



The Grumman-Northrop Grumman Retiree Club

Newsletter



January 2016

Volume 49, Issue 1

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CLUB HEADQUARTERS/ PARENT CHAPTER

Bethpage, New York

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

CHAPTERS / MEETING LOCATIONS:

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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

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Florida - Spacecoast / Melbourne

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Virginia - Central Virginia / Monticello

President, Fred Meiners (434-589-2882)

RICHARD G. ANDERSON

December 12, 2015

Richard (Dick) Anderson joined Grumman in 1956 as an electrical engineer in Power Generation Systems. He later served as deputy director of the Engineering Department, director of Systems Engineering, and deputy director of the E-2/C-2 program. In August of 1985, he was named deputy director of Technical Operations and served in that position until the summer of 1986 when he was appointed Vice President of Aircraft Systems Technology in the Aircraft Systems Division.

In December of 1987, the Board of Directors of the Grumman Corporation elected Dick as Vice President – Technology Development. Dick was well liked and respected by all. His intelligence and his accomplishments were surpassed only by his sense of humor and his kind and gentle manner. We are all better people for having known him.

***This is Membership Renewal time:
Renewal Form is on page 22 of this Newsletter.***



Scholarship Program Contributors

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

- Dolan, Frederick**
- Harding, Thomas**
- Marinano, Theda**
- Scarantino, Salvatore**
- Scheuing, Richard**
- Watson, Richard**
- Weihs, Sydney**
- In memory of Steve Kalman;**
- Sutch, John**
- Van De Wetering, Joseph,**

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

GRUMMAN RETIREE CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

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.

Scholarship Program
SCHOLARSHIP 50/50 RAFFLE TICKET

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

Number of Raffles Purchased _____

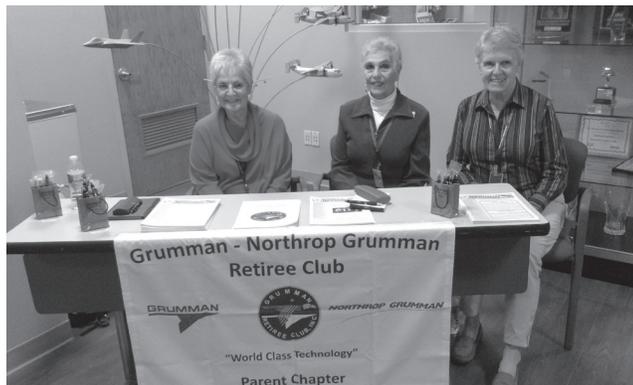


Retiree Club at Northrop Grumman Employee Appreciation Lunch

Back in November, Northrop Grumman in Bethpage held an Employee Appreciation Lunch for their Long Island employees. Food and general management-expressed appreciation for the employee's' efforts and accomplishments were the order of the day.

Retiree Club officers were invited to participate and to let the employees know of our programs and of our recently widened membership criteria that now include NGC retirees.

In addition, the Club officers provided Club Membership Applications to the NGC folks. So far, several current employees have joined the Club, and there have been inquiries from several others.



L to R: Betty Bohlander, Marion Abbott, Pat Sullivan

Jake's Book Wins Award

"The Last Chapter", Jake Bussolini's book about Grumman's last days, has received the Silver Winner Award from the Non Fiction Authors Association. The award is in recognition of quality writing and production. See advertisement, page 23, for more details.

Blood Drive

Next Blood Drive Date: TBD

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

Bethpage Chapter Calendar

Luncheons/Meetings

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

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

January 20 - Speaker: Club member Ken Speiser who will discuss the Grumman History stories.

Mark your calendar for these meeting dates:

February 17, March 23;

April 20; May 25;

Scholarship Luncheon - June 22;

September 21; October 19;

TUESDAY November 15;

Holiday luncheon - December 14

Bethpage / Parent Chapter

**Grumman Retiree Club Holiday Luncheon
December 9, 2015**

The 2015 Holiday Luncheon was held at the Crest Hollow Country Club with over 200 merry revelers in attendance. The festivities began with a cocktail hour from Noon to 1PM and, as usual our "Holiday Gifts" from the Crest Hollow Country Club were tables of Crudit , Bruschetta, Cheeseboards, and lots of other goodies, which were very well received by the hungry crew. Adding to the enjoyment of the cocktail hour was the background music of DJ Bud Gramer and his wife Linda.

President Betty Bohlander called the group to order at 1PM, and Sergeant-at-Arms Nick Bazzicalupo led the Pledge of Allegiance. The



President then introduced Past Club President and current Scholarship Fund President John Vosilla. John gave a moving Invocation regarding the state of the world today and asked for a moment of silence. Betty then asked Bud Gramer to lead the group in singing God Bless America.

Betty then introduced our invited VIP guests:

- Wayne Grosse, President and CEO of the Bethpage Federal Credit Union,
- Larry Seiden, Financial Advisor of BFCU Financial Services, member of our Scholarship Fund, and a Retiree Club Director.
- Kevin McKenna, BFCU Business Development manager and member of the Club's Board of Directors.
- Judith Rivera-Schneider and Heather Anderson of BFCU Investment Strategies.

Betty thanked Marion Abbott and 2nd VP Pat Sullivan who both worked tirelessly to arrange the luncheon and asked for a well deserved round of applause for both.



L to R:
 Standing: John Vosilla, Nick Bazzicalupo, Bob Ripp, Lou Kubat; Seated: Marion Abbott, Betty Bohlander, Pat Sullivan

On to the festivities!! A delicious lunch was served to the hungry crowd, and then the rest of the afternoon was spent enjoying coffee and dessert as well as wonderful wines and soft drinks. DJs Bud & Linda Gramer provided dance

and background music, which kept lots of people on the dance floor. Linda lead the Electric Slide dance and danced with many of the bachelor men who didn't have a partner. You devils!! People reminisced about the past year and the golden years at Grumman. A great time was had by all.

Special Congratulations to:

December Birthdays: Howard Bowe - 82; Lou Kubat - 79; John Vosilla - 67; Al Lavallo - 90; Barbara Lavallo - ageless; Peter and Kate Lugbauer - 72; John Proscia - 82; Elva Forte 93 and Irene Fales - 78 Happy Birthday all

Anniversaries: John & Arlene Vosilla - 44 yrs; Al & Barbara Lavallo - 50 yrs; Florence & Neal DeLuca - 62 yrs; and Shari & Fred Leibold - 50 yrs. Congratulations all.

Door Prize Winners: Four \$25 Visa gift cards were donated by the BFCU and the Club provided four \$25 Target gift cards as prizes. The lucky winners were: Susan Kelly, Priscilla Contino, Gerald Jalazo, Fred Robinson, Pat Sullivan, Nick Bazzicalupo, Donna-Lou Petersohn, and Howard Bowe who graciously donated his winnings to the Scholarship Fund. *Thank You, Howard.*

50-50 Winners: John Mulcahy, Louise Kubat, and Mary Soley who defied all odds and won two prizes.

Then the wild and crazy dancers continued to enjoy the music and danced the afternoon away with Lindys, Waltzes, Tangos, and the ever-popular lovey-dovey slow dance. At 4PM, after warm handshakes, holiday wishes, and kisses goodbye, everyone went home with a smile. Ho Ho Ho!!!!

Happy Holiday and a Healthy New Year to all!!

By: Lou Kubat, Sec'y.



CALIFORNIA / Golden West

Sixteen members attended our December meeting, which was held at the Eagles Lodge in Oxnard, CA. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Sergeant-at-Arms John Urgo, which was followed by the prayer by Fred Syrett.

A short business meeting was held to discuss future speakers and programs for next year.

Our Christmas program was White Elephant gift raffles, which every one enjoyed.

The winners of our 50/50 were Bob Killian and Dick Bartick.

Next Meeting: January 12.

By: Fred Syrett, President.

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

CALIFORNIA / San Diego

On Thursday, December 10, our Chapter gathered for our annual Christmas luncheon at one of our favorite places, the 94th Aero Squadron restaurant. The 94th Aero Squadron was one of the first American fighter squadrons to see combat service. We really like this eatery, located inside a replica of a World War 1 French farmhouse, with its military-themed décor including aircraft replicas, wartime artifacts, and military memorabilia.

Twenty-four retirees and guests enjoyed the camaraderie and a buffet lunch.

After President Pete Belay called the meeting to order, Nancy Roeckl led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Nancy then gave the invocation

which included asking for protection for the brave men and women serving in our military, as well as our law enforcement officers and first responders. She expressed gratitude for their service and dedication to keeping us safe.

Our luncheon was dedicated to the memory of deceased retiree Sy Rosenberg. Sy's son, Jim Rosenberg, wanted everyone to know how proud his Dad was of being a part of the Grumman organization and how much he felt they were like family to him. In keeping with that thought, Sy wanted to give back to our Chapter so, after his passing, a generous check was given to our Retiree Club. A portion of that check was used to pay for our entire Christmas luncheon.

The 50/50 lucky winners were Sy Glick and Barbara Mosley.

Door prize winners of Master Card gift cards were Mary Belay, Gordon & Marge Cargill, and Eleanor Kirvin.

If you haven't paid your dues for 2016, you can send your \$18 check (made out to: **Grumman Retirees Club**) to our Treasurer, Howard Lindquist, 13572 Samantha Ave, San Diego CA, 92129.

From October through December, the following folks celebrated birthdays: Amy Askins, Betz Bartels, Mary Belay, Noel Callahan, Gordon Cargill, Mary Garrity, Kay Huttler, Mike Lossick, Nancy Roeckl, Armand Salvi, Ann Sarraffe, Jean Vasely, and Christine von der Heyden.

Wedding anniversary good wishes go out to Charlie & Amy Askins, Noel & Sue Callahan, Dennis & Annette Klapwyk (their 55th), Armand & Santi Salvi (their 60th), Bob & Roxie Stalter (their 50th), and Ernie & Christine von der Heyden. Congrats to all, with special kudos to those celebrating 50+ milestone anniversaries.



Meeting dates for 2016 will be announced at a later date.

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

FLORIDA/ First Coast

Forty-three members and guests took part in our December meeting. As always, President Fred led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by Chaplin Janet's invocation.

After enjoying ourselves at the buffet, Fred called us to order. Fred told us Tom Mutschler has been dealing with health issues and we all wish Tom our best for a comfortable and speedy recovery.

Fred introduced two new members. John Dengler and Bob Lynch.

Welcome, Bob and Welcome Back, John.

Christina McGlade, Manufacturing VP here at the St. Augustine facility, described the current business at the site and answered a few questions. Thanks, Christina.

We also had Member John Leslie give us an introduction to his recently published book, "In My Father's Footsteps". John, now retired, was a test pilot for Northrop Grumman.

Inspired by helping his aging dad write his memoirs, John compiled and added his own story, including his career and his family and an appendix on the Battle of Midway. Several of us purchased a copy, which John graciously signed. (The book is available on Amazon)

December Birthdays:

John Hirschlein, Catherine Langhauser, Duke Digilio, Paul Heagy, Tom Mutschler, Tom Foley, Paul Rosone, Paulette Bateman, Terry Jennings, Barbara Dolce, Bernie Savoie, Paul Coronato, Mark Chamberlin, and Bud Thomsen.

Anniversaries:

Janice & Rich Porter, Bonnie & Art Maguire, Anne & Emil Gagliardi, and Kathleen & John Hirschlein.

Treasurer Bob Rathje collected twenty-six 2016 dues payments. Bob reminds us that, if we wish to mail our \$15 dues, they should be sent to: Bob Rathje, 11046 Castlemain Circle East, Jacksonville, FL. 32256. Make your check payable to *The Grumman Retiree Club*. Please: Let's get paid up before the end of February so that Bob can send our payment to headquarters in one mailing this March. Thank You.

As we have done at past December meetings, five Christmas Turkey checks and all the 50/50 cash collected at today's meeting were awarded. (Fifteen prizes in all)

Merry Christmas to All.

Next Meeting: Jan 19, at the Ichiban buffet.

Future Meetings: Feb16, Mar 15, Apr19

By: Steve Cacace, Sec'y.

sremkkc@comcast.net

FLORIDA / Manasota West

President Ted Martines brought our December 9th meeting to order at Noon with the Pledge of Allegiance. Ted informed the seven members and four spouses in attendance of his email letter to Club President Betty Bohlander regarding alternatives for keeping our Chapter viable with fewer than the required number of members and officers.

Discussions followed covering meeting frequency, alternate locations, joining with other chapters, both North and South of the Manasota area, and formally dissolving, but scheduling periodic luncheons. We hope to have advice



form Headquarters at our January 13th meeting. Ted asked Secretary John Zinna to contact other local chapters and inquire of how they are handling diminishing membership and if we could create a local solution.

John presented the Treasurer's report showing that we have funds sufficient to provide our annual charitable contribution to a local charity. A post-meeting email discussion was conducted and it was agreed to send \$100 to *Mayor's Feed the Hungary of Sarasota*.

Dues (\$15 per person) for 2016 are now due to maintain membership and to continue to receive the Club Newsletter. Seven members have paid their 2016 dues; the remaining area members should make their checks payable to Grumman Retiree Club, and mail to John Zinna.

This was the first meeting where discussions didn't cover the many email and telephone scams against senior citizens. Rather, we discussed the many local entertainment venues available, especially at this time of year. Holiday entertainment in the Sarasota and Bradenton areas is a great value and we have the opportunity to see top entertainers at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, Manatee Performing Arts Center, and others. The Sarasota Boat Parade is also a season highlight in the area - the warm weather allows boaters to become very creative with their decorations and Santa always looks good in red shorts.

The 50/50 winner was our Treasurer, who donated back to the Club.

Grumman Trivia winners (tie) Jim Murray and Bob Nyberg split the \$10 prize. Last month's winner, Con Gilseman, created this month's questions. Con's questions covered such topics as WWII manufacturing and testing locations, the folding wing design concept, the LEM, Chief Executives, and first flight of F-14. Jim Murray

will be responsible to make up the five questions for January's meeting.

We want to wish all retiree chapters Health and Happiness in 2016.

Next Meeting: Jan 13, at Noon, at the Pier 22 Restaurant overlooking the Manatee River in Bradenton, FL. We invite all Grumman and Northrop Grumman retirees, and those currently working, who are in the area to stop in and enjoy the conversation and our Trivia game.

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

FLORIDA/ Mid-West

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

Chaplain Gus Kraye opened our meeting with the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 13 members present.

A motion to accept the November 2015 minutes was made Elaine Johnson and seconded by Gus Kraye. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

Gus Kraye gave the Treasurer's report. A motion to accept the Treasurer/s report was made by Madeline Arso and seconded by Elaine Johnson. The report was accepted unanimously.

Sunshine Committee:
- Citrus County: All is well.
- Hernando County: This past month, long time member Josephine Keiser passed away. Our condolences to her daughter, Judy Keiser.

We want to thank Hank Mehl for taking our food donations to his church for distribution. We also



want to thank everyone for their *Toys for Tots* gifts. John and I took the donations to the local Marine contingent, in the Spring Hill/Brooksville location.

After lunch, we were entertained by the Barbershop Quartet, "Then and Now". They were very enjoyable.

After they left, we raffled off a couple of gifts Madeline and Rich Arso had donated. The big winners were Elaine Johnson and Joan Mehl. *Thank You, Madeline & Rich.*

A fun time was had by all!

Future Meetings: Our next meeting will be held on **February 19, 2016**. Hank and Joan Mehl will be hosting. Location: TBD.

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

By: Tony & Clem Moors and Paul & Linda Baldwin (lsbaldwin48@gmail.com)

FLORIDA / Space Coast

December 16, 2015

It looked like old times as a crowd of retirees descended on the Suntree Country Club an hour before official meeting time to share season socializing before a bountiful buffet. Ed Romano's invocation following the Pledge of Allegiance was particularly moving as he noted the loss of Jerry Ernst this past month and honored those other members we lost during this past year.

As is our custom, we omitted having a guest speaker so as to have more time to socialize. However, Program VP John Lau did challenge us with a seasonal quiz that garnered him a sprinkling of groans and a few boos at the puns for answers.



Communications:

Don Powell had our monthly callers stand for recognition of their service to the Chapter. This informal communication certainly contributes significantly to our attendance.

Don followed with a bevy of Santa Claus/reindeer jokes that drew both laughs and groans.

Treasurer Bill Waldron gave a detailed report on our financial activity as we close out the year. With a number of gracious donors contributing to The Veterans Transitional Facility Thanksgiving dinner and 50/50 winners donating to the Scholarship Fund, we have honored our commitments and still have healthy balances in both of our accounts as we head toward the year's end.

Bill reminded everyone that, with the start of the New Year, annual dues of \$17 would be due. Payment in January would be appreciated.

No Other Committee Reports

Old Business: Joe Mullings reported that the Veterans Transitional Facility dinner went very, very well, making a large hit with the Veteran recipients. A special thanks goes out to the Route 192 Publix folks who really went out of their way to put on a great spread.

Joe also reminded us that donations of such things as tools and gently used clothing are always welcome at the facility as these veterans strive to find work and resume civilian life.

January Meeting: VP John Lau announced that the guest speaker at the January meeting would be Titusville Sheriff John Lau, Jr. With Titusville growing as it evolves into a town supporting one of our nations busiest cruise terminals, this should be an interesting meeting.

Miscellaneous: Our monthly drawing featured not only eight 50/50s plus 5 special holiday

awards, but also a Super Holiday Basket that was won by Elaine Pride. Elaine required help in moving the huge basket full of goodies!.

It was apropos to pay tribute to Anne Cioffi for her diligent work in preparing innovative special awards for these very necessary fund-raisers. Our *Thanks* to you, too, Sal!

Employees Birthdays December: George Graefe, John Adrion, David Muh, John Casko, and Gus Lanzo,

Spouse Birthdays December: Carol Lawler, Diane Glover, Brenda Muh, Mary Ann Lau, Marie Passarella, Barbara Hudson, and Marilyn Filipino

Anniversaries December: George & Peggy Graefe, Gus & Audrey Lanzo, and Oscar & Emma Basilio.

Congratulations to All

By: Bill Steenson, Secy.

Next Meeting January 20, 2015

2016 Meeting Schedule:
2/17, 3/16, 4/20, 5/25, 6/15
No Meetings July and August
9/21, 10/19, 11/16, 12/14

FLORIDA / Suncoast

Chapter did not meet in December

Next Meeting: Jan 29, at Noon, at the Hibachi Buffet, on 49th Street, in Pinellas Park, FL.

Future Meeting Dates in 2016, also at the Hibachi Buffet: 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 December 17th meeting was held at the Martin Downs Golf Club.

Dan Knowles led the Pledge of Allegiance; our Chaplain gave the invocation.

Anniversaries for the month of December: Mike & Deb Bartfield (28 yrs); Bob & Lynn Beckmann (54 yrs); Tom & Janet Cuce (59 yrs); Marilyn & Rob Fink (17 yrs); and Gene & MaryLou Rathbeder (58 yrs).

Visitors: Ann & Paul Kaloski

Dan Knowles and Bob Watkins wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We had a very nice Christmas Party with "Dennis G" who entertained us with music and Christmas Carols. We joined him in the singing, which was fun.

We also had some Turkey Raffles.

President Knowles adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting: January 21, at the Martin Downs Golf Club.

By: Janet Cuce (772-344-1838)
jjcuce@comcast.net

GEORGIA / Peach Pit

Our December 15 Holiday Social meeting at Crockett's Cafeteria, on North Columbia Street 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 Josephine Haralson to lead the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Designee Mary Archer then gave the Blessing, which was followed by the meal and fellowship.

Old Business:

Will be addressed at our January Business Meeting.

New Business:

1. President Janet welcomed those present and mentioned that last year's election of Officers was for a two-year term. Therefore, year 2016 Chapter Officers will be: Janet Sills - President; Ted Zarkowsky - Vice President; Joe Sansotta - Treasurer; Lew Iuliucci - Secretary; Wendell Barr - Sergeant-at-Arms; and Willie Collins - Chaplain.

2. President Janet wished all members: a Happy Hanukkah, a Blessed Christmas, and a Wonderful New Year.

3. December Birthday wishes were extended to: John Maier [4th]; Guil Mauldin [24th]; Barbara Schwendler [4th]; Howard Sills [4th]; Stan Winnicki [22nd]; and Ted Zarkowsky [15th].

4. December Wedding Anniversary congratulations were extended to: Gary & Linda Hagland [27th]; Guil & Barbara Mauldin [27th]; and Janet & Howard Sills [4th].

5. Treasurer Joe Sansotta reported:

(a) The final Club/Chapter gift, a charitable payment to the Chard Wray Memorial Food Pantry administered by St. Stephens Episcopal Church, will be made on Christmas Day [December 25th]



per our member-approved Plan.

(b) Member checks, payable to: Grumman-Northrop Grumman Retiree Club “for: “year 2016 dues” (\$15) or for: “Community Service Fund”, should be sent to Joe Sansotta, 3748 Sussex Drive NE, Milledgeville, GA 31061-9360.

(c) Checks that were sent to the Club earmarked for member Fred Hammerschmidt’s Medical Assistance Fund have been transferred to that Fund.

6. Members Bill Holsenbeck and Joe Nizza have medical issues and are in our prayers for speedy recoveries. *Get well soon, Bill and Joe.*

7. Lew Iuliucci won the 75/25 Fund Raiser raffle and donated the winnings to the Community Service Fund. *Thank You, Lew.*

Community Service:

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

b.] A Charitable gift check from the Chapter, with a cover letter, will be given to the Food Pantry on Christmas Day, December 25, 2015.

Program: Tour of the Old Governor’s Mansion

Following the meeting, members Vince & Roberta Ciampa, Jesse Griffin, Lew Iuliucci, Mike McCabe, Brenda Miller, Joe Sansotta, and Janet Sills took the 2PM.tour of the Old Governor’s Mansion. It was built in 1839 and was the Official residence of Georgia’s Governors from 1839 through 1868, when the Georgia State Capital was moved to Atlanta (post Reconstruction) where the Governors now reside. During the Civil War, the Mansion was claimed as a prize in the “march to the Sea” by an Army of 30,000 Union troops to capture Savannah, when General William T. Sherman headquartered in the building, for one night, on November 23, 1864. In 1973, the mansion was designated a National Historic Landmark. In year 2002 a \$9,000,000 restoration project was begun to

restore the building, and all furnishings, to that period. And, this year, 2015, the mansion was named an affiliate to the Smithsonian Institution.

Christmas decorations, replicating those of the 1850s, added to the charm and ambiance of this chapter in American History, and in the building of the Great State of Georgia. We all enjoyed the trip down memory lane and a reminder that “The American Dream” begins with “We the People” where “ordinary people can accomplish extraordinary things”.

A motion, made by Jesse Griffin and seconded by Mike McCabe, to end the Social meeting carried and adjournment was 1:30PM.

Next Meeting: Jan 19, at Crockett’s Cafeteria, located on N. Columbia Street Milledgeville, starting at 12:30PM. The Program is: Following the meeting, there will be a tour of Georgia’s Old Capitol Museum.

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

Maryland / Glen Arm

Our Christmas meeting was held on December 15th, starting at 6:30 PM, at the Golden Corral, in Aberdeen, MD.

We had good attendance with some members that we hadn’t seen for a while showing up. It was great to see and talk with them.

Primary topics discussed during the meeting were: Treasury Report, meeting attendance, meeting schedule/location, Chapter Donations, and our Sick list.

The Treasury report / status was given and we were reminded that the 2016 dues are coming up. (We are planning to keep our dues the same



for the upcoming renewal period.)

Attendance was a topic that lead to a decision to change the meeting schedule and location. Our daytime meetings have not been well attended. The feeling is that many of the younger members are still working, making it difficult for them to attend the daytime meetings.

We decided to eliminate the daytime meetings and have evening meetings at the same time as current but on a quarterly schedule. Locations may rotate to different venues.

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 15th, at 6:30PM, at the Golden Corral in Fullerton, MD.

Our Chapter recently made donations to the Grumman Scholarship Fund and to the Shriners' Children's Hospital. Letters of thanks from both organizations have been received and were presented at the meeting.

We took a few minutes to remember members we recently lost and also to put those who are on our sick list into our thoughts and prayers.

Birthdays: John Higgs (12/03); Rick Oden (12/09); Joan Gebhardt (12/11); Mike Rutherford (12/26); Dave Rutherford (12/31); Luella Beihl (01/22); Linda La Orange (01/23); Vince Trabona (01/24); Rick Kratzmier (02/01); Margarett Rutherford (02/4); Ben Richardson (02/14); Maxine Svach (02/29).

Happy Birthday to All!

Remember: We Have A New Meeting Schedule: Our meetings are now held **Quarterly**, on the 3rd Tuesday of the meeting month. All meetings start at 6:30PM.

Next Meeting: March 15, 6:30PM, at the Golden Corral Fullerton / Baltimore, MD. (7908 Rossville Blvd, Baltimore, MD.)

A reminder notification will be sent to each member a couple weeks prior to the meeting date.

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 (see contact name, phone number, email address, below).

If you have and questions or suggestions, please contact President: Rick Swinder (410-977-7829 or rickswinder@gmail.com)

By: Joe Svach

New England North

No report of Chapter activity.

**New Jersey
Garden State Chapter**

Editor's Note:
The Chapter ended all official activities as of their November meeting.

**NEW YORK
Eastern Long Island Chapter**

President Bert Moller convened our December 10 Christmas Meeting with 20 members and guests, including Retiree Club current President Betty Bohlander and past President Marion Abbott.



Photo by Marion Abbott.
[Chapter members were not identified.]

Sergeant-at-Arms Richie Myers led the Pledge of Allegiance and Pres. Bert gave the invocation.

VP Bob Albert read the minutes of our November meeting and Treasurer Pauline Sandmann gave her report. Both reports were accepted as read.

We then proceeded to enjoy a great luncheon at Pauline Sandmann's clubhouse. Many, many **Thanks!** to Pauline and her helpers!

Three 50/50 winners were drawn. Ralph Scordino's wood etchings and Pres Bert's autographed baseball (autographed by Bert's grandson, NY Mets pitcher Steven Matz) were the highlights of our very successful Christmas Party! **Thanks** to Pauline, Ralph, & Bert for making it so successful!

Mytko Report
** Dutch Rotzinger's wife is in rehab.
** Dutch also reported the passing of 42-year employee Armand Festa, on 11/25, and 37-year employee Mark Mellinger, on 11/30.

Our condolences are extended to their families and friends.

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

Birthdays: Herman Prager (12/6), Joseph Barszczewski (12/20), Tommy Block (12/20), Ray Lanza (12/30), Arthur Lorelli (1/9), William Lent (1/10), Robert Haynal (1/11), Richie Myers (1/12), Lou Puccio (1/19), John Wills (1/25), Henry Buthmann (1/27), Eugene Bagnall (1/28), William Lengyel (1/29).

Anniversaries: Congratulations to
** Art & Catherine Bolomey celebrating 64yrs of wedded bliss on Dec 29th!
** And a belated Congrats to Rose & Ernest Finamore, married 65yrs (9/24), and to Diane & Peter Neglia for their 60yrs (10/29).

If I missed any Birthdays or Anniversaries, let me know! Remember to include your Date of Birth (D.O.B.) on your 2016 Dues Renewal! Check.

Reminder to All : 2016 Dues (\$15) are due. Please send to Bert Moller 33 Ramsey Road Commack, NY 11725. Please note any address changes, and your birthday and anniversary dates if you want them to appear in the Newsletter. [Patience, please. on Newsletter processing . . . Thanks!]

No January Meeting!

Next Meeting: Feb 17, at the Coram Diner (Route 25, in Coram).

Future Meetings: March 16, April 20.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

By: Bob Albert, Vice President
(631-585-7987)



NORTH CAROLINA **Eastern Carolina Chapter**

December 8, 2015

Our annual Christmas celebration, meeting luncheon, and toy collection for the Marine's "Toys for Tots" program was held at the Clam Digger Inn in Pine Knoll Shores on a gloriously warm day. Rudi and Marlene Wiehl were program directors. Thirty-seven members and guests attended, along with two handsome Marines as representatives of the "Toys for Tots" program. Rudi arranged for the Marines to be with us, as he does each year.

The Clam Digger Inn is located directly on the ocean and offered great views and an off-season rate of \$39 per night for our occasion, which some members took advantage of.

Rudi welcomed everyone, and asked Sergeant-at-Arms Rudy Ramcke to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Rudy also gave the invocation in which he honored our military, our public service members for their service, the deceased members of our chapter, and the victims of the recent senseless violence plaguing our nation.

Rudi introduced the two Marines, Sergeant Arthur Romans, originally from Havelock, NC, and Lance Corporal Bryson Carnell, originally from Butner, NC. They are both temporarily assigned to the Marine's Toys for Tots program and are based at Camp Lejeune, in Jacksonville, NC.

Both Sgt. Romans and Lance Corporal Carnell spoke about the program, and told us about the many hours expended for the program during this time of year. They thanked us all for the donations, which will be distributed to needy children in Craven County. They also joined us for the delicious buffet luncheon prepared by the Inn.



L to R: Sgt. Romans, Lance Corporal Carnell, Chapter VP Joe Mele, Rudi Wiehl

During lunch, President Pete McNamee read a new set of Christmas trivia questions contributed by Artie Miller. (Artie provides Christmas trivia for us each year.) Many of the questions were aviation related and a challenge for all.

Pete mentioned Chapter dues will remain at \$15 for 2016. Bob Lamberson and Fred Reynolds were available to collect the dues during today's meeting.

Pete also mentioned the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 10, at the River Bend Country Club. [Note: We don't meet in January.] He requested volunteers to serve as program directors for the March meeting.

Rudi followed with a number of trivia questions exclusive to Christmas that he and his wife Marlene had compiled. These questions were a bit more challenging but fun. Our *Thanks* to Artie, Marlene, and Rudi.

Bob Lamberson led with the 50/50 immediately following lunch in order for the Marines to pack up the toys and leave for their next commitment. The 50/50 winners were Lance Corporal Carnell, Tom Schroder, Marlene Wiehl, and Grace Lamberson who graciously donated her winnings to Sgt. Romans. The gathering gave the Marines a round of applause and thanked them for attending.



After the Marines departed, Bob continued the meeting with the November Treasurer's Report and announced the Chapter's donations to the First Presbyterian Church of New Bern, in memory of Ken Gruebel, and to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, in memory of Karl Herrnkind both of whom sadly passed away recently.

Tom Schroder read a heartwarming camel-related Christmas Story, also provided by Artie Miller. Artie is a long time chapter member who is unable to attend the meetings since he must take care of his wife Fran who is ill. Tom continued with additional trivia questions supplied by Artie, relating to the Catholic faith. These were difficult but – surprisingly - many members were able to answer them without difficulty.

Tom followed with a number of very humorous stories, which were appreciated by all, as always.

Pete McNamee announced the birthdays for December, then - as there were no anniversaries to report this month – he thanked everyone for coming, especially those who live far from Pine Knoll Shores. He wished everyone a Happy Holiday and a Safe and Healthy New year.

Thanks to Rudi and Marlene Wiehl for arranging our Christmas celebration, as well.

Sunshine Report: Jim and Dottie Karika, the chapter's secretary were planning on attending the meeting, however Jim became ill and had to visit the local hospital emergency room on the morning of the meeting. Our wishes to Jim for a quick recovery.

Birthdays: 12/1 - William Willemsen;
12/10 - Fran Miller; 12/23 - Diane Spallanzani;
12/31 - Raymond Rice

Anniversaries: None

By: Peter McNamee, President
(pmcnamee@suddenlink.net)

PENNSYLVANIA Northeastern Pennsylvania Chapter

December 17th was not a good day in Northeast Pennsylvania: It was cold and rainy, but we still had a group attend our last meeting of the year. Seven Grumms and four spouses attended. They were: the Rademachers, the Sparkowskis, the Dowds, the St. Dennises, the Zupps, and Bill Herling.

We started the meeting with a round of liquid refreshment, hors d'oeuvres, and light conversation for the first half hour. At Noon, we had the Pledge of Allegiance. We then ordered our main meals and continued with the light conversations mixed with war stories from the Big G.

Treasurer Fred Rademacher reported that, by the time you receive this Newsletter from Bethpage, if you haven't paid your dues they are late and you are in danger of being dropped from the Club. He has a little over half of our Chapter paid and is looking to get the rest of you paid. Remember to make your checks out to "**The NEPA Grumman Retiree Club**" and NOT to Fred Rademacher. Mail your \$15 check to Fred Rademacher, PO Box 1012, Milford, PA 18337-1012, and not to the NEPA Grumman Retiree Club at that address.

Sparky reported that a new member was not able to attend today's meeting, but hopes to see us in April. He also wished the Club holiday greetings.



Sparky also reported that we received greetings from Dan Knowles who was attending another party.

We discussed where we will meet in April and decided to hold off, so we can check out some other locations.

The Lunch Bunch will be starting up again. For those who do not know who they are, it is our wives, who find places for lunch during January, February, and March, so that we can keep in contact. There is no structure to our get-togethers, but nice light conversation and fun. First meeting will be January 21, at the Alpine Restaurant, Route 6, Honesdale, at Noon.

Sickness: Marianne Sparkowski will be undergoing a right shoulder replacement on January 1, 2016.

December Birthdays:
Ron Alongi and John Rinde.

December Anniversaries: None

50X50 was won by Richard St Dennis

This was our last meeting of 2015. Hope you all had a safe 2015, and are looking to the start of 2016 to be an even better one. I know I am. Some of the many great things I'll remember from 2015 are the birth of our first Great-Grand Son; my Grand Daughter Stephanie and her soccer team winning a National Championship in her age group; my Grandson Daniel starting to look at Colleges. And, my youngest son making Senior Chief, in the Navy. What a year!

Next Meeting: April 21, 2016; place TBA.

So, as this will be coming out after the New Year in the Club Newsletter from Bethpage: to all our non-NEPA Grumman Alumni - have a safe and healthy start to the New Year.

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

SOUTH CAROLINA
Coastal Carolinas Chapter

The Sea Captain's House Restaurant, in Myrtle Beach, was the location for our December 2nd Christmas Luncheon, with sixteen members in attendance. Theresa McMahon was our only guest.

After lunch, President Ronald Girardin called the meeting to order. In the absence of Sergeant-at-Arms Eldon Scott, Bob Joyce led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for absentee club members, for our military, and for our country.

Happy Birthday to Bernard Mascara.

Happy Anniversary to Marilyn & Richard Seidler.

The November 2015 meeting minutes were read by our Secretary, and were accepted as read, seconded, and approved.

Don Webber read the Treasurer's Report. As stated in the November meeting minutes, the balance in our treasury is satisfactory. \$21 from the 50/50 drawing was added. Disbursements for the speaker's lunch, a \$100 donation to Street Reach Myrtle Beach, and a \$100 donation to Street Reach Brunswick County, left a comfortable balance in the treasury. The Treasurer's Report was accepted, seconded, and approved.

In lieu of the 50/50 drawing, there was a Christmas Grab Bag, which was optional. Those who bought gifts, received gifts.



Dues for 2016 dues should be sent to Don Webber, 4713 National Drive, Myrtle Beach, SC 29579, in order to continue your membership and receive the newsletter. The dues amount is \$15 per member, and \$5 per spouse.

Each Chapter member will receive an address, telephone number, and email address list, in addition to the list of dates and places of our 2016 meetings, as well as a list of new officers for the years 2016-2018.

The Secretary received an email from Judy Scott, regarding Eldon: he is struggling through some health issues presently.

Don Webber spoke to Bernard Mascara, and both he and Lee are coping with some health issues as well.

We ask that you keep all in your prayers.

It was nice to see Ed Raulsome back at the meetings too, after his recuperation from hip surgery.

Thanks to all those who volunteered to serve as officers for 2016. They are: Robert Joyce, President; Ed Raulsome, Vice President; Kathy Fleischer, Secretary; Donald Webber, Treasurer; Nancy Webber, Sergeant-at-Arms; and Carol Joyce, Sunshine Committee.

In addition, a big **Thank You** to those who served as officers of our Chapter for the past two years: President Ronald Girardin; Vice President Janice Hanlon; Secretary Nancy Webber; Treasurer Donald Webber; Sergeant-at-Arms Eldon Scott; and Sunshine Committee Chairlady Dorothy Hoffmann.

Next meeting: January 6, 2016, at Noon, at the Olive Garden, 1404 N. Kings Hwy, Myrtle Beach (across from Chapin Park).

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year,
and
Happy Holidays To All!

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

By: Nancy Webber, Secretary
(843 – 347 – 2113) nfwebber@twc.com

TEXAS / Houston

Chapter did not meet in December.

We at the Houston Chapter wish Bethpage and all the Chapters a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

Our lease has been renewed for 2016, and plans are being formed for the year with guest speakers and facility visits. Status is the same with low membership. Chapter meetings are getting smaller in attendance but our membership would like to continue with meetings.

Again, Merry Christmas and
a Happy and Safe New Year!

By:
Angelo LaCognata, President (281-326-1665)
Bob Taylor, Vice President (409-457-6151)



VIRGINIA / Central Virginia

Merry Christmas & Happy Hanukah greetings to all.

Our December 9th Christmas ‘potluck’ meeting was held at Fred & Marjorie Meiners’ house. The day started with dense fog all the way to Chesapeake. Those who lived West over the Blue Ridge Mountain had clear skies. By Noon it had finally burned off and members started to arrive.

We had wonderful, delicious food supplied by all: stuffed shells, ham quiche, cold broccoli salad, tossed salad, pot roast with gravy, beer bread, a condiment tray with creamed herring, pickles, olives and crackers . . . mmmm!! *[Editor’s Note: WOW!!]*

Desserts included Christmas cutout cookies, pfeffernusse cookies, chocolate gingerbread cookies, shortbread cookies, an all chocolate cake & icing, LI cheese pumpkin pie with whipped cream, and a variety of beverages. *[Editor’s Note: Double WOW!!]*

We started our meeting, standing in a circle, holding hands, and thanking the Almighty for all in attendance and for those missing, for our country and its leaders, for safety on the roads, for the great food, and for all our numerous blessings.

We stayed at the dining table, enjoying our meal and the conversation for over two hours, having a hilarious time and an abbreviated business meeting.

Attendees: Rich Benske & Jackie, Harold Case, Ed Samson, Maryann Muller, Frank & Beverly Purstell, and Fred & Marjorie Meiners

Agenda: Future meeting sites; those missing; a prayer for Harriet Oakley, who is due to have heart surgery in January

Treasurer’s Report: Frank reports we are solvent. BUT: DUES (\$15) for 2016 are DUE. Make check out to Frank Purstell or NGRC, and send your check to Frank at 317 Meadow Beauty Ct, Waynesboro, VA 22980

Next Meeting: January 13, 12:30PM: Fork Union Village Restaurant, 4321 James Madison Highway (US 15), Fork Union VA (434-842-3058). Exit 136 off I-64 for US 15 South (towards Palmyra) for about 15 miles. Approx one mile past the Military Academy, on the Right and across from BB&T bank and Pharmacy (which has an *awesome* gift shop).

Future Meetings

Feb 10, 12:30PM: Michie Tavern, 683 Thomas Jefferson Pky, Charlottesville VA. [From I-64, take Exit 121 for Route 20 South. At 2nd traffic light, go LEFT. Entrance to parking lot for tavern is on right, just past the Grist Mill. Tavern is ahead up the hill on the right, at far end of lot.]

March 9, 12:30PM: Shadwell’s Restaurant, 1791 Richmond Rd, Charlottesville, VA. From I-64, take Exit 124 (Rte 250 West). Once on Rte 250, get into Left lane. Make Left at 2nd traffic light. Restaurant is in front of the Hilton Hotel (Pantops area).]

April 13, 12:30PM: Crab Louies Seafood Tavern, 1352 Sycamore Square, Midlothian VA. [Off Midlothian Turnpike Route 60. A favorite choice among members.]

May 11, 12:30PM: Edelweiss German Restaurant. [Exit 213 off I-81 in Greenville (Stuarts Draft, VA). Or, if coming from the East: off I-64 Rte 340 West towards Stuarts Draft.]

Please notify Frank Purstell (434-282-1303) or Fred Meiners via email or phone, two days before each meeting, if you plan to attend. Thanks.

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.

Albrecht, Charles	New Port Richey, FL	06/24/2015
Barthel, Alvin	Merrick, NY	12/05/2015
Cervellino, Lawrence	Smithtown, NY	12/07/2015
Colby, George	Manorville, NY	11/24/2015
Coll, Eugene	Commack, NY	11/17/2015
Della Monica, Armand F.	Palm Coast, FL	11/16/2015
Ernst, Jerald	Melbourne, FL	11/29/2015
Festa, Armand	Copiague, NY	11/25/2015
Froehlich, Jacob	Winchester, NH	11/10/2015
Hanifin, Frances	Pottstown, PA	11/12/2015
Herrnkind, Karl	Hertford, NC	11/19/2015
Lynch, John	Melbourne, FL	11/15/2015
Mellinger, Mark	Greensboro, NC	11/30/2015
Nussle, John	Joppa, MD	10/25/2015
Ober, Leonard	Hicksville, NY	06/10/2015
Sauer, Charles	Smithtown, NY	11/18/2015
Schrader, David	Babylon, NY	11/24/2015
Sarraffe, Richard	Temecula, CA	11/29/2015
Sturiale, Virgilio ("Jiggs")	Winston-Salem, NC	12/13/2015
Zachary, Spyro	Port Jefferson Station, NY	04/15/2015

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 36
The Future is Assured
1984

The year 1984 opened with continuing optimism as Grumman doubled its Research and Development funding to \$70 million. With nearly 30% of those funds dedicated to making the X-29 a stand out success, Grumman management was clearly demonstrating the importance the company placed on this technology demonstrator.

Money was set aside to pursue new NASA business opportunities that suddenly came alive as President Reagan approved the development of the manned earth orbiting space station. The aerospace industry, including Grumman, had fought long and hard to get this vision approved. Success - - they finally had this new, juicy, program to pursue. Additionally, there was anticipation that the NASA facility in Houston, Texas was preparing a competition for a very lucrative Space Transportation Systems Operations Contract.

It was still early in the year when Singapore became the Hawkeye's fourth international customer, opting to purchase four Hawkeyes. Nearly simultaneously, there was good news from Grumman's Stuart, Florida operation: they had won a \$160 million competition to build nacelles/thrust reversers for the new Rolls Royce engine that would power new Gulfstream IVs and Fokker 100s.

All these achievements and opportunities were great but there was still a major underlying concern within both management and the work force. Major efforts to obtain significant upgrades to the Tomcat, such as the long needed re-engining, had not yielded any notable success. Since 1982, when the Navy had decided the F-14 needed a significant upgrade, these plans had languished within a sea of bureaucratic red tape to create the justification documentation allowing the needed R&D funds to be transferred from the production budget; this trade-off, upgrades for production quantity, was willingly taken as such an upgrade would ensure the long-term future of these great aircraft. As for Grumman, the Intruder, and especially the Tomcat, were the financial sinews of the company. Threats to these programs would throw Grumman into another crisis.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes at the Navy, plans started to solidify, but with a few curve balls tossed in. The Secretary of the Navy decided to insert an Intruder upgrade (A-6F) program into the Tomcat upgrade (F-14D) effort. The A-6F would serve as an interim aircraft until the next generation attack plane would be ready. While the Tomcat upgrade had wide support, there was concern within the operational navy that the A-6F was a "non-starter" as it had insufficient performance, even with the upgrades, to be survivable within the modern battlefield. The Intruders that were shot down over Lebanon late in 1983 foreshadowed this vulnerability. Nevertheless, the Secretary of the Navy approved the two upgrade programs and in a seemingly arbitrary fashion established funding caps on the Intruder and Tomcat fixed-price upgrade efforts of \$500 million and \$700 million, respectively; levels of funding that all knew were insufficient. But these were the guidelines that would dictate these efforts. Now all that was needed was formal approval of these programs.

It was March 13 when the "pre-approved" plans were to receive formal approval at a meeting of the Secretary of the Navy, some of his staff, and top Navy brass. The Intruder briefing went without a hitch and was approved. It was now time for the Tomcat upgrade program to go through its formalities. But suddenly there was an unscripted comment from the Secretary. "Why does the F-14 engine need replacing? After all it has been using these engines for a long time. " Shock! Of all the improvements sought this was Number One on the list. Its importance overshadowed the needed improvements to the aging radar, antiquated electronics, and the corresponding reliability and maintainability issues. Violating the established meeting protocol, Rear Admiral Paul Gillchrist, the Deputy Chief for Naval Air Warfare could not be restrained. An avid F-14 supporter and pilot, he had worked too hard to get to this point not to have the new engine approved. He reiterated the huge cost, over \$1.5 billion in lost aircraft, pilot deaths, and failed patchwork fixes. Additionally there was the loss of needed performance improvements to meet the new Russian threats. He summed up; without the new engine, cancel the program. Silence. Then approval. The Tomcat would get its new engine! All that was now necessary was making a deal with Grumman.

While the Navy and Grumman were negotiating Grumman's future, success after success was being accrued. The first two production Prowlers sporting the Improved Capability (ICAP 2) electronic warfare system was unveiled at Calverton; the multi-year Greyhound program was yielding greater savings than anticipated; the plant in St. Augustine rolled out the first better-than-new Malaysian A-4 Skyhawk before a crowd of a thousand people; and the Great River plant achieved a new milestone in its quest to go beyond making military electronics by winning a contract from Eagle Telephonics to build over one thousand telephones a day!

The big announcement came in the August 10 issue of *Grumman Plane News*. As of August 1, Grumman gained the "green light" to begin the \$1.14 billion effort to put modern electronics and radars into both the Intruder and Tomcat and, most importantly for the Tomcat, it would be re-engined.

Other big things were occurring. Grumman Allied was pursuing a giant opportunity as the U.S. Post Office released the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the new postal van. The responses were due by the end of August. The three bidders: Grumman (with General Motors being the supplier for the chassis/engine); the American Motors Division of LTV (the then-current supplier of the jeep to the post office); and finally, the Postal Vehicle Company (POVECO), a corporation formed specifically to bid this program. POVECO was made up of General Automotive (the company that bought the Flixible bus from Grumman) and Fruehauf Corporation, a major manufacturer of truck trailers.

The most demanding part of this competition was to complete an extremely demanding endurance test in Laredo, Texas. The test was to be performed by each offerer's proposed vehicle in its production version. By mid-December, the three vehicles were in Laredo, poised to do battle for that \$1 billion contract. The test would begin in January, 1985.

This eventful year continued to produce notable happenings. Egypt bought a fifth Hawkeye; Grumman opened its new Headquarters building on Stewart Avenue in a ribbon cutting ceremony that featured none other than the honorable governor of New York State, Mario Cuomo; and at 9:35 AM on December 14, before a crowd of 400,000 visitors at Edwards Air Force Base in California, Chuck Sewell took to the air in the unique Forward Swept Wing airplane, the X-29.

As 1984 came to its close, sales broke new records but profit slightly dipped due to the increase in R&D spending and the write-off due to termination of the high mileage Kubvan as low gas prices stole its market.

But what a year! At last the Tomcat and Intruder were being outfitted with systems that would keep them in the Navy inventory well into the 1990's and possibly the 21st century. Further, the Space Station, the Postal Van, continued international Hawkeye sales, upcoming proposals for an Army tester and the Joint STARS Air Force program, and Grumman's poster child of the future - the X-29 - could now push Grumman to new heights. The future of the Grumman Family was assured.

By: Ken Speiser and Larry Feliu

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1984 F-14 Scorecard: The Iranian F-14/Phoenix system continued its air space domination as Iraqi aircraft tried to avoid the Tomcats. Nevertheless 11 (7 unconfirmed) more Iraqi jets (MiG-21, Su-20, Su-22, Tu-228, and Super Etendards) were brought down.

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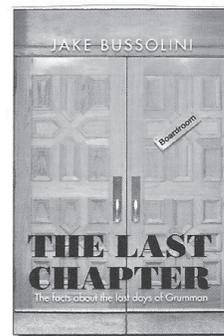
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1. Member Name (print) _____ Badge# _____

2. Address _____ DOB: ____ / ____ / ____

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 _____ \$ _____

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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 Northrop Grumman Corporation
 925 South Oyster Bay Road
 Bethpage, NY 11714

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Newsletter

Editor: Neil Klaskin
 Nostalgia Coordinator: Charles Mooney

Grumman Retiree Club, Inc.

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 E-mail: grumrc@gmail.com

Officers

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- Bob Ripp - 1st Vice President
- Pat Sullivan - 2nd Vice President
- Lou Kubat - Secretary
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