SAVE THE DATE!
OCTOBER 23, 2017
FOR THE CELEBRATION
of the
GRUMMAN RETIREE CLUB’S
50th ANNIVERSARY
at
THE CRADLE OF AVIATION

Last Call!!
Scholarship Applications
must be received in Bethpage not later than May 10.

Make sure your scholars have our application form, and
remind them to complete and submit the application!

Honestly now: Have YOU checked with your students?
Are they working on their Applications?

Cradle of Aviation Celebrates Apollo 17:
The Last Mission to the Moon

The Cradle of Aviation will host the Apollo 17 Reunion/Dinner on April 26th. Gathering begins at 4PM; guest panelists join the reunion visitors for a buffet dinner starting at 6PM. Panel discussion after diner featuring Apollo 17 Astronaut Harrison H. Schmitt; NASA Flight Director Gerry Griffin; and Clive Neal, Professor of Planetary Geology at the University of Notre Dame. The panel discussion will be moderated by former Grumman PR representative, Dick Dunne.

Scholarship Program Contributors

To: All donors to our Scholarship Program:

Thank You so much for your generous donations to this great Club program. All donors should be proud to know that your contributions will help deserving and accomplished students attend college.

Many Thanks.

Our Thanks to these Recent Contributors:

Bell, Barbara Blackton, Charles
Blauvelt, Robert Brower, Leslie
Calendrille, John Campo, Thomas
Cosumano, Joanna Dehls, Richard
Devine, George Dicaterino, Vittorio

Erlandson, Wendy Fiteni, Roy
Frank, Charles Gabriel, Edward
Hall, George Handwerk, Roy
Hausser, Bruce Holdstein, Robert
Hubbard, Kenneth Jacknis, Philip

Jacques, Suzanne Johnson, K
Keenan, Robert Kesolits, Rhomas
Kornely, Michael Lam, Hing
Lewin, Norman Linger, Fred
Luceri, Louis Ludwig, Marie

Macchio, Matthew Manthey, William
Mason, Raymond McCaffrey, Ronald
Moore, Thomas Morcerf, Francis
Mueller, William Munro, Robert
Nelson, Elaine Rizzo, Frank

Scannello, John Schneider, Herbert
Stallone, Anthony Tomlinson, George
Townsend, John

Charitable Activities Contributors

Thank You to these contributors for your generous donations to our Charitable Activities Program. Through your generosity, so far this year we have made donations to the Cradle of Aviation, Rebuilding Together L I, and the Homeless Veterans at the Northport VA.

Robert Aiken Victor Alfieri, Sr.
Noe Arcas Charles Beisel
John Calendrille Karl Christ
Bertram Dawkins, Jr. Vincent De Stefano
Richard Dehls Paul Denk

James Fawcett Arthur Filete
Eleanor Ranzese Edward Gabriel
Robert Goldstein James Greene, Jr.
William Guarino Joseph Hejl
Richard Kita Thomas Klaum

Bernard Kovit Cesare Litterini
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William Ryan Wallace Schulein
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John Strong, Jr. Edward Sweeney, Jr.
Eishi Tsuda John Vosilla
Richard Watson John Wimer
William Zirkel

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 Applications for 2017

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

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Scholarship Program Contributions

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

Remember: Your Scholarship Program donations are tax deductible.

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

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Bethpage Chapter 2017 Calendar

Luncheons/Meetings

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

All luncheons/meetings will be held at the Crest Hollow CC.

Luncheon Reservation forms are in this Newsletter, on Page 18.

April 19 - luncheon / meeting
March 24 - luncheon / meeting
June 28 – Scholarship Luncheon

July and August – no meetings

September 6 - Picnic
September 27 - luncheon / meeting

Monday, October 23 – Cradle of Aviation Retiree Club 50th Anniversary Celebration

Tuesday, November 14 - luncheon / meeting

December 13 – Holiday Luncheon

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QUARTERLY 50/50 SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE
Members of All Chapters May Participate!

Enter often. Multiple winners possible.
Max prize: $500 for any one person, in any one drawing.
Winners announced in the Newsletter.

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

Each raffle entry is $5.

Please indicate how many raffles you are purchasing.

This Raffle benefits the Scholarship Fund only.

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Scholarship Program 50/50 Raffle Ticket

Name
Address
Town ___________ State ____ Zip _______

Phone (optional) ____________________
Number of Raffles Purchased _____

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March 22, 2017

Well, maybe we just had the first day of Spring, but the weatherman didn’t know it and he let the temperature dip down into the 20s last night and today . . . and the retirees were greeted with 30-40 mph winds. Come on Spring!!

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

President Bob Ripp greeted everyone and announced that we would not have a guest speaker. Bob went on to suggest that this would be an opportunity for Nick to tell a few more jokes later. The audience approved.

Business- Bob Ripp:
• Bob asked for any changes to the minutes as they appear in the February Newsletter. There were no changes offered, and the minutes were accepted as written.
• Bob reminded everyone that the Club is not able to provide support with any member’s personal political, financial, or legal issues. The Club cannot and will not abandon its purely social agenda.
• The Yearly Dues deadline was March 15th. Anyone who did not submit dues by that date will have all future Newsletter issues stopped. To date, 600 people have not paid their 2017 dues as compared to 500 last year. Reminder notices will be sent out shortly. Reminders last year reduced the final number of delinquent members to 300. It is Club policy to maintain delinquent members in the data base for two years since, historically, many members realize the absence of the Newsletter after a year and then renew all back years.
• Bob asked if there were any first-time members or visitors from other chapters or first time guests in attendance. As more often than not, Pauline Sandmann from the Eastern LI chapter was in attendance.

Birthdays: – Ed McGovern (80); First VP Pat Sullivan (3/21) who, discretely, declined to announce her young age.

Happy Birthday to all.

Anniversaries: Norwin & Joan Rehm, 65 yrs. on 4/19; Sal & Angela Sakellarides, 64 yrs. on 12/21/2016; Antonio & Laura Perez, 53 yrs. on 6/28; and Lena & Louis Forte, 70 yrs. an 2/9.

Congratulations.

Get Well Wishes - 1st VP Pat Sullivan announced that Get Well Wishes were sent to Andy Tomaiko and Grace Carbone. We all hope they Get Well Soon.

Treasurer Reports:
Frank Rizzo gave the Treasurer’s Report for the Retiree Club.
Scholarship Fund Treasurer Linda Perrotta then provided the monthly Scholarship Fund report. Linda thanked all the members who have so generously donated this year to the Scholarship Fund. She reminded everyone that the Award Luncheon is June 28th at the Crest Hollow CC. Both reports were accepted as read.

Travel – Nick Bazzicalupo:
** The Grumman Essex Steam Train trip has been rescheduled to June 22nd. For the Club to get the entire bus, 40 or more people are needed. The price would then be $99pp. If less than 40, a shared bus will be used and the cost will be $105pp. To date, 34 have signed up

****NOTE: For Nick’s trips, DO NOT call the Retiree Club Office. Call Rendezvous Travel [516-867-8747].

Naturally, Nick provided his always-popular Joke of the Month; however, because we did not have a speaker, Nick had time to add a few more stories, to everyone’s delight. Thanks, Nick.

Luncheons – Marion Abbott reminded us that the Grumman Retiree Club will celebrate its 50th Anniversary on October 23rd, with a luncheon gala at the Cradle of Aviation. Cocktail hour, dinner, and dancing the day away. Marion noted that the cost will be $50pp, which is a special price that the Club will
arrange, and is below the usual Cradle charge for such events. Marion noted that during the cocktail hour, attendees will be free to visit all parts of the museum and should enjoy the experience. [Editor’s Note: The Anniversary Gala will be a “dress-up” event. Blue jeans, sweat pants and/or shirts, and the like, will definitely be out of place.]

**Our Lucky Prize Winners were:**
**Community Relations 50/50:** Pauline Sandmann, John Weiner, Bob Kopack and Eleanor Christ. Eleanor won 2 prizes and donated the second prize back, to be awarded to someone else. **Thanks, Eleanor.**
**Door Prizes:** Carl Puma and Diane Bryers
**Scholarship 50/50:** Louise Kubat.

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

**Next Meeting: April 19,** at the Crest Hollow CC.

By: Lou Kubat, Sec’y.

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**CALIFORNIA / Golden West**

Our March 14th meeting was held at the Eagles Lodge, in Oxnard, CA. Fifteen members attended.

John Urgo led the pledge of allegiance, and President Fred Syrett led the prayer.

Lunch and a business meeting followed.

Allan Carter was our speaker. He is a former Grumman Tech, now civil Service at Point Mugu. Allan brought us up to date on what he is currently doing.

50/50 winners were Don Coler and Bob Nastali.

Our next two meetings will be April 11 and May 9.

By: Fred Syrett, President

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**CALIFORNIA / San Diego**

By popular demand, the San Diego Chapter returned to Marie Callender’s Restaurant and Bakery, in Carmel Mountain Ranch, for lunch on Monday, March 13. Fourteen members and guests were in attendance.

A bonus for meeting on Monday at Marie Callender’s was the *Free Pie Mondays* promotion. Some members chose to have their free pie slices after lunch, while others chose to take their pie slices home to enjoy later. What a nice, sweet treat for everyone.

Before starting our lunch, Nancy Roeckl led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Nancy also gave the invocation, asking for comfort and strength for those who could not join us, for gratitude for all those who keep us safe, and thanks for the fellowship, food, and friendship shared by all in attendance.

As we enjoyed our lunch, the seating arrangement made it easy to share some interesting conversation. Also, Clyde Cain gave us a brief on what’s going on in the Northrop Grumman world - very impressive!

Winners of the 50/50: Armand & Santi Salvi and Bob & Roxie Stalter.

**Celebrating birthdays** from January through March were Charlie Askins, Sy Glick, Frank Huttle, Dennis Klapwyk, Sherry Lossick, Gayle Quebedeaux, John Reika, Bill Roeckl, and Ed Vasely.

Speaking of Ed Vasely, we’re proud to congratulate Ed on his receiving A Lifetime Achievement award from the USS Midway Museum for his countless hours of dedicated service as a volunteer Docent for the Museum. We commend him for his service to our Country and to the Museum.

**Wedding anniversaries,** from January to March, were celebrated by Jim & Betz Bartels, Pete & Mary Belay, Frank & Kay Huttle, John & Mitzie Reika, and Tom & Ella Whitehead.

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We must end on a sad note. It is with heartfelt sadness that we announce the passing of Ernie Vonderheyden, a long-time member and past President of our Chapter. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Christina.

Date and time of our next luncheon will be announced at a later date.

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

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**FLORIDA / First Coast**

**March 21, 2017**

Thirty members and one guest attended our luncheon meeting. President Fred Bauer opened the meeting with the Pledge and a prayer. After lunch and chit chat, Fred called us to order.

Fred read a brief note from Jacqueline Jeransky, our NGC Public Relations connection to the St. Augustine facility. Jacquie made reference to the upcoming Family Day at the facility this April 29 (Noon to 1:30PM). We have been invited to attend the event as previously noted. We must be enrolled to attend. Retiree and spouse or one adult guest (min. 18 years old). To sign up, please send Names, Dates of Birth, and Shirt size for both guests to Fred [fbc1688@aol.com] or to me [sremkkc@comcast.net].

Wear comfortable shoes, because there will be inside and outside exhibits. There will be food, hot dogs and hamburgers.

Note: The cut off day for signing up for Family day is April 3

Fred also mentioned the January 2018 cruise to the Eastern Caribbean, planned by Tom & Corrine Foley, on the Oasis of the Seas out of Port Canaveral. For details, contact Tom at tomfoley@cruiseplanners.com

**March Birthdays:** Werner Langhauser, Ralph Davies, Chuck Osborne, Art Maguire, Barbara Mehl, Jim McDonald, Ruth Goehler, Gerri Newman, Eileen Cacace, Allen McCaffery, Tony Miller, Kay Heagy, Shirley Jennings, Joe (waxy) Decrescenzo, Ann Walsh, Nancy & Gerard Bernie, Rena Oakley, Eileen Shaughnessy, and Robert Wolsky.

**Anniversaries:** Gwen & John Saar, Kay & Paul Heagy, Jennifer & Peter Foster, Ann & John Walsh, Alice & Tom Downs, and Marge & Fred Bauer.

Congrats to all!

**Treasurer’s Report:** 94 paid up members. Dues have been sent to headquarters in NY. Also, Thanks go out to Ron Davies for making this year’s “wake up” calls for 2017 dues payments.

Don Kowalski contributed an aircraft book titled “Wings” to be raffled with the 50/50 prizes.

**Next Meeting:** April 18, at Ichiban Buffet, US-1 South, St Augustine.

Future meetings: May 16 picnic, June 20 at Ichiban.

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

*Happy Spring!*

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**FLORIDA / Manasota West**

**March 8, 2017**

We kicked off our March meeting with President Ted Martines leading nine members in the pledge of Allegiance to our beautiful flag in the RiverView room at Pier 22 restaurant. John Zinna gave the Treasurer and Secretary reports and we proceeded with the business of discussing membership, currently at 14, and our winter/spring meeting schedule.
As there are many on travel or involved with time consuming home projects, those present voted to discontinue meetings until October 11, 2017. President Ted has made arrangements with the restaurant and the catering manager has thanked us for the business and looks forward to our returning in the Fall.

We discussed our yearly charitable donations and decided to send off checks in lieu of the Bethpage contribution as decisions have not been communicated to their intent. We will be donating to Mayors Feed the Hungry of Sarasota and to Harvest House of Sarasota. These are the two we’ve provided donations to in the past.

Lost and not found - we’re looking for the LM poster and our copy of Jake’s Book that were loaned to members. If you have either of these, please let either John or Ted know so we can arrange to get them back in the Fall.

President Ted wished all those in our club and chapter good health over the Spring and Summer, and said he is looking forward to seeing everyone in October.

Next Meeting: October 11

By: John Zinna

It is certainly sad to read of the disbanding of any Florida Retiree Chapter, but we also feel the pinch of declining membership and the fact that none of us is getting any younger.

Long-time Treasurer Willy Wolter is handing in the checkbook after 18 years of service to our Chapter. We thank him for a job well done. Our new treasurer is Tony Moors.

Thanks also to:
- Bob & Barb Sidaras for collecting luncheon money and 50/50;
- Peter Harrington for sending out email reminders; and
- Linda Baldwin as Secretary.

We note that Tony & Celeste Perre are always willing to fill in where needed.

John Vecchione brought in Grumman shirts and paraphernalia to be shown next time.

Our get well wishes go out to Mary Cummiskey and to Gloria Conklin.

At our next meeting, we will have a guest speaker from Crime Prevention to update us on how to protect ourselves in this day and age.

Next Meeting: May 9, at the Golden Corral (Route 41, Punta Gorda).

After our Summer hiatus, we’ll reconvene in October and November, on the 2nd Tuesday, same place. (No meetings in June, July, August, or September.)

Clem Moors [631-513-1737; clemtony@juno.com]
Linda Baldwin [lsbaldwin@gmail.com]
The dining room of the Suntree Country Club buzzed with an unusual level of chatter as a rousing turnout of members vented about (a) our “chilly” weather (60-70 degrees) and (b) tales of friends caught in the blizzard sweeping through the Northeast. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer, we observed a moment of silence in honor of Florence Biamcome who passed away. We then partook of a buffet lunch featuring coconut crusted white fish fillet and London broil.

President Bob Praise introduced our speaker, retired USAF Lt. General Bill Welser, who came to Northrop Grumman to head up the Air Force tanker proposal team and serve as Vice President for Business Development for the mobility market segment of NGC’s Aerospace Systems sector. Bill, a Mineola Long Island native and self-declared “Tanker Toad,” has headed the Space Coast Honor Flight since 2011, following a trip to the war memorials with his father and father-in-law, both WW-II veterans. He spoke emotionally of the incredible change in the normally taciturn men as they toured the memorials, now speaking openly of their time in combat: “they were treated like rock stars.”

The Honor Flight now hosts seven trips per year, taking 25 veterans in wheel chairs, with 25 escorts, on a full one-day tour of the war memorials in Washington, DC, including a special viewing of the Changing of the Guard. The veterans are never left unattended: “Safety and Dignity” is the mandate. It’s an all-expense paid outing for the veterans, escorts pay their own way.

Bill did not come to our meeting soliciting funds, though our club regularly contributes. He is seeking WW-II veterans to honor with this outing. The numbers are: 16.1 million served in the military in WW-II; 620,000 remain, and that number is dwindling by 375 a day. There are 9,000 of these veterans in Brevard County, and 3,000 of them live alone and are only visited by “Meals On Wheels”. As of this week’s trip, 1,050 veterans will have been honored by Space Coast Honor Flight.

Woven throughout Bill’s presentation were repeated examples of the almost magical transformations that regularly occur during the tour. For example, an Alzheimer sufferer talking for two hours on the airplane. In fact, on the evening flight home, it is the norm to see the exhausted escorts sleeping while the veterans continued talking: “They talk to each other . . . no I-Pads,” a smiling stewardess commented. Bill choked up as he told of watching a vet go from his chair to the ground to kiss the base of the monument of the Iwo Jima flag raising: he had been 15 years old when he fought there! A new feature has now developed to extend and enhance the program, created at the request of the participating veterans. The Honor Flight organization has sponsored a “Pizza Reunion” for each flight, held one month after the flight. These have been so popular they have given birth to weekly luncheons with attendance ranging from 190 to 500 per month.

Bill closed by paying tribute to two supporting politicians: U.S. Senator Bob Dole and his wife are always on hand to greet them in Washington, and, locally, Congressman Bill Posey has missed only one 2AM trip start since the program started.

We thank General Welser for his informative visit and for his tireless efforts in honoring WW-II veterans and look forward to continued support from our Chapter as their organization transitions to honoring the veterans of Korea and Viet Nam.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Bill Waldron reported that continued response to our appeal for contributions to the Scholarship Fund to create a security “cushion” have put us in a comfortable position that has Scholarship VP Jim Glover walking around with a smile on his face as we start the new awards season. He also reported receiving applications from two new members.
Sunshine: Chet Emery (321-254-2562) reported get well cards were sent to Florence Reihl and George Graefe. Condolences went out to the family of Flo Biamcome on her passing.

Travel: No report from Maureen Ayers this month.

Scholarship: With our treasurer making the necessary advance to the Brevard School Foundation, we are ready to start the review and selection process for the 2017 awards. Jim Glover will be setting up a meeting of the Scholarship Committee in the early part of April.

Jim reported receiving a letter from Julianne Chapet, our 2016 Skurla scholarship winner. She has a 4.0 average at the University of Florida and will be serving an internship at Northrop Grumman St. Augustine this summer.

Coming Meetings:
April: Roger Cronis, former J-STARS Chief Test Pilot will be our speaker. We are looking forward to hearing details of how General “Stormin’ “ Norman Schwarzkopf commandeered the prototype J-STARS aircraft for use in “Dessert Storm,” directing strikes against Iraqi tanks.

May: We’ll feature awards to our two new scholarship winners.

June: It’s reunion time for our eight other scholarship winners. AND: We’re exploring the possibility of having a veteran Apollo astronaut as a guest speaker. More on this next month.

50/50 Drawing: There were five 50/50 winners, with Pat O’Grady winning the grand prize of a $25 gift card to Publix and a bottle of wine. Congratulations to all!

Employees Birthdays March: James Lawler, Nick Milonas, John McDonald, Ira Morgan, and Robert Filipi.

Spouse Birthdays March: Elizabeth SanFilippo, Ron Sidorski, Pat Belmont, Dianne Bennett, Dolly Casko, Anita Leslie, Pat Duester, and Diana MacCarthy

March Anniversaries: James & Carol Lawler, Patricia & Joe Mullings, Pat & Walter Duester, Patrick & Mary Ranieri, George & Peggy Graefe, Gus & Audrey Lanzo, and Oscar & Emma Basilio

By: Bill Steenson, Sec’y.

Next meeting April 19, 2017
Meeting Dates for 2017
5/17, 6/21
No meetings July & August
9/20, 10/18, 11/15 and 12/13

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FLORIDA / Suncoast

The Chapter did not meet in March.

2017 meeting dates: Wednesdays April 19, October 18, and December 20.

Contact: Patricia Newark, Sec’y.
[727-360-7339; lionpattysecretary@yahoo.com]

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FLORIDA / Treasure Coast

The March 16th meeting was held at Allegro Senior Living, in Stuart.

President Dan Knowles led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chaplain Larry Regoir gave the Invocation.
Bob Watkins introduced Marty Clark. Marty had the responsibility for the evacuation of Grumman personnel from Iran. There were 1500 Grumman employees working in Iran. The revolution was beginning and they had to make plans for all to leave. Gradually, bad incidents began to happen. Offices were being attacked; a bomb was thrown through a window. Demonstrations began; it was not safe to go into town.

Before Christmas, Marty started sending people home and taking inventory of homes and offices. Grumman called and said to evacuate everyone. He informed all personnel to pack only one suitcase per person who would fly home. At the airport, there was not enough room for all the suitcases. Seven suitcases and seven pets were left behind and would be sent later.

Supporters of the revolution started invading all the office buildings saying that they were spies and wanted to kill all personnel. The Grumman people were forced to drive to the airport gate and be inspected, then they were permitted to drive into the airport. They had packed large boxes from offices and homes to be shipped to America. Airplanes came in and all boxes were loaded. The personnel were taken to Teheran Airport and Pan Am flew them out. All F-14 Airplanes and Trainers were left behind.

Marty also told us of Baseball Tournaments that Grumman people played against Iran ballplayers. It was sad that this had to end.

Ken Tolve announced that the 45th Annual Anniversary of the F-14 Tomcat will be held on Wednesday May 3, 2017 in Stuart, Florida at the Knights of Columbus. Anyone who would like to attend, call Ken at 772-287-5918.

Anniversaries for the Month of March: None

Birthdays: Ken Tolve - 77

Visitors: Ellen & Al Hermann
Bill Ludwig
Nick & Marie Manisccalco
June Schlok

Deceased Members: Judy Crespo

The meeting was adjourned by Dan Knowles.

By: Janet Cuce [jjcuce@comcast.net]

GEORGIA / Peach Pit

Our March 21, 2017 meeting at the Triumph Plant, at 90 Hwy 22W in Milledgeville, GA started at 12:45PM. There were 16 present when President Paul Bernichon called the meeting to order and asked Sergeant-at-Arms Ted Zarkowsky to lead attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Mary Archer gave the Blessing, which was followed by the meal and fellowship.

Old Business:
A motion to waive reading of the February 21, 2017 meeting minutes was made by Mary Archer and seconded by Joe Sansotta. No changes were offered either by proxy or by those present. The motion passed.

New Business:
President Paul welcomed those present and thanked Plant Management for their hospitality.
1. Treasurer Joe Sansotta gave his Report on finances, bank balance, and membership renewal status. [Note: please mail your dues check and any donation checks (all checks payable to: Grumman Retiree Club) to: Joe Sansotta, 3748 Sussex Drive NE, Milledgeville, GA 31061-9360.]
2. March Happy Birthday wishes were extended to: Tom Blenk [20th], Pat Borstell [12th], Geraldine Collins [20th], Gene Donovan [7th], Dennis Klingener [20th], Joe Sansotta [26th], and Barbara L. Stevens [19th].
3. There were no March Anniversaries to report.

4. In memoriam: Hans Borstell passed away on February 23, 2017 in Milledgeville. He is in our prayers and our condolences are extended to Pat and Hans’ family.

We did not have a 75/25 Fund raiser raffle.

Community Service:
I have asked Plant Management if the retiree club may participate in plant blood drives. They will get back to me.

Program:
Plant Management gave an Overview Presentation followed by an optional one hour Plant Tour. Both were informative. Thanks, again to Management for their hospitality.

A motion to end the Business meeting was made by Mary Archer and seconded by Joe Sansotta. The motion carried and we adjourned at 1:45PM.

Next Meeting: 12:30PM, April 18, 2017 at El Tequila Restaurant, located on Garrett Way, in Milledgeville, Georgia 31061.

By: Paul Bernichon, President
[paulb01@windstream.net; 478-452-2563]

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Al Showalter, Treasurer gave a brief updated status of our Chapter’s bank account. With the increase in chapter dues to $20, ($13 of that is sent to NY), we are rebuilding our account locally.

Al reported that we have 40 paid members for 2017 as of today’s meeting. The 2017 Dues were due by March 15, but if you haven’t paid yet, you can still do so and be reinstated. It may take a few months for you to start receiving your Newsletters from NY again.

To pay dues, contact Al Showalter [Phone (410-272-6397; AFShow@verizon.net] or by US mail: 747 Everist Dr., Aberdeen, MD 21001.

We had a few members who couldn’t remember their badge numbers, so we will be compiling a list of members and badge number cross references.

We are still waiting response from NY Headquarters group to see if we can submit some of the documentation and pictures to the retiree archives. Joe Svach will follow up with NY on this matter.

A Facebook page for our members is available; we can expand it if members want to be active in it.

Known Birthdays for April, May, and June:
Jerry Lambert, April 16; Dan Rutherford, June 16; Cas Swinder; May 29; and Mike Taylor, June 9.

Happy Birthday to all you Guys!

Attending members decided to hold our next Quarterly Meeting at the Golden Corral, in the White Marsh / Fullerton area. It is located at 7908 Rossville Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21236.

Next Meeting: 6:30PM, June 20 (3rd Tuesday)

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

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Maryland / Glen Arm

March 21, 2017

Our First Quarterly meeting/social of 2017 was held at the Golden Corral, in the White Marsh / Baltimore, MD area. We had a good group and we thank all who came. The food is always good there, but there was a huge crowd that night. The Golden Corral still kept the food coming! (That’s important!)
If you have suggestions, Ideas, or questions, please present them at the meeting or contact President Rick Swinder [410 977 7829; rickswinder@gmail.com]

By: Joe Svach, Sec'y.

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New England North

No report of Chapter activity.

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NEW YORK

Eastern Long Island Chapter

March came in like a lion! and stayed here, with snow, wind, and ice, causing our March 15 meeting to be cancelled. Here's hoping our April 19 meeting goes off without a hitch . . . as we will be celebrating the beginning of a new baseball season!

Go Yankees! Go Mets!

Lou Puccio reported that Ken Becker is back home after a hospital stay. Richie Myers is also home: we miss our Sergeant-at-Arms! Chet Zelinski on the mend at home. Pauline Sandmann getting good medical news. Past Prez Jo Albert recovering at home. We hope all are feeling better as Spring is upon us!

On a sad note, Gerald DiPierro reports that Nick Stoia passed on 3/12/17.

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


No Anniversaries reported.

2017 Dues ($15) ARE DUE! Contact Bert Moller [631-864-4377] for info on late payment. No Dues, No Newsletter!

Next Meeting: April 19, at the Coram Diner (Route 25 & Route 112, Coram NY). Lunch $15, with meeting to follow.

Future meetings: May 17, June 21.
No Meetings July & August!

Happy Easter and a Joyous Passover!

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

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NORTH CAROLINA

Eastern Carolina Chapter

March 8, 2017

Our meeting was held at the Golden Corral Restaurant, on Route 17 in Jacksonville, home of Camp Lejeune, with 16 members present. Tom Schroder and Tony Peralta served as program directors for the meeting. Unfortunately, attendance at our meetings continues to fall as members age and many need to deal with illnesses that limit their ability to travel.

Pete McNamee began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the invocation given by our Vice President, Tom Schroder. Lunch followed immediately with all members taking advantage of a break in the crowd of middle school/high school band students at the buffet and filled their plates with the vast array of the delicious food selections available. Apparently, a band competition was taking place in Jacksonville this day, with busloads of students from various eastern North Carolina schools stopping at the restaurant for lunch. It was fun to watch them interact with each other and their teacher-escorts as I, for one, don't have the opportunity of seeing so many children together in
one place at one time. The kids were respectful and well behaved but most of us learned quickly not to get between them and the buffet, especially at the desert counter!

After lunch, Pete began the business meeting and thanked Bob Lamberson and Fred Reynolds for completion of the 2017 dues collection effort, a time-consuming activity. We presently have a total of 46 paid members for 2017, down from 55 in 2016. He mentioned the sad passing of Charter Member Paul Heim, on February 28th, at the age of 95.

Bob gave the Treasurer’s Report for the month of February and mentioned a donation has been made to St. Egbert’s Catholic School in Morehead City, NC in memory of Paul Heim.

Pete asked for a program manager volunteer to arrange for the April meeting and since there were no takers, he said he will try to make arrangements for the meeting to take place on Tuesday, April 11th, in a New Bern restaurant.

Ron Betts mentioned that Marty Olstead’s health is deteriorating. Pete spoke to Artie Miller who is home from the hospital and recovering slowly. Our best wishes to both Marty and Artie.

Tom Schroder took the floor next to entertain us with his humorous stories and jokes which are always appreciated.

Bob called the 50/50 winners: The lucky recipients were Ron Betts and Bernie Kuntz.

There are no March anniversaries, so Pete read the names of those with birthdays in March:


Pete thanked Tom Schroder and Tony Peralta for hosting the meeting. He adjourned the meeting and wished everyone a safe trip home.
I am now going to make an appeal to all you Grummanites in our Chapter and all the Chapters. With each issue of the Retiree Club Newsletter, we see the Grumman Family getting smaller and smaller. We who remain need to keep in touch with one another and keep the Grumman name going for as long as possible. That means getting out to your Chapter meetings and picking up a fellow Grummanite who cannot get to a meeting on his or her own. Extend a hand and bring them along with you. Let’s make 2017 a resurgence in membership attendance to keep the Big G alive for as long as we can.

Our first meeting of the year will be on April 20, at Noon. Location: Kays Restaurant, Lake Ariel Highway (Route 191), Lake Ariel, PA 18436. As I stated earlier: let’s make 2017 a banner year in meeting attendance.

A list of meeting dates and places was submitted to the Secretary and Treasurer, who presented it at the Luncheon. It was decided that the following dates and places should start the new year:

April 20 - Kays in Lake Ariel;
May 18 - The Boathouse in Hawley;
June 15 - The Alpine in Honesdale; and
July 20 - Kays in Lake Ariel.

See you in April.

By: Edward J. Sparkowski, Sec’y/Chaplain
[570-698-7182; firesly417@verizon.net]

President Robert Joyce called the meeting to order.

We wish a Happy Birthday to Carol Joyce and Marty Fleischer.

There were no Anniversaries to celebrate.

50/50 winners were Kathy Fleischer and Judy Scott. Congratulations!!

The Secretary read the minutes, which were accepted as read and approved.

The Treasurer’s report was read. The report was accepted as read and approved.

The Sunshine committee reported that Lee Mascaro’s sister, Katie, is back with Bernard as his caregiver. We are waiting for an update on his condition.

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business: We discussed a speaker for our October meeting. Lorraine Girardin offered to make the arrangements. Thank You, Lorraine.

Next Meeting: April 5, 2017, at Noon, at Carbone’s Restaurant, 1521 Hwy. 17 N., Little River, SC.

Following Meeting: Club Picnic on May 3, at Noon, at Ron & Lorraine Girardin’s Home.

As we do not hold meetings during the months of June, July, and August, our next meeting will be on September 6, 2017 at the Sunny Side Up Diner, Calabash, NC.

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

By: Kathy Fleischer, Sec’y.
[843-215-0525; kjpulcrano@yahoo.com]
VIRGINIA  
Central Virginia Chapter

**February 8**

Our meeting was held at Michies Tavern. It was a nice warm day (no coats were needed). Weather was very pleasant for the middle of Winter. We had a very small group with vacations and all. In attendance were Rich Benske, Fred & Marjorie Meiners, & Maryann Muller. We All enjoyed the colonial type fare and chatted about our lives. A nice time was had by all.

No business was discussed....

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**March 8**

The meeting was held at Boychiks (NY type Deli) in Glen Allen, VA, on the West side of Richmond. Everyone arrived safely, even though the location and our directions were a little obscure.

After Marjorie opened with a prayer of Thanksgiving, we all ordered our favorite sandwiches in the NY tradition: pastrami, corned beef, side dishes of coleslaw, French fries and - of course - PICKLES. We enjoyed it all.

We had a very good turnout, with ten members in attendance: Anne Dannenhoffer, Harold (Ed) Case, Ed Samson, Frank & Beverly Purstell, Frank Edwards, Rich Benske, Maryanne Muller, and Fred & Marjorie Meiners.

**Business:**
1 - Treasury was reported as solvent.
2 - Dues have been received and sent to Bethpage for 16 members.

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**Next Meeting: April 12, 2017,** 12:30PM, at Crab Louies Seafood Tavern.
1352 Sycamore Square, Midlothian, VA.
Directions: from Route 288, South of Richmond, off Midlothian Turnpike (Route 60).
See y'all there!

If you will be attending, Please Notify Frank Purstell, [434-280-1303; srpurs@gmail.com] or Fred Meiners [434-589-2882; frmeiners@embarqmail.com] not less than one day prior to the meeting. Thanks.

**Future Meetings:**
**May 10,** 12:30PM: Edelweiss German Restaurant, 19 Edelweiss Lane, Saunton, VA [540-337-1203]

June 14: Area reastaurant somewhere in Virginia. Details TBD.

By: Marjorie Meiners, Recording Sec'y.
**In Memoriam**

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

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City &amp; State</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blake, Eleanor</td>
<td>Pawling, NY</td>
<td>02/03/2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Borstell, Hans</td>
<td>Milledgeville, GA</td>
<td>02/23/2017</td>
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<td>Conklin, Angelina</td>
<td>Hendersonville, NC</td>
<td>03/11/2017</td>
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<td>Echausse, Victor</td>
<td>Ocala, FL</td>
<td>01/14/2017</td>
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<td>Foray, Albert</td>
<td>East Northport, NY</td>
<td>03/06/2017</td>
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<td>Heim, Paul</td>
<td>Pine Knoll Shores, NC</td>
<td>02/28/2017</td>
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<td>Mackreth, Helen</td>
<td>Massapequa, NY</td>
<td>03/11/2017</td>
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<td>Mascara, Bernard</td>
<td>Johnsonville, SC</td>
<td>03/07/2017</td>
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<td>North, Edward Lee</td>
<td>Brightwaters, NY</td>
<td>02/22/2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Von der Heyden, Ernest</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>03/13/2017</td>
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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.
At the beginning of the year, Grumman acknowledged that company officials were meeting with state and local officials and community groups to explain the development plans for the 200 acres that encompassed the Bethpage runway. Grumman’s plan called for a 15-year development of the acreage that would transform the area into a complex of office buildings, retail stores, and two hotels. The runway was scheduled to close at the end of August 1990.

On January 22, a special edition of Grumman World contained a letter from Grumman Chairman John O’Brien to the Grumman people. He stated that he was redirecting the company to become a more profitable, efficient competitor, able to meet the demands of the 1990s and beyond. To meet those objectives, he said, one element of his initiatives would consist of a cost reduction effort. He stated that the cost reduction effort was not anything the company has attempted before. It wouldn’t be a quick-fix, band-aid approach – but a broad, thoughtful investigation of the entire cost structure. He mentioned that the initiative was conducted with the assistance of the management consulting firm of McKinsey & Company. This letter left Grummanites with a feeling of anxiety and uncertainty about their futures with the company.

The proposed federal budget for fiscal 1991 was released by President George Bush on January 29. As expected, the proposed budget did not contain any funding for new F-14D Tomcats. This was a consequence of winning the battle to gain funding for new F-14D’s in the fiscal year 1990 budget. The defense authorization bill for fiscal year 1990 contained language for F-14D production close-out. Essentially, the production line for new F-14D Tomcats would end after the last F-14 was built in 1993. So, what had been promised by the government was now starting to turn into reality. This was true for the EA-6Bs as well. There were no new EA-6B production aircraft in the budget as well.

The first production F-14D flew its maiden flight on February 9 out of Calverton, Long Island. At the controls was Grumman test pilot Tom Cavanaugh, with back seater Steve Rogness. Although this was the 569th F-14 that Grumman had built, it was completely different from its predecessor, the F-14A. The F-14D featured a new radar, new engines, new mission computers, new digital avionics, and new aircraft displays. The first flight of the aircraft was one month ahead of schedule, a commitment, according to Program Vice President Dan O’Neill, that had been made six years earlier, in 1984.

On March 23, the Navy accepted its first production F-14D Tomcat at a ceremony held in Calverton, Long Island. This was six years after Grumman signed a fixed price contract to deliver a production F-14D in March of 1990; the brand-new airplane was delivered to the Navy on time and on cost, something that was uncommon in the defense industry for a major program at the time. The F-14D represented the second phase of a two-stage development effort that replaced the engines and internal systems of the F-14A. The F-14A(PLUS), first delivered in November of 1987, upgraded the aircraft with the General Electric F-110-FE-400 engines. The F-14D completed the development effort by employing digital technology that significantly improved the performance of the radar, avionics, and weapons management systems. Grumman Chairman John O’Brien told the guests that when the original design for the F-14 was specified back in the late 60’s, the Navy called for a versatile airframe that could incorporate changes and grow new capabilities to meet new requirements as they developed. O’Brien stated the United States was reaping the benefits of that foresight with the introduction of the F-14D Tomcat into the fleet. More than 400 guests, including U.S. Navy, government, and company officials, and dignitaries, attended the rollout of the F-14D. Of special note was that over 250 naval officers came to the rollout, including 12 flag officers wearing a total of 28 stars.

(to be continued . . . )
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FOR DETAILS CALL (631) 580.2004
2017 RETIREE CLUB SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS LUNCHEON RESERVATION

Menu Choices: NY Medallions of Beef, Sea Bass Oreganata, Chicken Marsala

I wish to reserve seats at the JUNE 28, 2017 Scholarship Awards Luncheon (Noon to 4 PM) for these dues-paid Retiree Club members, their spouses and/or guests

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<th>Full Name (please print)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Beef</td>
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<td>Fish</td>
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- All tables seat twelve. A minimum of ten is required to reserve a table.
- Seven days notice is required to receive a full refund.
- Please send one check to cover lunch for you and your guests.

Attached please find $_______representing $35.00 per person for _________ people.

Ticket Purchase Deadline is June 21, 2017

Table Captain: ________________________________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

E-Mail address: ________________________________________________________________

Remarks: ____________________________________________________________________

Please make all checks payable to: **Grumman Retiree Club**. Send the check and this form to: Betty Bohlander, 1621 Madison Avenue, West Islip 11795-1724. Any questions, please call 631-587-7573.

**Please mark envelope: “Scholarship Luncheon”**

No tickets will be issued.