGC blood drives, and for non-NGC blood donation locations around Long island, see Betty Bohlander's article on this page.

Bethpage Chapter

The January meeting of the Bethpage Chapter was cancelled.

The following are notes from Chapter President Betty Bohlander:

Golden Donor Blood Drive

Lately, Club member participation in the Golden Donor Blood Drive has significantly dropped. I believe that the late notice of the locations and times of the drives has had a negative effect on the willingness and ability of members to donate.

Northrop Grumman holds blood drives six times a year. With the assistance of Cathleen Sutton of NG's ESHM department, we have obtained approval for Club members to join NG employees at these blood drives.

The first blood drive was held on February 5; the other five drives are tentatively scheduled for April 9, June 18, August 13, October 8 and December 3, 2015. They will be held in Plant 15 on South Oyster Bay Road, in the cafeteria, from 8:30AM to 2:15PM.

The procedure will be for Club members to come to the front lobby of Plant 15 to receive visitor badges, and then be escorted to the cafeteria. Remember: visitors **must** be escorted at all times when in a Northrop Grumman facility.

If you are interested in donating blood, please call the Club office (516-575-3777), tell us that you would like to participate in a particular blood drive, and leave your name and phone number. When we know that the date becomes actual instead of tentative, we will call you and give you the opportunity to sign up.

We also have, in the Club office, a listing of five blood centers in Nassau and Suffolk Counties where you can donate. If you'd prefer to donate somewhere other than Plant 15, just call the Club office and ask for the other locations. All we ask is that, if you do go to these centers, you



remember to give them the code for Northrop Grumman (which is 3863) so that the company is credited with the donation.

**Former Grumman Executive Chronicles
the Last Days of Grumman**

Jake Bussolini, Senior Vice President of Grumman during the time of the takeover by Northrop, has published a new book entitled, "The Last Chapter".

The book goes behind the closed doors of both the executive offices and the Corporate Board room to disclose details about this corporate takeover that have never before been released. The book describes the tense events that lead to the decision to change the basic business strategy of Grumman. It also tells several political tales that help the reader understand how a major player in the defense industry can be brought to its knees by the signature of one highly placed Washington official.

"The Last Chapter" shares the fascinating inside story of the combination of two great companies, which were married out of a necessity caused by the Defense Department's 1991 dictate that 50% of the then-existing defense manufacturers needed to be eliminated.

Note: To purchase this book, please see the Grumman Store ad on page 18 of this newsletter.

CALIFORNIA / Golden West

Meeting dates:
2/10; 3/10 (2nd Tues.)

Our January 13th meeting, held at the Eagles Lodge in Oxnard, opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer led by President Fred Syrett.

A luncheon followed, with discussions of sports, past work incidents, and general good fellowship.

Fourteen members were present. Sergeant-at-Arms John Urgo and Vice President John Torkelsen were absent due to illness.

During a short business meeting we discussed the need for speakers for future meetings.

Tom Maloney gave the Treasurer's report.

Ralph Rossbach celebrating a Birthday this month.

Dick & Mary Bartick celebrating their 62nd anniversary this month.

50/50 winners: Ken Kozsberg, Leroy Chavez, and President Fred Syrett.

Next Meeting: February 10

By: Fred Syrett, President.

CALIFORNIA / San Diego

No report of January activity.

Contact: Bill Roeckl, Sec'y. billroeckl@cox.net

FLORIDA / First Coast

Thirty-eight members and two guests were present for our January 20th meeting. We were all very happy to be back at "Ichiban Buffet," formally New Century. The restaurant has been completely redesigned, and has expanded food offerings. The buffet type of luncheon works great for our growing number of attendees.

Fred Bauer welcomed us and led the Pledge, which was followed by Janet Cassford's opening prayer.

We enjoyed our meals, needless to say.

Welcome back Ted! Janet Cassford's husband was back with us at lunch, recovering from kidney stones.

Welcome new member Pete Barraco.

With no news from outside the chapter to be reported, Treasurer Bob Rathje stated that, counting today's payments, two thirds of our members have paid their \$15 dues for 2015 (60 out of 90). Bob asks that all dues payments be in by the end of February, as chapter dues payment to headquarters is March 1.

You may pay your dues by mail. Send to: Bob Rathje, 11046 Castlemain Circle East, Jacksonville, FL. 32256

Fred announced January Birthdays: George Collins, Al Umbach, Ed Deane, Bob Mehl, Dick Schneckenburger, Sharon Lainhart, Patricia Worth, Bernie Bernier, Audrey Moore, Anne & Emil Gagliardi, Rich Porter, and Dolores & Harry Munson.

One Anniversary: Cathy & Michael Garvey

Fred passed out copies of our 2015 meeting schedule and noted that our Spring Picnic has been booked at Treaty Park, for May 19.

Our meeting dates for 2015:

Feb 17, Mar 17; Apr. 21; May 19 - picnic; June 16.
July & August: Summer break.
Sept. 15; Oct 20 - Fall Picnic; Nov. 17; Dec. 8.

That's it . . . Will the months fly by like 2014?
Five 50/50 prizes were awarded.

Next Meeting: Feb 17, at Ichiban, on US 1 South in St. Augustine. If you plan to attend, you may pay your dues to Bob or Fred at the meeting.

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

FLORIDA / Manasota West

January 14, 2015

President Ted Martines called the meeting to order, leading our 12 members and two guests in the Pledge of Allegiance for our first meeting of 2015.

Jim Murray gave his final financial report as Chapter Treasurer. Jim has been the Chapter's Treasurer for 14 consecutive years and was given a resounding round of applause for his dedication to the Club. He promised to stay active and provide guidance whenever needed.

As with other chapters not located in areas close to former Grumman or current Northrop Grumman facilities, our membership is aging and maintaining membership numbers and other chapter requirements (i.e. officer term limits) is difficult. But, we have a hearty group of retirees who enjoy our monthly meetings, and the camaraderie that has grown within the group remains strong.

Our two guests at this meeting were Werner Bols, Vice President of the FL Treasure Coast Chapter, and his former Grumman colleague and friend Mort Shedrofsky. Both related their Grumman and life experiences at Bethpage and at Stuart, FL.

Jim Murray shared with us a human interest story about a young relative who was drafted into the Army during the Viet Nam era. Even though he was a Conscientious Objector, he decided to serve and eventually came home having received numerous awards for gallantry; however, he suffered Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) for most of his adult life. With recent changes for Veterans' care and with the help of a former comrade, he has finally received the help he needed, at the age of 64. The moral of this is: it's never too late, so don't give up.

Bob Alloca, our resident tax professional, informed us that the Affordable Care Act (ACA), (a.k.a. ObamaCare) is the biggest issue for Tax Preparers this year. An extra nine hours of training was provided to tax preparers to cover the new ACA components and requirements. Fortunately, because our members are seniors on Medicare we are mostly not affected, but our families could be.

We missed Con & Jane Gilson due to illness, and send our best wishes to Con for a speedy recovery.

The chapter also wishes Frank Poplawski good health as he continues to work through combat



related disabilities from service with the Marines in WWII.

A discussion was held about setting aside a portion of future meetings for Grumman Trivia. It sounds like a great idea and good fun for all. If any other chapters or individuals have any Grumman Trivia sheets or suggested questions/answers, we would welcome them. Please send to our Secretary at email listed below.

We encourage our members to bring guests. Also, if there are any Grumman retirees in the area, please join us at Pier 22 Restaurant in Bradenton, FL, at Noon on February 12 for our next meeting.

For future planning: Our meetings are held at Noon, on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, in our private dining room at Pier 22 Restaurant, Bradenton, FL, where we enjoy good food and conversation while overlooking the boating and marine activities on the Manatee River.

By: John Zinna, Sec'y/Treasurer
ezjohn1028@gmail.com

FLORIDA/ Mid-West

Our January 15th meeting was opened by President John Cornacchia, at 11:30AM:

Chaplin Gus Kraye gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were 11 members present. There were no reported Birthdays or Anniversaries for the month of December.

A motion to accept the minutes for December 2014, as amended, was made by Gus Kraye and seconded by Bertha Siegl-Podwys. The motion was accepted unanimously.

The Treasurer's report was given by Gus Kraye. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Bill Shay and seconded by Rich Arso. The report was accepted unanimously.

Sunshine Committee

Citrus County: Frank Gabrus is still having discomfort from his hip. We hope you feel better soon, Frank.

Hernando Co:
Hank Mehl is still recuperating from his Gall bladder operation. Feel better, Hank; we miss you.

We are sorry to hear that Edie Bermester passed away. George, please accept our condolences.

Information has been given to Gus Kraye as to where to send our donations to the Salvation Army and the Hernando-Pasco Hospice. Our donations will be sent soon.

Our Speakers were from the Hernando Appraisers Office and they were very informative.

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.

A fun time was had by all.
Future Meetings: February 19, March 19.
Meetings will be at 11:30AM, at the Buffet City restaurant on Route # 50, in Brooksville.

Your dues for 2015 are due at this time.
If you want to continue to receive your Newsletter, please send your check to Kathy Cornacchia, 2926 Banyan Hill Lane, Land O'Lakes, FL 34639.

By: Kathy Cornacchia, Sec'y.

FLORIDA / SouthWest

Our January meeting was opened, with 22 members and guests, by Tony Perre, filling in for President Clem Moors, who was on vacation in Las Vegas. After the pledge to our flag and a prayer, Tony announced the passing of our long time member John Zuk, on January 4, 2015. The following is the obituary published in the local News-Press:

ALEXANDER 'JOHN' ZUK

Alexander 'John' Zuk, 84, passed away peacefully on 1/4/2015. He is survived by his brother Michael (Paulette) Zuk, his daughter Janet (Torn Reid), and his son Dr. Jim (Lisa) Zuk, as well as his loving grandchildren, Alexandra Zuk, Johnathan & Jillian Reid, and Christopher, James & Steven Zuk.

John was born and raised in Roosevelt, NY, and raised his family in Merrick, NY. He served in the US Army during the Korean War and was a 41-year retiree of Grumman Aerospace in Bethpage, NY. John and his wife retired to Cape Coral in 1990. John was preceded in heaven by his son John and his loving wife Barbara

We welcomed a new member to our Chapter: Peter Harrington, now living in Port Charlotte, FL. Peter retired from Northrop/Grumman in 2002, having started with Grumman in 1965. Peter was a software engineer with Grumman on several programs. He gave us a bio of his Grumman experiences.
We had two members celebrating birthdays in January: MaryEllen Gold and Ray Labell. In February, we have two birthdays coming up: Tony Perre and Clara Millar.

A press release announcing the publication of former Grumman Corp. Senior VP Jake Bussolini's book, *The Last Chapter*, was read at the meeting. The book goes behind closed doors of both the executive offices and the Corporate Board Room.

We discussed and decided that the \$300 allocation from the Retiree Club HQ will be shared by *Wounded Warriors*, *St Jude Hospital*, and *Alzheimer's*. Clem Moors will contact Bethpage with the choices,

Our next meeting will be March 10th at the Golden Corral in Punta Gorda. At that meeting we will discuss places to have our May meeting. We will look to have a trip for the day.

Members were reminded that their 2015 dues of \$15 must be paid by the end of January to keep their membership active and to receive the

Newsletter. Send your check to Willy Wolter, 5061 Winter Rose Way, Venice, FL 34293

50/50 winners: Tom Cummiskey won 3 times and donated two back for a redraw; Mello Wolter won 2 times and returned one for redraw. *Thanks* to Tom and Mello for their generosity. The last winner was Clara Millar.

Next Meeting. March 10, 11:30am at the Golden Corral, Punta Gorda, FL. Pick up drink at entrance and proceed to private room.

By: Tony Perre, Sec'y. (239-731-7146)
tara88@comcast.net.

Florida / Space Coast

January 21, 2015

A classic Florida winter sun shone down on the Suntime Clubhouse as a bustling crowd of 91 retirees gathered to socialize prior to the Noon start of the year's first meeting. Following our Pledge of Allegiance, Sergeant-at-Arms Ed Romano reminded us of our blessings, closing with a moment of silence in tribute to the passing of four of our members: Lou Klein, Joe Lengytel, Ralph Harris, and Ruth McDonald.

The Club chef seemed to outdo himself with a buffet which featured award worthy chicken with Apricot Chutney Sauce and superb tilapia primavera.

Vice President John Lau then introduced our outstanding guest speaker, Betsy Farmer, a max-motivated founder of *Promise In Brevard*, a not-for-profit organization creating an extensive, multi-faceted housing development designed specifically for young adults with special needs. Betsy is no stranger to big challenges for - when faced with limited options for her son Luke, who has Down Syndrome - she created the award-winning Space Coast Early Intervention Center where children with and without special needs can play together and foster friendships. As Luke matured she realized there existed no accommodation for young adults



like him to live, work, and socialize together, and so the concept of the facility *Promise in Brevard* was born.

Progress to date has seen a conceptual design created by future Promise residents and a noted local architectural organization. In addition, 39 acres of land in the heart of West Melbourne has been acquired for \$1.5M. Nine local employers will be providing vocational training for 130 residents, and FIT will be partnering by supplying students studying in the special-needs field to live on site as housing assistants. Designated areas include: town homes for the residents; a bed and breakfast facility for visiting families; a farm and plant nursery area with a Farmers Market; video production and viewing facilities; a dog housing and care building; a computer lab, and a health & fitness center.

Sound ambitious? A \$15.8M appropriation has already been arranged with the Florida Housing Authority and the federal government. The Gift Shop is open and operational and the Hydroponic Gardens will be next.

Betsy Farmer's ardent desire is that this ambitious program will serve as an example to other states, encouraging them to create facilities where young adults like Luke can live independently, and can "move out and live on their own."

Treasurer Bill Waldron read a lovely letter from the Honor Flight Organization, thanking us for the Chapter's contribution to help provide the means for WWII veterans to visit the memorials in Washington, DC.

We welcomed the following new members to our club: Denise Herring, Stephen Eglin, and Gil Freidenreich. Bill then gave a resume of our financial activity this past year along with the balances in the General and Scholarship Accounts.

Travel: Our Travel Chairlady Maureen Ayers reported in with some very enticing local trips for our members. She has a personal "Bucket List" of 170 Florida State Parks that she is seeking to

visit. Among those recently visited were Cedar Key, which features 72 degree water year round, and Homosassa Springs Park where she viewed sleeping manatees and a special enclosure for injured birds

Of particular interest to Maureen was a visit to Florida Southern College in Lakeland, FL. The campus was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and features 12 of his buildings, the largest collection in the world - many of the buildings actually built by his students.

Maureen also touched on the recently renovated Daytona Speedway and the spectacular views from the local Exploration Tower at Port Canaveral.

Historian/Gremlins: George Graefe alerted members to the annual TiCo Warbird Air Show to be held on March 13th, 14th, & 15th in Titusville, FL, featuring the USAF Thunderbirds. The Canberra bomber escape hatch and F-11F canopy are currently the subject of the Gremlins' attention. Work is also progressing on the F-16 Viper and the second F-86. Following the air show, an F-100 will be coming - stop in and see these artisans perform their magic.

Scholarship: Jim Glover reported that we have signed up again with the school district to get applicants for our two scholarships in the Spring. President Bob Prais reported that there was no Old or New Business but reminded all members that next month's speaker is Northrop Grumman Vice President Rick Matthews who will brief us on total corporate activity as well as the status our local expansion program.

Employee Birthdays January: John Lau, Allan Dooley, Lee Brandt, Stephen Petrovits, Carl Thilburg, Tom Lewis, Salvatore Cioffi, Rudy Mahler, John Soucheck, Jerald Willoughby, Fred Wilms, Walter Duester, Heinz Schreiber

Spouse Birthdays January: Dorothy Beck, Lilia Barton, Rosemarie Bain, Joan Schult, Grace Avitabile, Rena/Catherine Wolf, Joan Burgess, Karen Brandt, Jackie Winter.

Anniversaries January: Frank & Elizabeth SanFillippo; Henry (Ted) & Joanne Kuhn; Richard & Martha Masiello; Lawrence & Joan Orlando; Ruth & Grace Avitabile; Pat & Joan Buckley; Vic & Pat Belmont.

50/50 Drawing: There were seven 50/50 winners. The grand prize of a \$25 gift card to Publix and a bottle of Chianti was won by Angela Romano. Congratulations to all our winners!!!

By: Bill Steenson, Sec'y.

Meeting Schedule: 2/18, 3/18, 4/15, 5/20, 6/17
No meetings in July & August

FLORIDA / Suncoast

Our 1/21/15 meeting was held at the Hibachi Buffet at Park Blvd. & 49th. Street, in Pinellas Park, FL, starting at Noon. President Ben Hurley opened the meeting with ten members and guests in attendance. Sergeant-at-Arms John Kucin led the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary Patricia Newark gave the Invocation and a special prayer for our service people in harm's way.

We have a special New Year's birthday boy: Caesar Colasuonno, who was born on Jan. 1st. The Suncoast Singers sang Happy Birthday. Welcome back Ed Williams, and *Thank You* for bringing pictures of your grandchildren and your great grandchild.

There were four happy 50/50 winners: Caesar, who returned his, and Patricia Newark, John Newark, and Lyn Mohr.

Jake Bussolini, Senior VP at Grumman during the last year of Grumman's stand-alone existence, will be at our March 18 meeting. Jake will speak about his recently published book, "The Last Chapter," which reveals previously unknown details about the Northrop takeover of Grumman.

**Happy New Year
To All.**

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

Next Meetings: 2/18, 3/18, 4/15

FLORIDA / Treasure Coast

Our January 15th meeting was held at Manero's Restaurant in Palm City, Florida with 47 members and guests in attendance.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by President Watkins introducing Chaplain Lawrence Regier, who gave the invocation after announcing the death of long-time member and friend of the club, Fred Petruichik. Lawrence also shared that Bill Weremechik had undergone eight hours of successful open-heart surgery the previous day, in Palm Beach Gardens.

Watkins talked about the passing of Bill Brown, with whom many of us worked in Stuart. Details of Bill's death are not available at this time.

Watkins introduced a renowned member of our community, Richard Geisinger. Richard is the President of the Martin County Taxpayers Association (MCTA). He began his talk by telling us about his organization, which is a non-profit, non-partisan group dedicated to studying tax related issues and offering recommendations to entities within the community.

Richard touched on three areas: the local Florida waterways, the county/city fire departments, and the ongoing community debate over *All Aboard Florida*, a private concern trying to pass legislation that would create a passenger train system which would travel through our immediate areas.

The MCTA recommended to the county/city that they merge their fire departments, creating one system that would not only save an immediate million dollars, but would also create parity within the combined entity, making salaries/benefits equal and standard.



Our rivers are on target to receive millions in tax dollars, which his group (and everyone) agrees should be put toward their intended use: recovery/repair of a system damaged by unintended consequences of government actions through many decades.

Finally, and on everyone's minds, the railroad system. Geisinger reconfirmed that the number of passenger trains was only part of the problem. Due in part to laws that gave specific rights to the railroads, and the opening of a much larger canal to the Pacific Ocean in Central America, thus increasing freight traffic, freight trains would increase in frequency and length, inflicting havoc locally. (The main hospital in Martin County is on the East side of the railroad tracks, with two egresses over the tracks, both within one block. Any emergency vehicle coming from the North, stopped at the tracks for any long train, could see serious, even, fatal, consequences.)

Ending his speech by asking everyone to write/call his or her federal official to weigh in on *All About Florida*, Geisinger mentioned that the local YMCA (the largest in land area in the US) owed its large existence in part to Grumman and actions taken by the Stuart people when Plant 77 opened. We thank Richard for his very informative talk. Watkins echoed Richard's request for us to contact our elected officials.

Watkins then thanked those involved with keeping our meetings on track: Ron Gomes, Janet Cuci, Joan Savio (retiring secretary), Claude Rathgeber (unsung hero status), along with all of the officers continuing on. They are Lawrence Regier, Chaplain; Joann Rathgeber, Treasurer; Charlene Castagnero, Membership; and Werner Bols, Vice President. Watkins will continue as Program Chairman.

Introduced as our new Chapter President was Danny Knowles. Taking (back) over as Secretary: yours truly, Nancy Schaefer.

Watkins also announced that Lawrence Regier has a hand-made boat (made from a fuel cell?), which is on display at the Elliott Museum, on Hutchinson Island.

Dues for 2015 are due to Charlene Castagnero in the amount of \$15.

Birthdays included Charlene Castagnero, Joann Rathgeber and Carol Wall.

Ken & Maddy Tolve celebrated their 51st anniversary.

Our visitors included Roger Carpenter and Nick Maniscalco & Marie.

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

Next Meeting: February 19, at Manero's restaurant.

For more info, please contact Nancy Schaefer: (772-528-8169) or nmscha@aol.com

GEORGIA / Peach Pit

Our January 20, 2015 meeting at Crockett's Cafeteria on N. Columbia Street, in Milledgeville, GA, started at 12:35PM. There were 13 members present when Year 2014 President Ted Zarkowsky called the meeting to order and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Jesse Griffin gave the Blessing.

Former President Earl Seagle administered the Oath of Office Pledge to this year's Officers who were present, thus installing Janet Sills as President; Ted Zarkowsky as Vice President; Lew Iuliucci as Secretary; and Joe Sansotta as Treasurer. In absentia were Sergeant-at-Arms Wendell Barr and Chaplin Willie Collins. After completion of the Oath of office, we followed up with lunch, our business meeting, and fellowship.

Old Business:

A motion to accept the November 18, 2014 Minutes and the December 16, 2014 Social Notes was made by Billie Gruwell and seconded by Ruby Avant. There were no changes by those present nor received by proxy, so the motion passed.

New Business:

1. **President Janet** welcomed attendees back from the Christmas holidays and wished members a Happy New Year. She noted that this month is the 27th Anniversary since Earl Seagle and the requisite twenty-four other Pension-eligible or already retired employees first met to petition the Grumman Retiree Club in Bethpage to sanction the Georgia/Peach Pit Chapter. Sixty days later - in March, 1988 - the Grumman Retiree Club added our Chapter.

2. **January Happy Birthday wishes** go out to: Brenda Gruwell [3rd]; Barbara Bernichon [21st]; Paul Bernichon [28th]; Vince Ciampa [11th]; Jim Hicks [7th]; Maddie Main [19th]; Barbara M. Stevens [24th]; and Martha Vinson [18th].

3. There are no January Wedding Anniversary congratulations to report.

4. **Treasurer Joe Sansotta reported:**

(a) We have a positive opening bank balance.
 (b) The Grumman-Northrop Grumman Retiree Club stipend that was awarded to this Chapter was sent to our Community Food Pantry for Christmas 2014, to feed the needy.

(c) New members John Noack and Frank Vargas have joined our Chapter.

Welcome Aboard, John and Frank.

5. Brenda Miller requested our prayers for her upcoming surgery.

6. There were no further new sicknesses or illnesses reported

7. In lieu of a raffle, \$20 was collected and donated to our Community Service Fund by the attendees.

Thank You, All!

Community Service:

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

Program:

Members reflected on 27 years of meetings and changes at Plant 66.

A motion to end the meeting was made by Brenda Miller and seconded by Ted Zarkowsky. The motion carried, and adjournment was at 1:45PM.

Next Meeting: Feb 17, at 12:30PPM, at Crockett's

Cafeteria on North Columbia Street, in Milledgeville.

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

Maryland / Glen Arm

The Glen Arm Chapter January meeting ended up being canceled by the two members who showed.

Topics to be covered were the Treasury Report, Club's Monthly Dues, and Club Charity Donation.

At last month's meeting, we reviewed the dues increase and discussed how we would handle the new dues amount locally. Those present at that meeting decided to leave the Glen Arm Chapter dues at \$15 for 2015 and we will consider a possible increase next year.

Membership renewal notices were sent out early in January; we've received about forty percent back (40%) back and will be forwarding them to NY this week.

If you have not renewed for 2015, please submit as soon as possible.

Again, we are considering making a donation to a charitable organization for 2015. Rick Swinder is researching and will inform the Chapter of his findings at an upcoming meeting. Our prior donation was to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

We are sorry to hear of the loss of John Kennedy's wife, Elizabeth, last year. John and Elizabeth moved to Florida some time ago. John has been traveling and visiting family, so maybe we'll see him at one of our meetings some time.

January / February Birthdays:

- John Kennedy - January 15th
- Luella Beihl - January 22nd
- Linda LaOrange - January 23rd
- Vince Trabona - January 24th

- Rick Kratzmier - February 1st
- Margaret Rutherford - February 4th



Ben Richardson - February 14th
Maxine Svach - February 29th

Happy Birthday to you all!

Unless Notified Otherwise:

Our Chapter meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Daytime meetings are held at 1PM; Evening meetings are held at 6:30PM. All meetings are held at the Golden Corral in Aberdeen, MD.

Next Meetings: Feb 17, 1PM; March 17, 6:30PM.

Remember: Our Chapter is still recruiting members. If any current members have contact info for fellow Glen Arm Grummanites who aren't members, please pass on our club contact info to the non-members, or forward their contact information 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

By: Joe Svach

New England North

Chapter is on Winter break.

New Jersey
Garden State Chapter

Chapter did not meet in January.

Next Meeting: March 17, 2015 at 1PM, at the Crestwood Family Restaurant.

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

NEW YORK
Eastern Long Island Chapter

Chapter did not meet in January.

Greetings to all Snowbirds!

Mytko Report: Pauline Sandmann in "fender bender" en route to South Carolina: minor cuts and bruises. Our very best to her.

To report any illnesses, deaths, etc, contact Bill Mytko (1-864-225-4927 or ermytko@yahoo.com)

February Birthdays: Robert Schaefer (2/1); Walter French (2/12)

Anniversary: Art & Catherine Bolomey celebrated 61 years of wedded bliss back in December. Sorry, I missed it.

If any Birthdays or Anniversaries have been missed, let me know.

2015 Dues: \$15. Dues are due now!! Make check payable to *ELI Grumman Retiree Club*. Remit to: Bert Moller, 33 Ramsey Road Commack, NY 11725. Please use the Membership Application / Renewal Form that is in the Retiree Club Newsletter. **Print** Name, Address, Phone Number, and Date of Birth (DOB is used so I can list it in Newsletter! . . . Thanx!)

Remember: NO DUES – NO NEWSLETTER!
Next Meeting: Feb 18, at the Coram Diner [Route 112 and Jericho Turnpike (Route 25)]. Lunch at Noon, meeting after. Cost TBD. Contact Bob Albert (631-585-7987) by Monday, 2/16, for a head count!

March Meeting: March 18 (3rd Wednesday of the month). Location TBD (Lynne Miller suggested the "Polishtown" restaurant: The Birchwood.

Happy Valentines Day!

By: Bob Albert (631-585-7987)

NORTH CAROLINA
Eastern Carolina Chapter

Chapter did not meet in January.

Contact: Dottie Karika, Secretary
(dotjimk@att.net)

PENNSYLVANIA
Northeastern Pennsylvania Chapter

Chapter did not meet in January.

Next Meeting: April 16, 2015, at Noon, at Kays Restaurant, in Lake Ariel, PA.

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

SOUTH CAROLINA
Coastal Carolinas Chapter

January 7, 2015

Our first meeting of 2015 was held at The Olive Garden, Myrtle Beach, with fifteen members present. After lunch, President Ronald Girardin, called the meeting to order.

In the absence of Sgt.-At-Arms Eldon Scott, Secretary Nancy Webber led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for our military, our nation, and club members who are ill.

Birthday wishes were extended to Lee Mascara and Gary O'Loughlin.

The December 2014 meeting minutes were read by Secretary Nancy Webber, and were seconded and approved.

Treasurer Don Webber gave the Treasurer's report. The report was seconded and approved.

Unfortunately, we have lost another club member. John Culleton, Sr. passed away on September 9, 2014. Our condolences go to his wife Shirley and

to all family members.

Please keep Lee and Bernard Mascara in your prayers. Lee is not doing well, and Bernard is one of her caretakers. Also, keep Teresa McMahon and Sally Banker in your prayers. Both ladies have health issues.

Congratulations to Vice President Janice Hanlon, who was the winner of the 50/50 drawing.

If you have not submitted your 2015 dues, please do so, or you will not receive the Newsletter and you will cease to be a member of the Club. Dues are \$15 per member, and \$5 per spouse. Please mail your dues to Don Webber, 4713 National Drive, Myrtle Beach, SC 29579.

To become more cost effective, Retiree Club HQ in Bethpage will not publish newsletters for the months of August and September, so please don't look for newsletters in your mailboxes for those two months. In addition, HQ sent a lovely Grumman - Northrop Grumman Retiree Club banner to us with our Chapter name on the bottom of the banner. Also, a \$300 gift has been provided by HQ to our Chapter: \$100 of it was donated to Brunswick County Street Reach; \$100 went to Street Reach, Myrtle Beach; and the remaining \$100 was kept by our Chapter to cover administrative expenses. Thank you, Betty Bohlander, President of The Grumman -Northrop Grumman Retiree Club, for these additions to our chapter.

Mark your calendars for upcoming meetings:

- **March 4**, Friendly's, 4705 North Kings Highway, Myrtle Beach;
- **April 1**, Ryan's Family Steak House, 3607 Highway 17 South, North Myrtle Beach.

All meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month, at Noon. All Grumman, Northrop Grumman, and Northrop retirees and their guests are most welcome.

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



TEXAS / Houston

The Grumman Houston meeting was scheduled for January 20, 2015 but, because we did not have a quorum, the meeting was cancelled.

It was noted that the December Grumman Newsletter had errors regarding membership renewal and we wish to provide the correct information:

**Please Note The Following
Correct Membership Renewal Information.**

Annual dues have been raised from \$13 to \$15. Checks should be made out to: *"The Grumman Retirees"* Mail checks to:

Ms. Sandy Howell,
PO Box 8140
Bacliff, TX 77518

Please Note The P.O. Box Address Correction

Again: **Dues Are Now \$15.** Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

We were hoping to greet the membership with a Happy New Year, but we will hold that off until the February meeting and play catch-up then.

Looking forward to seeing you at our Tuesday, February 17, 2015 meeting at the Clear Lake Park Building, NASA #1Pkwy, Houston, TX.

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

VIRGINIA / Central Virginia

Happy New Year!

It's a new year and we started off with a slight covering of snow and 27 degrees. By 12:30PM, the main roads were very clear.

We enjoyed a nice meal at Shadwells Restaurant, in a room of our own. In attendance were Maryanne Muller, Frank Edwards, Harold Case, Marjorie & Fred Meiners, Frank & Beverly Purstell, and Rich Benske and friend Jackie.

It was good to see Harold from the Williamsburg area. We missed those of you from Williamsburg and Chesapeake and all around the State who were unable to attend.

Future Meetings:

March 11, 12:30PM, at Blue Mountain Brewery, 9585 Critzer Shop Road, Afton, VA. (Brewery is in Nellysford). Go 1 1/2 miles up Rt.151, on left side, from the intersection of Routes. 250 & 151 towards Wintergreen. Phone 540-456-8020.

April 15: at Francesco's Restorante, Italian, on Route 60 (Richmond Rd.). North of Williamsburg (just before the Williamsburg Pottery).

We're trying to move our meetings to locations, a little further from Charlottesville, so please COME!

2015 Dues will remain at \$15 per member.

For those who have NOT PAID their dues for 2015: please send your \$15 check (made out to "Grumman - Northrop Grumman Retiree Club, Central VA Chapter" or to "Frank Purstell") to: Frank Purstell, 317 Meadow Beauty Ct., Waynesboro, VA 22980

By: Marjorie Meiners, Recording Sec'y.

In Memoriam

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

Braja, Edward	Sunrise, FL	01/12/2015
Caramanica, John	Port Washington, NY	12/12/2014
Cicccone, Joseph	Bay Shore, NY	12/25/2014
Evans, Robert	Bethpage, NY	07/05/2014
Giesler, William	Getzville, NY	12/23/2014
Johnson, Wesley	Swansboro, NC	10/16/2014
Karp, Leonard	Mount Sinai, NY	12/17/2014
Klein, Louis	Melbourne, FL	01/09/2015
Lengyel, Joe	Cocoa, FL	01/13/2015
Weizenecker, Charles	East Northport, NY	12/31/2014
Xeller, Richard	Bayport, NY	12/05/2014

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 28

The Tomcat Shows Its Claws ... In Iran (1976)

The first F-14 destined for Iran rolled out of Calverton's doors on January 8. It was just two years, almost to the day, that the letter offer was signed between the US and Iran. Despite the Navy's skepticism that Grumman could achieve that demanding schedule, Grumman had again achieved the "impossible". F-14 deliveries were to continue to be brisk, with 26 more in 1976, 36 in 1977, and at order completion, a total of 80, by 1978.

On the last day of January Imperial Iranian Air Force (IIAF) pilots flew the first two F-14s to Khatami Airbase, the Iranian hub of F-14 operations. A third F-14 arrived the next day. The Shah now had the beginnings of his MiG killer fleet. They would be put to the test shortly.

Meanwhile, the Congress and the public were angrily investigating industry for corrupt international business practices. This time the scandal, which involved approximately 400 companies, focused on Lockheed Aircraft. In their case it was about bribing government officials to get lucrative defense contracts. Lockheed used sales representatives and other techniques, to win contracts for the F-104 Starfighter and other aircraft in Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, and Japan (Note: Japan's Air Force officials wanted Grumman's F-11F-1 Super Tiger).

Now the spotlight again shone on Grumman and the F-14 when it came out that Grumman, in February 1973, had retained commission sales representatives to assist in the sale of F-14s to Iran. This, of course, is a sound business practice for doing business in a new country as it enables a firm to overcome its lack of detailed knowledge of the country's language, customs and market conditions. The commissions are paid out of profits from the sales; nothing is paid if sales do not materialize.

The fact that Grumman had hired sales representatives led immediately to an assumption that this was another example of illegal business practice and gave the press another opportunity to go after the F-14 and Grumman. The clatter of innuendo and inaccurate accusations ultimately required Chairman Jack Bierwirth and President Joe Gavin to send a letter to Grumman's shareholders refuting the stories that were besmirching Grumman's reputation. Ultimately, no illegal activity was found in Grumman's relationship with their sales representatives, but a negotiated settlement with Iran was required to take into account some early commissions paid to the representatives. Of course litigation with the sales representatives would take place for some time. The major downside to this hullabaloo was that the "world" was unaware of Grumman's great performance.

The Shah's desire to stop MiG-25 over flights of Iran, the very reason he wanted the F-14, continued unabated while his F-14s were being fabricated on Long Island. Finally, in 1975, an Iranian F-4 Phantom's Sparrow missile managed to damage a MiG. Although the Russian plane made it back to Russia that act would not go unchallenged. The Russians retaliated by downing

Grumman History

Chapter 28

(continued)

an Iranian reconnaissance Phantom RF-4. The undeclared air war was heating up; it was becoming dangerous.

It couldn't happen too soon. The Iranians wanted to use their new F-14s so they purchased Italian drones capable of simulating the MiG-25s. They conducted a simulated intercept that resulted in spectacular results as the F-14/Phoenix missile system shot down four of five drones, the fifth escaping due to a missile failure.

Meanwhile, the Russians continued to challenge Iran, effectively saying, "Here are our MiGs; where are your Tomcats?" With confidence, IIAF F-14s armed with their Phoenix missiles intercepted a MiG-25R flying Mach 2+ at 65,000 feet. Quickly the F-14's AWG-9 radar locked onto the MiG. Recognizing the imminent danger the pilot hightailed it out of Iranian air space. No more MiG over flights ever took place as the Russians were now willing to negotiate with Iran, stopping the increasingly hostile over-flight air war.

Training of the Iranian ground crews continued at great speed. As 1976 was coming to a close, over 100 ground crews were qualified. This was accomplished despite the complexity of the F-14/Phoenix system and the U.S. desire to keep sensitive systems secret and not accessible to the Iranian crews. This caused great delays in the spare part pipeline as parts were returned to the U.S. for repair.

Pilots, too, were gaining familiarity with the F-14s as they practiced against Phantoms and F-5Es. Typically, it was one F-14 vs. four F-4 Phantom IIs (with slotted wings). The F-4s were defeated in a few minutes; F-14s never lost. The Iranians, however, were not immune to the F-14 engine issues: during early training Iran lost two aircraft and one pilot until they learned to fly-the-engine.

The pilots were ready. The ground crews were ready. And the Tomcat had shown the world its claws.

By: Ken Speiser and Larry Feliu

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* * * * *

CORRECTION: It was Dick *Barton*, not Dick *Burton*, who pulled off that amazing feat in Iran that was described in Chapter 26. Our *Thanks* to reader Edward T. Barron for catching the error.

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2015**

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Bethpage, NY 11714-5000

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Note: All donations are tax deductible.

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

Visit the club Web Site at www.grummanretireeclub.org

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MILLERIDGE INN

MARCH 25TH LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

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Guest Names (PRINT) _____

No. of Members attending _____

No. of Guests attending _____

No. of Chicken _____

No. of Fish _____

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Editor: Neil Klaskin
 Nostalgia Coordinator: Charles Mooney

Grumman Retiree Club, Inc.

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