



The Grumman-Northrop Grumman Retiree Club

Newsletter



December 2015

Volume 48, Issue 10

Circulation: 2788

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)

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

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President, Peter McNamee (252-288-4569)

Pennsylvania - Northeast PA / So. Sterling
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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, Fred Meiners (434-589-2882)

Kenneth G. Leib **June 20, 1924 – November 5, 2015**

Ken Leib served as a Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps during World War II. He saw action in the Pacific theater. Back in civilian life, he joined Grumman Aerospace as an engineer specializing in laser research. Ken was also an active participant in community affairs.

After Ken's retirement from Grumman, he joined the Retiree Club and brought his personality and knowledge to our Club. He became a member of the Grumman Retiree Club Scholarship Fund in its early stages and was active in bringing the concept to reality.

Ken worked diligently to achieve the IRS's 501(c) 3 status for the Fund. This status enables the Scholarship Fund to provide the scholarships as a non-profit organization and to classify all donations to the Fund as tax-deductible. It was a huge accomplishment and we all owe him our gratitude.

* * * * *

Important health information, especially for our female Club members. See Bethpage Chapter report, page three.

Member charitable contributions at work: page three, right Column, top



Scholarship Program Contributors

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

**Greve, John
Mendelsohn, Andrew
Sakellarides, Salvatore
Saxe, Robert**

The following donations are in memory of Steve Kalman:

**Bohlander, Betty
Ciancimino, Julia**

**The Delucia Family (Richard & Marilyn)
(Non Members)**

**The Gerner Family
Greller, Rusel
Griffin, Mary**

**The Kalman Family (Catherine & Robert)
(Non Members)**

**Levittown Fire Department
Magdalena, Paula (Non Member)**

**Meinster, Elizabeth
The Meyer Family
Santos, Anna**

The 18th Annual Scholarship Awards, in 2015, were possible only because you, our Club members, provided donations and support. Your continuing support will enable us to have our 19th Scholarship Awards, in 2016. Your contributions are the Engine that allows our Scholarship Award Program to be an on-going Retiree Club Program for all Members.

Scholarship Program donations are Tax Deductible.
Every little bit counts.
It all adds up.

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

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

Scholarship Awards Program applications for 2016 are now available. Applications may be obtained at Chapter meetings, at our web site (www.grummanretireeclub.org), or by sending a request for application, together with a stamped, self addressed envelope, to the mail address below. It is the members' responsibility to provide the application and encourage our Grand kids to participate! Remember: the only awareness our Grandkids have of our Scholarship program is through you, the members.

**Scholarship Program
QUARTERLY 50/50 RAFFLE**

Members of All Chapters May Participate!

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

Winners announced in the Newsletter.

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

Each raffle entry is \$5. (Please indicate how many raffles you are purchasing.)

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.

Note:

All luncheons in 2016, including the Scholarship and Holiday luncheons, will be held at the Crest Hollow CC.

January 20 - Crest Hollow CC

Speaker: Club member Ken Speiser who will discuss the Grumman History stories.

February 17 - Crest Hollow CC

Mark your calendar for these meeting dates:

- March 23; April 20; May 25;**
- Scholarship Luncheon - June 22;**
- September 21; October 19;**
- TUESDAY November 15;**
- Holiday luncheon - December 14**

Blood Drive

Next Blood Drive Date: TBD

Please call the office (516-575-3777) if you wish to donate on December 3, in Plant 15, in Bethpage.

GRUMMAN RETIREE CLUB NEWSLETTER

(USPS#023-096) Volume 48, Issue 10, December 2015, is published monthly except August and September by Grumman Retiree Club, Inc., Northrop Grumman Corp, M/S Retiree/BP15, 925 South Oyster Bay Road, Bethpage, NY 11714. **Periodical postage rates paid at Bethpage, NY.** Subscriptions rates of \$13 are paid through membership dues.

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

Editor's Note: The following letter clearly shows one terrific result of Member contributions to the Club's charitable activities fund *Thank You!*

Dear Club Members:

My husband, my son, and I would like to thank you for the generous contribution which has provided a scholarship for my son at Pal-O-Mine.

There are severe physical limits to what Timothy can do, but when he is up on the back of Goliath at Pal-O-Mine, he does not feel that. On the horse, he sees the world with a different perspective. He works with great effort to improve his ability to sit up straight, which is very important for his health and well-being, and to communicate with the horse, a great accomplishment for him.

The riding increases his ability to control his own body, and the experience increases his feelings of self-worth, He derives tremendous benefit from his time in the saddle, Your thoughtful donation is reaping tremendous benefits, and we thank you from our hearts for supporting Pal-O-Mine and our son's participation there.

***Sincerely,
Patricia T. Pawlowski
Mother of Timothy Greenberg***

Bethpage / Parent Chapter

November 18, 2015

This was probably our final meeting at the Milleridge Inn. No one has yet committed to continue operation of the Inn. We've had many memorable meetings here, and who can forget the blazing fireplace that greeted us at the door starting in the Fall of each year? Milleridge also decorated for every holiday, which enhanced all the meetings with just that extra touch. It will be missed.

After our final lunch, Betty started the meeting at 1:30PM with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment



of silence for all our loved ones, our heroes in uniform around the world, and also for the fallen innocents in Paris who were victims to a now all too prevalent violence by a group of terrorists committed to eliminate all non-believers.

Betty introduced guest speaker Bonnie Edsall, RN, BSN, CBSN, CBPN-IC. Bonnie is the Nurse Manager for the Good Samaritan Hospital Breast Health Center and the Radiation Oncology Department. Betty met her at the hospital when, recently, Betty went through a second bout of breast cancer, surely a frightening experience for anyone. Betty was overwhelmed with the care and consideration given to her throughout the hospital treatment and recuperation period, so much so that she wanted to share Bonnie's knowledge of the Center and have her explain what state of the art improvements have been made in the detection and treatments for Breast Cancer over the years.

Bonnie started her discussion by stressing that **Early Detection Is The Key To Success**. She explained how breast cancer was detected and treated in the early days before the advent of mammograms. In almost every case, tumors were detected by feeling them which implied what they were already advanced and required major if not radical surgery. Today, with early detection, there is minimal surgery and a 99% survival rate. She then detailed the technologies today that have transformed detection and treatment to today's state of the art. For example, Bonnie noted that there are five different types of breast cancers with each type having sub-groups. This results in variable treatments for every different case. Good Sam Hospital has kept up with the transformation of the breast cancer field and has received National Accreditation as a Breast Cancer Center of Excellence.

Bonnie then gave a wide sweeping discussion of the entire field of breast cancer starting with risk factors, detection and evaluation techniques, and surgical variations all the way through post op reconstruction, support groups, and outreach programs. At the completion of her talk, she fielded a Q&A session. When done Bonnie stressed that she has helped women and in a few cases men, face the issue of breast cancer without the fear it used to engender years ago. Bonnie was treated to

a great round of applause.

Second Vice President Pat Sullivan presented Bonnie with a \$300 donation from the Club to help continue the work of the Breast Health Center at Good Samaritan Medical Center. Bonnie thanked everyone in attendance and the Club for the donation.



L to R: Bonnie Edsall, Pat Sullivan, Betty Bohlander

Business - Betty Bohlander

- This was the final membership luncheon at the Milleridge. Our next meeting will be the Holiday Luncheon at the Crest Hollow, on December 9th. Get your reservations in pronto. Don't forget that next year all our meetings will be at the Crest Hollow. In case of snow, call the Crest Hollow for luncheon cancellation announcements. The first meeting in January is scheduled on January 20, which will permit a fallback date of January 27 to be used in case of snow on the 20th.

- "Thank You" cards were received from:
 - Steve Kalman's family, in which they reiterated Steve's love of the Club and the Scholarship Fund that he initiated and organized.
 - Lisa Gatti, from Pal-O-Mine, for the opportunity to speak and for our generous donation to her organization. The donation will be used for her scholarship program so that a rider who presently can't afford lessons will be able to take advantage of equine assisted therapy. Lisa invited anyone to visit her facility and take a tour.

Committee Reports - Bob Rip, 1st VP announced that we will maintain the annual dues at \$15, which primarily serves to pay for the annual printing and mailing costs of the monthly Newsletter.



Treasurers Reports

** Frank Rizzo was not present to give the Club Treasurer's report.

** Harry Daum gave the Scholarship Fund Treasurer's report and thanked everyone for donations to date. The report was accepted as reported. Harry noted that he was stepping down as Fund Treasurer and announced that Linda Perrotta and husband Justin both volunteered to permanently replace him. Harry also announced that Howie Frauenberger, a recent Northrop Grumman retiree, has volunteered to be on the Scholarship Fund. Welcome Aboard, Howie.

Charitable Contributions

Pat Sullivan, 2nd VP, reported on the most recent contributions. The Club has given donations to our last two speakers followed by a donation to the American Vet Dog Foundation. Pat added that the dogs are amazing and provide aid to vets suffering from either seeing or hearing loss. Additionally, some dogs provide services in rehab facilities including to vets with PTSD and limb injuries. This organization receives no government funding. Northrop Grumman sponsored a Thanksgiving Project, which featured on-line shopping. The club purchased three thanksgiving boxes and donated them to LI Cares for people in need. Finally, we purchased a 15lb. turkey and donated it to the Bethpage Federal Credit Union for their annual turkey program.

Prize Winners

Door Prizes - Georgan Martini and Karen Aker
Community Relations 50/50 – Louise Kubat, Ed Schembor, Sid Weihs, and Marion Abbott
Scholarship 50/50 – Arlene Vosilla

Holiday Luncheon – Marion Abbott:

Our Holiday luncheon is planned for December 9, at the Crest Hollow. Cocktail hour from Noon to 1PM, after which there will be dining and dancing. Cost remains at \$35pp. Marion reminded everyone that the luncheon is only three weeks away so send in your reservation ASAP.

Birthdays – Tony Scaturro (78 on 11/29); Milt Farkas (74 on 11/12); Herbert Johnson (79 on 12/3); Justin Perrotta (73 on 11/12); and Ruth Winnes (86 on 11/8).

Happy Birthday to All!

Anniversaries - Milt & Ola Farkas (51 years on 1/3); Chuck & Carol Prizzi (48 years on 11/12); Curt & Lorraine Fogarty.

Congratulations to all the couples.

Get Well Cards will be sent to Walter Aims, Jim Szegfu, and Steve Kish.

Get well soon, everyone!

Out of Town Visitors - Pauline Sandmann (Eastern LI chapter) who just returned to LI from caring for a sick relative in South Carolina. Glad you could spend the day with us, Pauline.

Travel - Nick Bazzicalupo is planning a March trip to the Staten, on Staten Island, to celebrate the Italian Festival of St. Joseph, on March 30, with a show and dinner. Three-course meal; options include soup followed by pasta and Beef sirloin, chicken parm, or sole oreganato. He would like to have a bus full of retirees, which requires 40 people. Nick is still getting prices on busses. Let him know of your intention to go. Cost: TBD.

Nick then departed from his normal follow-up joke with a serious note. He said that he recently started to attend Club Officer's meetings since he assumed the role of Sergeant-at-Arms. After just a few meetings of the Officers and then a Board of Directors Meeting, Nick realized the extent of the level of effort put in by the Officers (Betty Bohlander, Bob Ripp, Pat Sullivan, Lou Kubat, Frank Rizzo, and Marion Abbott), the Directors, and a few key retiree volunteers, including especially Dorothy Leogrande and Tony Scaturro (both of whom work tirelessly during the membership drive), Frank Carroll (who picks up our mail every day at the Post Office and delivers it to the Club office), Jim Oakes, and longtime Newsletter editor Neil Klaskin, all of whom give freely of their personal time to keep the Club functioning, and Diane Bryers who handles most of the Thank You letters to members who donate to the Club and to the Scholarship Fund.

The Officers handle tasks ranging from arranging the luncheons, and the picnics with their unique requirements of park permits and food and activity planning, and carrying out the planning and execution of anniversary events to the monthly production, coordination, and mailing of the Newsletter.



These folks come to the office to maintain the annual membership drive, handle all the required banking, payment of bills, soliciting advertising for the Newsletter, maintaining a world class data base of all members, and not least of all, answering your phone calls, some of which require us to say something like, "Gee, we really don't know how changes to the Federal or State tax laws will affect you this year!!" In their spare time, they coordinate with the 20 other chapters, answering all of their individual issues, keeping both the Parent chapter (Bethpage) and the outside chapters By-Laws current and relevant in light of reduced membership.

Then there is the Scholarship Fund whose staff works to award ten scholarships a year to deserving relatives of retirees. These individuals - Fund President John Vosilla (who recently replaced deceased Paul Schatzel), retiring Treasurer Harry Daum and his replacement Linda Perrotta, retiring VP Howie Schilling, retiring Secretary Isobel Comis, Diane Bryers, Lynn Wesnofske, Larry Seiden (Club Director and BFCU Financial Advisor), and multi-tasking Officers Betty Bohlander, Pat Sullivan, and Lou Kubat - all work tirelessly almost all year to have a successful Awards Ceremony. This includes all the money raising and banking, along with the commensurate bill paying, compilation of all the applications, ensuring that all applicants have submitted all required paperwork, ensuring that the retirees sponsoring the applicants are active members and haven't forgotten to pay their dues, subsequent retiree notification should they be in arrears, formal review of the applications, scoring of the evaluations, selection of the winners, notification of both winners and losers, and all of the tasks associated with the award ceremony itself, including booking the venue, announcements, production of the winners plaques, programs for the ceremony, seating charts, and DJ arrangements. Finally, there is the processing of the award money to the colleges or universities to be attended by the winners. No sooner is the June ceremony over, when the process starts all over again for next year.

Finally, Nick told the audience that, when calling the Office, please speak slowly, and spell your first and last names. Often names and/or phone numbers are indistinguishable and we can't return the call.

Nick then asked the audience to give all these hard working individuals, who "participate on their own dime," a round of applause and added that your participation no matter how small in any of the activities would be greatly appreciated. All us volunteers thank you, Nick, for this unexpected "Atta Boy" and hope that the membership appreciates all of our efforts, too.

Nick finished his talk with his Joke of the Month and left us all laughing.

The meeting was adjourned with the singing of "God Bless America".

By: Lou Kubat, Sec'y.

CALIFORNIA / Golden West

Sixteen members attended our November meeting, which was held at the Eagles Lodge in Oxnard, CA. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, which was led by Sergeant-at-Arms John Urgo, and a prayer by Fred Syrett. Lunch was followed by our business meeting and discussions on what to do for next month's Christmas program.

The Treasurer gave the Treasury report, and the 50/50 winners were announced: Bob Killian and Don Coller.

Next Meeting: Dec 8.

By: Fred Syrett, President

Meetings: We meet on the second Tuesday of the month.

CALIFORNIA / San Diego

No report of November activity.



FLORIDA/ First Coast

Thirty-two members attended our November meeting. After our usual meet, greet, and conversation time, President Fred Bauer led us in the Pledge, which was followed by Chaplain Janet's opening prayer. We then took part in the buffet lunch.

Fred called us to order and welcomed new member Bob Wolsky to the Club.

Fred thanked all those who participated in our October picnic.

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

October Anniversaries: Gloria & Richard Kelly, Elizabeth & Charlie Baldwin, and Fran & Bob Wolk.

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

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 & Raymond Pinter, Mary & Don Martin, Cindy & Allen McCaffery, and Marie & Tony Miller.

Treasurer's Report, by Bob Rathje:

1. Our funds are healthy.
2. Bob will be writing a check for our annual Christmas donation to the St. Augustine Empty Stocking Fund. The Fund distributes to several local organizations for those in need.
3. Bob will begin collecting club dues for 2016 at our December 8 meeting. Bob reminds us that he would like all dues to be paid up before the March 1, 2016 deadline.
4. If you prefer, you may send your \$15 dues to: Bob Rathje, 11046 Castlemain Circle East, Jacksonville, FL 32256. Checks to be made out to *Grumman Retiree Club*.

Seven 50/50 prizes were awarded, also a picture of the F-14, which was donated by Paul Heagy.

Next Meeting: Dec 8, at the Ichiban Buffet.

- Our guest speaker will be Christine McGlade, Manufacturing VP at Northrop Grumman St. Augustine.
- Also, Member John Leslie will be on hand with copies of his recently published book.
- Don't forget: We draw five \$10 turkey checks at our December meeting each year, along with our 50/50 drawing.

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

FLORIDA / Manasota West

November 11, 2015

President Ted Martines called the meeting to order after reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. We were delighted to have Bob & Lucille Alloca as well as Bob & Linda Winters join Jim Murray, Bob & Beth Nyberg, Con & Jane Gilseman, and Ted & Diana Martines. The return of the Allocas and the Winters after many months made for a lively conversation.

Ted Martines gave the Treasurer's report in the absence of John Zinna who was still traveling up North. Our chapter is still solvent. Ted passed around an article from the local newspaper announcing that our C1 bank was taken over by the Bank of the Ozarks, which is headquartered in Arkansas. Bank of the Ozarks has been on a buying binge of Florida banks. The actual take over will not occur until some time in 2016.

Ted Martines also passed around a copy of the Wall Street Journal article containing a write-up on the Northrop Grumman award of the Air Force contract for a Long Range Strike Bomber. There was some discussion about the news article reference to possible protests by Boeing or Lockheed. This seems to be the normal reaction to all new awards.

We have our archive copy of the book, "The Last Chapter" written by Jake Bussolini on the last days



of Grumman. The book is available to any chapter member.

Beth Nyberg provided us with an internet write-up on Jim Murray, Sr. (1871-1957). Jim Murray, Sr. was an American fencing master for the first half of the 20th century and taught fencing to notables like Fredrick March and John, Lionel, and Ethyl Barrymore.

Bob Nyberg was prepared to continue our Grumman Trivia competition at the last meeting but it was deferred to this meeting in the hope that more members would be present. The basic concept is to conduct a quiz on Grumman historical facts. The person with the most correct answers receives a monetary award and the privilege of preparing the quiz for the next meeting. The quiz was lively and animated and, in the end, the winner was determined by a tiebreaker question between Bob Alloca and Con Gilsenan. The question was to identify the names of four Grumman amphibians. Con won by getting three out of four.

After our lunch there was more discussion about dwindling attendance at our meetings. The aging of our members, health issue, deaths, relocations, and lack of new members has been an ongoing problem. Lack of attendance also impacts our ability to attract guest speakers and retain the attractive dining facilities at the Pier 22 restaurant.

Next Meeting: December 9, at Noon.

If you are a Grumman or Northrop Grumman retiree or a current employee in the area, please join us. Our meetings are held at Noon on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, from October through April, in the Marina View Dining Room, at the Pier 22 Restaurant, Bradenton, FL.

By: John Zinna, Sec'y/Treasurer
(941-705-2690) ezjohn1028@gmail.com

FLORIDA/ Mid-West

November 19, 2015

President John Cornacchia opened the meeting at 11:30AM.

Greetings: Welcome to the Grumman - Northrop Grumman Retiree Club, Mid-West Florida Chapter.

There were thirteen members present when Chaplin Gus Kraye led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave an invocation.

There were only two birthdays: Bertha Seigl-Podwys, on November 28, and Gus Kraye, on Nov. 2.

We had one anniversary: John & Kathy Cornacchia, celebrating 53 years.

A motion to accept the minutes for October 2015 was made by Madeline Arso and seconded by Gus Kraye. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

The Treasurer's report was given by Gus Kraye. The motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Kathy Cornacchia and seconded by Elaine Johnson. The report was accepted unanimously.

Sunshine Committee

Citrus County: Charlotte Kraye had some treatments and is feeling much better.

Hernando County: All is well.

We want to thank everyone for bringing food for our food drive. Hank Mehl took the food to his church for distribution.

After lunch, we heard from our speaker, Brian from The Crime Prevention Task Force. He had so much information for everyone but most of all for us older folks, on how to stay safe. He also brought with him some alarms and safety items for sale.

The meeting adjourned at 1PM.

A fun time was had by all.



Next Meeting: December 17, at The City Buffet. This will be our Christmas meeting. More information to come on our future meetings.

By: Kathy Cornacchia

would like an email reminder, send a request to clemtony@juno.com.

By: Paul & Linda Baldwin (Isbaldwin48@gmail.com) and Tony & Clem Moors

FLORIDA / SouthWest

George Daly, former president, opened our November 10th meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our Veterans.

John Vecchione donated several Grumman Plane News issues from the 1960s.

Earl Thompson donated Grumman glasses, which were raffled off and won by Tom Cummiskey, Willy Wolter, and Jim Hodder.

Treasurer Willy Wolter announced our account balance. George suggested we consider trips or tours that the club can take.

Dues were collected.

Peter Harrington suggested that he would like to be emailed as well as receiving the Robo-call for reminders of the next meeting.

Tony Moors spoke about ID fraud and gave some information on the topic.

November Birthdays: Ethel Czerwinski, Willy Wolter, and Gloria Conklin.

November Anniversaries: Robert & Helen Clare, Tom & Mary Cummiskey, Tony & Clem Moors, and Paul & Linda Baldwin.

Next Meeting: January 12, at the Golden Corral in Punta Gorda, on Route 41. We will discuss where we might want to give financial support donations.

Future meeting will be on the second Tuesdays of January, March, May, October, and November. Please mark your calendars. If you

FLORIDA / Space Coast

November 18, 2015

The Suntree Country Club dining room bulged with a near capacity crowd of retirees, anxious for a briefing on the future of the expanding Northrop Grumman facility as it gears up for the new Air Force bomber contract.

Vice President John Lau led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by a moving invocation by Ed Romano in which called for a moment of silent prayer for departed members, as well as those murdered by the assassin attacks in Paris.

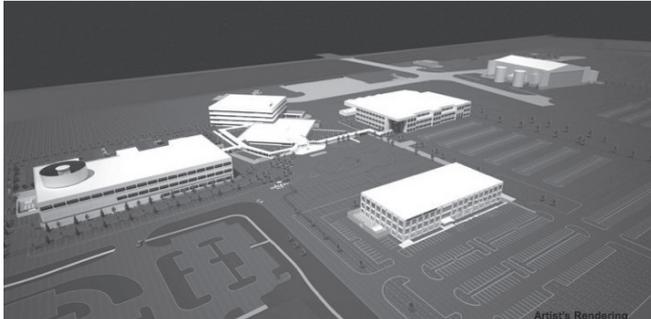
Following the buffet luncheon, John announced that our scheduled speaker, Northrop Grumman sector Vice President Rick Matthews, had been called away to California on company business, but had sent two highly qualified executives to brief us for him. Our primary speaker was John Firriolo, a 28 year Northrop Grumman veteran, who is the Chief Engineer for manned C2/ISR programs for the Military Aircraft Systems Division of Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems. His background includes engineering management positions on the KC-45 Tanker, Joint STARS, and E-10A programs

John led us through the re-organization of the Corporation at the "Enterprise" level, leading to the creation of six Centers of Excellence. He paid tribute to the Melbourne people whose performance led to its selection as the site for the Manned Aircraft Design Center of Excellence. The goal for this site is to be Better – Faster - Affordable.

He then took us, via aerial slides, through the definitive "Campus" which Vice President Rick Matthews had set as his vision when he spoke to



us two years ago. John particularly noted Bldg. 228, the E-2C building, which was constructed in only one year, facilitating the relocation of that program from Bethpage in record time. Architectural oversight of the campus is on-going as they address the problem of extensive walking: covered walkways may be in the future due to Florida's rainy season. A novel note to this site: low emission vehicles get priority parking.



Artists rendering of the Northrop Grumman "Manned Aircraft Design Center of Excellence Site" as it actually looks now. The original Grumman buildings in which the J-STARS aircraft were produced are the two-stage office/lab building (upper left center) and the hangar (far right).

John also showed us views of the site's extensive solar farm. Though admittedly it is not particularly cost effective, it does qualify the site for "incentives" and at times provides 50% of the power for the hangar. The "Green" image is obviously of great importance to the Corporation, particularly as it relates to the water-starved homesite in California.

Rick Matthews' approach to community activities is to be a "platinum" sponsor in those things in which they participate. For example, they will again be the "Title" sponsor in the air show at the Melbourne Airport, in April. They have made a \$125,000 grant to the Brevard school system, and are actively linked with FIT.

Our second speaker, Victor Beck, Director of Communications for Military Aircraft Systems, comes from a Grumman family: his grandfather had GAEC badge number 549. While new to Northrop Grumman, Vic has more than 25 years of communications experience in both private practice and the U.S. Navy. He retired from the Naval

Reserve with the rank of Rear Admiral.

Vic has as his top priority insuring the retention of the recently won Air Force bomber contract and not experiencing a repeat of the reversal the Corporation suffered in the tanker program. The Lockheed-Boeing losing team has already filed a protest. He asked our members to take informative cards and contact our politicians urging them to back the Air Force selection of Northrop Grumman for this very long, multi-billion dollar contract. For more information contact America'sNewBomber.com

With respect to our aging J-STARS program, the Air Force has decided to stay with the program but will "Re-Capitalize" the airframe. The scope appears to be sixteen aircraft modified from a business aircraft base with only ten operators per aircraft. The date of the RFP is uncertain at this time. There is also the possibility of an RFP for a new trainer in 2017.

It was made very clear to us that in today's competitive environment, just winning a contract award is no longer sufficient: community/political support is mandatory to keep the contract and to maintain the economic health of the employer and its workforce. We thank John and Vic for taking the time from their busy schedules to brief our membership.

Treasurer Bill Waldron announced visitors Adele and Tom Ferraro.

Scholarship: With the last \$500 payment gone out, all eight of our scholarship students have received their annual awards. With the generous support of many of our 50/50 winners, this account is already starting to rebuild for the coming year.

Bill also reported that the Veterans Transitional Facility's Thanksgiving Dinner fund was oversubscribed. More to follow in Joe Mulling's report on this subject.

Travel: Maureen Ayers, recovering from some health problems, was present but indicated that she will take a sabbatical. However, she graciously indicated that she would be happy to provide advice to individual members related to their travel challenges. Thank You, Maureen



Grumman Gremlins: George Graefe reported that work continues on preparing the former RAF Canberra bomber for its debut in Tittusville. A variety of sources in the UK are cooperating with us in unearthing details of the secretive past of this veteran of the Cold War.

Communications: Don Powell took the podium to thank his eleven supporters for their efforts and to wish them a Happy Thanksgiving.

Old Business: Veterans Transitional Facility (VTF) Joe Mullings, who has picked up the torch for support of local veterans, lighted and carried so inspirationally by his late comrade, Ron Stinton, reported that the funding of the Facility's Thanksgiving dinner was oversubscribed. Joe's meetings with the Facility's Sergeant Major Merkel and the local Publix manager seemed to produce some startling bargains, while various memorial and anonymous contributions have swelled the fund.

Joe was effusive in relaying the thanks of the VTF people and the admiration of the Publix people for how we've remembered those who served for us. The surplus funds are slated for other forms of veterans support.

New Business: President Bob Prais announced that the loss of John Casco from our executive staff emphasizes our need to recruit additional members to augment that organization. All members are asked to support us in this very necessary endeavor.

Employee Birthdays November: Pat Reilly, Tom Daly, Joseph Morales, Richard Passarella, and Edward Franits

Spouse Birthdays November: Denise Herring, Florence Riehl, Janet Grusauskas, Mary Grusauskas, Camille Steenson, Susan Willoughby, Katherine Barty, Joseph Mullings, and Virginia Dillinger

Anniversaries November: Frank & Fran Daidone, Nick & Anne Milonas, Arthur & Barbara Hudson, Russ & Donna Weinert, Jerald & Susan Willoughby, John & Francine Adrion

50/50 Drawing: We had six 50/50 winners. The grand prize, consisting of a bountiful Thanksgiving Basket, was won by President Bob Prais.
Congratulations to All

By: Bill Steenson, Sec'y.

Next Meeting: December 16, 2015

2016 Meeting Schedule:

1/20, 2/17, 3/16, 4/20, 5/25, 6/15
July and August: No Meetings
9/21, 10/19, 11/16, 12/14

FLORIDA / Suncoast

Report of November meeting is not available.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 17, at Noon, at the Hibachi Buffet, on 49th Street, in Pinellas Park, FL. This will be our annual Christmas Party. We carry on the Grumman Tradition by giving out Gift Cards. Also, bring a gift for the Grab Bag, up to \$10.

Note: Dec 17 is also the date of the First Flight by Orville Wright in 1903.

Future Meeting Dates in 2016, also at the Hibachi Buffet: Jan 29, Feb 17, March 16, & April 20.

\$15 Dues for 2016 are due. Make check out to Grumman Retiree Club, Suncoast Chapter, and mail to:

Patricia Newark, Secretary
4545 Plaza Way
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706-2513

Phone: 727-360-7339, E-Mail:
LionPattySecretary@yahoo.com



FLORIDA / Treasure Coast

Our November 19 meeting was held at the Martin Downs Golf Club.

Our Chaplain led the Pledge of Allegiance gave the invocation.

November Birthday: Janet Cuce.
Visitors: Sal & Betty DeLuca.

Bob Watkins introduced Jennifer Essler, from the Elliott Museum in Stuart. Jennifer told us that, in 1875, ten houses were built to aid and house shipwreck survivors. Gilbert's Bar is the last remaining house. The new museum building was finished in March, 2013. It has 47,000 square feet and cost 20 Million Dollars. The museum has a wide variety of exhibits, collections, art classes, and lectures, designed to serve the interests of people who live in or visit Florida's Treasure Coast. Some of the exhibits and tours are Grumman, antique cars, and the baseball gallery.

It is a great place to visit to see many exhibits. If interested, there are many different classes scheduled.

Bob asked us to write to our representatives in Congress about Northrop Grumman's contract to build the LRS-B. Boeing and Lockheed are trying to protest the award given to Northrop Grumman.

President Knowles adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting: December 17, at the Martin Downs Golf Club.

By: Janet Cuce (772-344-1838)

GEORGIA / Peach Pit

Our November 17 meeting at Crockett's Cafeteria, in Milledgeville, GA, started at 12:30PM. There were ten present when President Janet Sills called

the meeting to order and asked Sergeant-at-Arms Designee Mike Johnson to lead attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Then, Chaplain Designee Mary Archer gave the Blessing, which was followed by the meal and fellowship.

Old Business:

A motion to accept the October 20, 2015 Business Meeting Minutes, as amended to wish belated *Happy Birthday* to Florella Crouch [October 26th] was made by Josephine Haralson and seconded by Tim Collum. No additional changes were offered, and the motion passed.

New Business:

1. President Janet welcomed those present, introduced Keeli Ewing, the Triumph Group's Benefit Specialist, and wished all Club members and families a Blessed & Happy Thanksgiving.

2. November Happy Birthday wishes were extended to: Tim Collum [10th], Brenda Miller [24th], and Kathy Spikes [1st].

3. November Wedding Anniversary congratulations were extended to Joe & Pat Sansotta [20th].

4. Treasurer Joe Sansotta reported the bank balance, including anticipated Donation Plan income, will enable our planned November and December gift giving expenditures. Additional member checks, payable to the Grumman Retiree Club and earmarked "for year 2015 Community Service Fund" will all be donated to the Food Pantry at Christmas. Please send any checks to be used for the 2015 Food Pantry gift to: Joe Sansotta, 3748 Sussex Drive NE, Milledgeville, GA 31061-9360.

5. **Year 2016 Club membership dues of \$15** should be mailed to Joe Sansotta before February 28, 2016.

6. Any member wishing to assist Club member Fred Hammerschmidt with his Medical Expenses may send a check, payable to Fred and marked "for Medical Expenses" to Joe, who will see that any monies earmarked for Fred are delivered to him.



7. Edith Hunter, member Tom Blenk's Mother-in-Law, passed away on November 13, 2015 in Milledgeville, Georgia. Our Prayers are for Edith and our condolences are extended to her family.

8. A medical expense fundraiser Motorcycle Ride for Fred Hammerschmidt was recently completed. And, member Bill Holsenbeck is being assisted post recent hospitalization. Both are in our thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery.

Paul Bernichon won the 75/25 Fund-raiser raffle and donated the winnings to the Community Service Fund. *Thank You, Paul.*

Community Service:

a.] Volunteerism continues as members and spouses aid various causes including Pints of Blood/Platelets. [Repeat item].

b.] A Charitable gift check, with a cover letter, was given to the Baldwin County's Firefighter's Fund on Veterans Day/November 11, 2015.

Program:

"Retiree Benefits" was presented by Keeli Ewing, Specialist from the Triumph Group, the current owners of the former Grumman Plant 66. Keeli noted that Grumman, Vought, and Triumph Pension Funds, from which Club members might receive pensions, depending on the employee's date of Retirement, are serviced by the Triumph Group. But, Northrop Grumman pensions [i.e., Retirements from January 1, 1995 through June 30, 2000] are serviced by Northrop Grumman, which she cannot comment about. With that in mind, she pointed out that each Pension is unique as the employee, based on seniority, could get benefits from all four Pension Funds if they retire now from Triumph. And, if they had seniority with Grumman, they could benefit from both a "cost of living" annual adjustment and a small "Life Insurance Policy" as none of the other three Companies' Pension Plans didn't offer these benefits. Also, the Grumman portion of any Pension could give the employee, and spouse, a non-Pension monthly Medical Stipend of \$40 each. Then, given the above overview, she pointed out there are no changes to any of the Retirement Payments. However, the non-Pension Medical stipend, offered to eligible Grumman employees, is terminated on January 1, 2016. Those affected have

already received notice to that effect. Next, she took questions and gave all present contact phone numbers. All pensioners are reminded to update personal information such as beneficiaries, name changes, and other contact information to avoid future issues with Pension payment outlays and/or final payout. Thank you Keeli for an informative overview.

A motion by Jesse Griffin and seconded by Tim Collum to end the Business meeting carried and adjournment was at 1:30PM.

Next Meeting – Our Christmas Social Event: Dec 15, 12:30PM, at Crockett's Cafeteria, on N. Columbia Street, in Milledgeville. Then, those interested will take the 2PM tour of the Antebellum Governor's Mansion & Museum, which is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution.

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

Maryland / Glen Arm

No report of November activity,

Meeting Schedule: Dec 15, at 6:30PM

Questions? Suggestions?
Contact: President Rick Swinder
410-977-7829 or rickswinder@gmail.com

New England North

No report of Chapter activity.



New Jersey
Garden State Chapter

NEW YORK
Eastern Long Island Chapter

Open Letter to All Members of the New Jersey / Garden State Chapter

Because of the loss of active members, the Garden State Chapter of the Grumman Northrop-Grumman Retiree Club is being phased out, effective December 31, 2015.

If you wish to remain in the Retiree Club and receive the Club's Newsletter, you need to sign up with the Bethpage chapter or any off-site chapter of your choice.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND 2016 DUES TO THE GARDEN STATE CHAPTER

November 17, 2015

The regular attendees having previously agreed to disband, the final meeting of the Garden State Chapter was called to order by the President at 1:15PM. There were five members and one guest present.

The Treasurer's report and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted.

The President announced that all members who do not normally attend meetings had been notified of the disbanding. All members have been advised to join either the Bethpage Chapter or one of the other Retiree Club chapters, if they wish.

The members who were present were each given a membership application form for the Bethpage Chapter.

President Staples thanked the members and the officers for their help in keeping the Chapter going to the present time.

There being no other business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10PM.

By: Bill Staples. President

Our November 18 meeting opened with 18 Members on hand. President Bert Moller had a short prayer after Sergeant-at-Arms Richie Myers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Prez. Bert introduced guest speakers Tim Denis (631-413-5730) and Mike Kogan (516-547-6008). Tim and Mike spoke about asset preservation and income distribution. They "broke down" Estate Planning, current Federal and State Estate Exemptions, Gift Tax Exclusions, etc. A lively Q & A followed. Tim & Mike offered free consultations – call them!

After lunch, VP Bob Albert read the minutes of our previous meeting. The minutes were accepted as read.

Treasurer Pauline Sandmann was absent - she was attending the Bethpage chapter meeting at the Milleridge Inn.

Prez Bert informed our group of a company that is going to build "drones" at Calverton. This will require the use of runways and such.

Bert spoke of TV cameras coming to his home after his grandson, Steven Matz (NY Mets pitcher), appeared in the World Series.

Mytko Report –

** Mrs. Elizabeth Becker reported the passing of her husband, Manfred Becker, 87yrs old. Bethpage Engineer, 30-year employee who worked on the LEM Project. A card was sent to his family from the Chapter.

** Fred Losee reported the passing of Al Albanese (in California).

** "Dutch" Rotzinger's wife Marie was hospitalized on 10/21.

** Val Tassone's son reported Val's passing on 10/28.

Our condolences to all, and
a big *Get Well Quick*
to all our ailing members and spouses.

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



Birthdays – VP Bob Albert (11/4), Henry Bramwell (11/4), Ken Becker (11/18), Bill Hamilton (11/22), Jo Albert (past Prez.11/28)

Anniversaries -

Anita & Ken Becker celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary on Oct 13

Bill & Eva Mytko celebrated their 63rd year on Oct 25
Congrats to All!

If I missed anyone's birthday or anniversary let me know!

Remember to include your Date of Birth (DOB) on your dues renewal!

Reminder To All – DUES! Please send your dues for 2016 (\$15) to Bert Moller, 33 Ramsey Road Commack, NY 11725. Please note any address change. Include birthday or anniversary dates if you want them to appear in the newsletter.

Next Meeting – Christmas meeting to be held at Pauline Sandmann's Clubhouse in Riverhead on Thursday, Dec 10. \$5pp.

January and February meetings not set yet.

Happy Thanksgiving To All!

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

NORTH CAROLINA
Eastern Carolina Chapter

Our November 10th meeting was held at the River Bend Country Club located in the community of River Bend, not far from New Bern, NC. Bob and Grace Lamberson were program directors for the affair. Nineteen members were in attendance for the meeting and everyone enjoyed the lunch buffet, which is always exceptional at the country club.

After the social hour, Sergeant-at-Arms and Chaplain Rudy Ramcke opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and an invocation honoring our veterans and active duty service members in a tribute to Veteran's Day.

After lunch, Chapter President Pete McNamee requested a motion to accept October's Meeting Minutes. The motion was made, seconded and approved by the members.

Pete read a *Thank You* note received by the chapter from Chris Albers, thanking all members for their cards, thoughts, prayers, and attendance at her husband Paul's Memorial Service as well as for the Chapter's contribution to the East Carolina Foundation in honor of Paul, who was a charter member of our Chapter.

Unfortunately, we lost another member of the chapter during October. Kennedy (Ken) Gruebel, our long term former Sergeant-at-Arms and Chaplain, passed away on October 26th. A memorial service is planned for Ken in New Bern, NC on November 17.

Bob Lamberson gave the Treasurer's report for the month of October. Bob mentioned a donation was made to the Basilica Shrine of St. Mary, in memory of Frederick Jinks. Also, the treasury balance is down slightly from last month.

The December holiday meeting will be held in Pine Knoll Shores, at the Clam Digger Inn, on Tuesday, December 8th with Rudi & Marlene Wiehl as program directors. Rudi made arrangements to have Marine representation at the meeting in support of our annual Toys for Tots drive. Art Miller will be sending us his annual trivial contest questions along with a Christmas story for the meeting although he will not be able to attend.

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

Anniversaries: 11/8 - Richard & Helen Guarino; 11/18 - John & Sandy Sullivan; 11/21 - Bill & Denise Stanton; 11/22 - Fred & Ginger Reynolds.

By: Peter McNamee, President
pmcnamee@suddenlink.net



PENNSYLVANIA

Northeastern Pennsylvania Chapter

The Zupps, the Rademachers, the Dowds and the Sparkowskis attended our November meeting. We started with the Pledge of Allegiance by President Dowd, and Grace by Secretary/Chaplain Sparkowski.

Treasurer Rademacher reported that the Treasury is solvent, and that 2016 dues are due. Our dues are \$15, payable to "The NEPA Grumman Retiree Club" not to Fred. Mail your check to Fred Rademacher, PO Box 1012, Milford, PA 18337-1012. Remember: if your dues are not paid by December 31st, then you will be dropped from the Club and you will have to come back as a new member. During the time you are dropped, no more newsletters from the Home Chapter so that you can keep up on old friends.

Secretary Sparkowski reported that John Janis has become a new member in our Chapter. His Chapter in New Jersey has dissolved and we are the closest to him. Sparky will send him an application, and also contact him.

Sparky then reported on the funeral for his cousin at Arlington National Cemetery. His cousin received full military honors, and it was a most impressive ceremony. Sparky said anyone who is invited to attend a military funeral at Arlington should do so. It is very moving.

We started to discuss where we are going to meet next year. No decision was reached, so we will leave it up to the Lunch Bunch in January, February, and March to come up with something. Look for the March Newsletter for more information.

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

November Anniversaries: Chuck & Marie Dowd, Fred & Betty Heppler, Anker & Peggy Petersen, and Albert & Madelline Sinowitz.

50/50 was won by - Marie Dowd

Our December meeting is our final meeting for the year. This will be our annual Christmas Party. The meeting will start at 11:30 AM with a half hour cocktail party. At Noon, or thereabout, we will order lunch. This will be individual checks. Besides the 50/50, we will be raffling a turkey. So come on down to Kays Restaurant, in Lake Ariel, and have a good time. Remember this is our last meeting until April. To find out where the Lunch Bunch is meeting, contact Judy Zupp, Alberta Rademacher, or Marie Dowd.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving, an enjoyable Holiday Season, and a Safe & Healthy 2016!

By: Edward J. Sparkowski, Secretary/Chaplain
(570-698-7182) firefly417@verizon.net

SOUTH CAROLINA

Coastal Carolinas Chapter

November 4, 2015

Fourteen members and two guests were present at Ryan's Family Steakhouse, in North Myrtle Beach. After a leisurely lunch, President Ronald Girardin called the meeting to order. Secretary Nancy Webber led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silent prayer for all absentee members, our country, and our military.

We welcomed our perpetual guest, Theresa McMahon, and our guest speaker, Jake Bussolini. Jake, who served as a Senior Vice President of the Grumman Corporation during the time of the takeover by Northrop, has published a book, "The Last Chapter, The Facts About the Last Days of Grumman". Jake's purpose in writing the book was to close the history books on Grumman in the right way, with a non-fictional account of Grumman's last days, providing all the details that he knew. He spoke about his working days at Grumman, the contracts, politics, the merger, and the Gulfstream Company sale. In retrospect, Jake gave a very good overall perspective of his years in the company.



Afterwards, there was a question and answer period. A special thank you to President Ronald Girardin for obtaining Jake as the guest speaker. And a big *Thank You* to Jake for taking the time to participate in our meeting.

Happy Birthday to Dot Hoffmann.

The Secretary read the October meeting minutes, which were seconded and approved.

The Treasurer's report, as given by Don Webber, was seconded and approved.

Dot Hoffmann, who heads the Sunshine Committee, asked Club members to keep Judy & Eldon Scott, Lee & Bernard Mascara, and Ed Raulsome in your prayers.

The winner of the 50/50 drawing was Richard Seidler. Congratulations, Dick!

'Tis time to think about submitting your 2016 dues, which are \$15 per member, and \$5 per spouse. Make checks payable to Don Webber, and send the checks to him at 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 decided at today's meeting to make donations to the same charities as last year: to the North Carolina Street Reach, and to the Myrtle Beach Street Reach.

Our Christmas luncheon and our last meeting for 2015 will be held on December 2, 2015, at Noon, at the Sea Captain's House, 3002 N. Ocean Blvd., Myrtle Beach.

I am in the process of acquiring meeting places for 2016. The list will be sent to all members ASAP.

All Grumman, Northrop Grumman, and Northrop retirees in the area are always welcome to participate in our meetings. All guests are

welcome too. Each meeting is held on the first Wednesday of the month, at Noon, unless otherwise stated.

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

TEXAS / Houston

October 20, 2015

President Angelo LaCognata called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He then turned the meeting over to Vice President Bob Taylor.

Due to low membership turnout, we did not have a formal meeting.

The meeting was adjourned after the members visited with each other for a while

November 17, 2015

Our November meeting was called off due to inclement weather. Our meeting hall was closed due to flooding.

Although no meeting is currently scheduled for December, we will attempt to have a meeting on December 15, 2015.

Our Chapter will continue as the membership requests.

For now: Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year to all.

From the Houston Membership: Our Thanks to Rob Atveil for his encouragement to remain an active chapter.

By: Angelo LaCognata, President (281-326-1665)



VIRGINIA / Central Virginia

Veterans Day dawned bright and beautiful for our long trip to Williamsburg, VA, to our November meeting site. We met at Francesco's Italian Restaurant for their super calamari and other Italian fare.

Our meeting started with greetings and a prayer for our veterans and our soldiers and with thanks for their service and all those that stood behind them so they could do their job. (i.e., those who worked in the background for the military: Grummanites, of course!)

Conversation covered those who were missing, more future Cruises, trips since we last met, welcoming back Jackie after her fall and hospitalization, and renewing friendships with those who live closer to Williamsburg.

Attendees: Rich Benske & friend Jackie, Harold Case, Ed Samson, Maryanne Muller, Ann Dannenhofer, Christina Julie, Fred & Marjorie Meiners, for a total of 9.

We wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Agenda: Bulletin...Bulletin: We have lost our meeting place for our December meeting because the Waynesboro Country Club is closing its restaurant. We will gather instead at Fred & Marjorie Meiners' Home in Palmyra, VA.

NEXT MEETING: Christmas luncheon: December 9.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all!

First Meeting in 2016: Jan 13, 2015 at Fork Union Village Restaurant, James Madison Highway (US 15), Fork Union.

Bulletin: 2016 dues are due....bring \$15 to the Christmas luncheon or mail your check to Frank Purstell, 317 Meadow Beauty Ct, Waynesboro, VA 22980.

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

In Memoriam

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

Albers, Paul	New Bern, NC	10/20/2015
Brandstetter, Lois	Southold, NY	10/26/2015
Friedenreich, Mae Ellen	Melbourne, FL	10/18/2015
Gallucci, Peter J.	Kernersville, NC	11/13/2015
Gaylo, Benedict	Wyoming, OH	10/27/2015
Goodwin, William B.	Charlotte, NC	10/26/2015
Gruebel, Kennedy	New Bern, NC	10/26/2015
Pinkowski, Dennis	Highland Park, IL	09/24/2015
Tassone, Valentino	Susquehanna, PA	10/28/2015
Smith, Fred O.	McLeansville, NC	07/13/2015

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 35

Breaking Records

1983

Grumman was performing on all cylinders. The big four aircraft programs (Tomcat, Intruder, Hawkeye, and Prowler) continued to perform, allowing management to invest heavily in the future. This year, as part of the multi-year \$250 million capital improvement program, Grumman's Milledgeville, Georgia center of excellence for manufacturing non-metallic parts was to be expanded by 35%. Since opening in 1975, its 6,000 parts, made variously of boron, graphite, Kevlar, and bonded honeycomb found themselves in Grumman's big four, in the EF-111 Raven, Sikorsky helicopters and in ailerons for Boeing's 757 and 767 commercial jets. Later in the year, Grumman initiated a major robotics program with a plan to have ten operational robotic stations by 1988. Late in the year, Grumman became one of just 75 companies to have the world's first supercomputer, the Cray-1.

The nascent Automatic Test Equipment (ATE) business was achieving its promised potential by winning contracts from the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army. Test Equipment Products' new Radar Communications (RADCOM) test set, applied initially to the Intruder and Hawkeye, was now chosen by IBM as the ground tester for their anti-submarine, anti-cruise missile system. In another potential breakthrough, the U.S. Army selected Grumman's study proposal that would lead to a future competition for the Army Automatic Test Support System (ATSS). The other study proposal winners demonstrated this system's importance: Boeing, Emerson, General Dynamics, and RCA.

Grumman's plant in Great River (GRO), under Bruno Caputo's leadership, continued to surprise Grumman management with its successes. Now, IBM was training Grumman personnel on how to build IBM's \$2 million Electron Beam Lithography (EBL) tool. This device, designed by IBM's Nobel Prize scientists, was used to design and prototype IBM's world-leading microchips for their mainframe computers. Highly proprietary, EBLs would be manufactured in a secured area; IBM considered the EBL to be a corporate "crown jewel".

Additionally, GRO was building complex oilfield analysis computers for Schlumberger, a world leader in oilfield drilling support. To cap this off, GRO was going into mass production, having secured a \$6½ million contract from Eagle Telephonics to build 200,000 printed circuit boards (PCBs). To capture this opportunity, Grumman was investing \$2 million in a major upgrade to the manufacturing floor, featuring material-moving assembly line belts and automated pick-and-place tools. This automated factory would produce 1,300 PCBs a day.

Grumman Allied was also breaking new ground. Allied's Electric Vehicle was still causing ripples in the industry when, at year end, they introduced the gasoline powered Kubvan, capable of 40 mpg in city driving! While orders were modest, these vehicles were positioning Grumman to be a strong competitor for the U.S. Postal Service's urgent need to replace their fleet of Jeeps as mail volume increased dramatically with a smaller cadre of employees. These new trucks would have demanding requirements such as an all-aluminum body, an operational life of 24 years, and gas mileage of an EPA rated 27½ mpg.

Also joining in the success story was Aerostructures' subcontract business as the Stuart, Florida plant delivered its first extended-range Boeing 767 center section, and Milledgeville, Georgia shipped 200 sets of lightweight spoilers for the Boeing 757.

More good news: The Navy signed the \$678 million multi-year contract for 39 Greyhounds, enabling work to begin. First deliveries were scheduled for 1985. And, the Hawkeye aircraft continued to expand its international footprint as Egypt opted to purchase two more.

The Grumman-conceived radar technology that could track slow moving ground vehicles, previously demonstrated in the Pave Mover program, was getting ever closer to turning into a real program. In June, the Department of Defense ended all Army - Air Force "mission ownership" skirmishes and directed the two services to combine their requirements. This combined program would be named the *Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System*

or Joint STARS. This would turn into a new major opportunity for Grumman.

NASA business also grew substantially as they helped fill Grumman's order books by adding a third Shuttle Training Aircraft (STA) and selected the Lockheed Martin/Grumman team for the \$2.5 billion Space Processing contract. This was Grumman's largest NASA win since the Lunar Module (Grumman's share: about \$900 million).

With great pride, the Shimrit, the hydrofoil gunboat Grumman had designed for Israel, went into operational service. Management hoped this program would help launch the hydrofoil boat business across the globe. Unfortunately, this was a pyrrhic victory as Grumman lost approximately \$65 million and follow-on business never materialized. However, Israel again selected Grumman to develop composite wings and tails for their homegrown fighter, the Lavi. This was another great opportunity to strengthen our technology in a critical new area.

Continuing to look toward the future, the X-29 Forward Swept Wing demonstrator was entering its test phases as first flight was scheduled for 1984. Grumman was counting on this "X-plane" to demonstrate, to customers and to the defense industry, the company's leadership in the technologies that would underpin the next generation of aircraft .

Another confidence booster for the future occurred when the U.S. Air Force selected Grumman (and six others) to develop new designs for the next USAF fighter, the Advanced Tactical Fighter (ATF).

Grumman's new strategy, to be the premier integrator of airframe systems, was paying off as the heavily laden electronic content of Grumman's aircraft assured the company of significant future upgrades as these avionic systems rapidly became technically obsolete.

Grumman's customer base broadened beyond the Navy, and now included the Air Force, the Army, NASA, commercial aircraft structures, the U.S. Postal Service, electronic contract manufacturing, as well as global customers.

Sales and net income were at record levels of \$2.255 billion and \$110.7 million, respectively. The 28-percent growth in backlog was evidence of the strength and potential of current programs, and the \$100 million reduction in long-term debt greatly enhanced Grumman's financial strength.

A record-breaking year!

By: Ken Speiser and Larry Feliu

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1983 F-14 Scorecard: Iran's F-14s continued to dominate the airspace they patrolled by bringing down 19 (eight unconfirmed) more Iraqi jets, including a MiG 25, as well as multiple MiG-23s, Su-20s, Su-22s and Mirage F1s, with a variety of air-to-air missiles.

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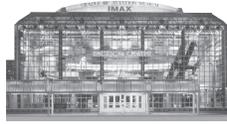
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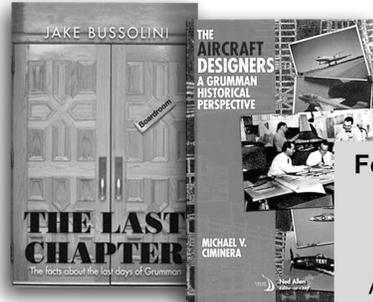
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Guest Names (PRINT) _____

No. of Members attending _____

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No. of Chicken _____

No. of Fish _____

Luncheon coupons should be mailed to
Grumman Retiree Club, Inc.
PO Box 476
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\$10 per member - \$20 per guest
PLEASE RESPOND BY JANUARY 13

CREST HOLLOW

FEBRUARY 17 LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Member Name (PRINT) _____

Guest Names (PRINT) _____

No. of Members attending _____

No. of Guests attending _____

No. of Chicken _____

No. of Fish _____

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\$10 per member - \$20 per guest
PLEASE RESPOND BY FEBRUARY 10

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL
2016**

**BETHPAGE CHAPTER
DUES ARE \$15.00**

Mail your check for \$15 and this form to:

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Mail your check(s) and this
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3. City _____ State _____ ZIP+4 _____

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

5. Spouse or Next Of Kin Name (print) _____

6. Method Of Payment - Please Indicate:

(A) Check # _____ Date _____ Amount \$ _____

(B) Cash _____

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

8. DONATIONS REQUIRE SEPARATE CHECKS

(a) Donation to the club's charitable activities Check # _____ Date _____ \$ _____

(b) Donation to Scholarship Fund Check # _____ Date _____ \$ _____

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

Visit the club Web Site at www.grummanretireeclub.org



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Newsletter

Editor: Neil Klaskin
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Grumman Retiree Club, Inc.

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