



The Grumman-Northrop Grumman Retiree Club

Newsletter



November, 2017

Volume 50, Issue 10

Circulation: 2291

CLUB HEADQUARTERS/ PARENT CHAPTER

Bethpage, New York

President, Bob Ripp, (516-575-3777)

CHAPTERS / MEETING LOCATIONS:

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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 (941-554-8681)

Florida - Southwest / Locations Vary
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Florida - Spacecoast / Melbourne
President, Bob Prais (321-242-5782)

Florida - Treasure Coast / Port St. Lucie
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New York - Bethpage Chapter & Club HQ
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President, Charles Dowd (570-491-2125)

South Carolina
Coastal Carolinas / Myrtle Beach
President, Robert Joyce (910-575-2309)

Virginia - Central Virginia / Monticello
President, Fred Meiners (434-589-2882)

Apollo/LM Veterans Donate Lunar Plaque Replica to the Skurla Building Lobby At the Florida Institute of Technology

[Editor's Note: The event reported here did not involve any of the Retiree Club's chapters. However, your editor believes that the connection to Grumman's uniquely successful Lunar Module program makes this of interest to our Club's members.]

On October 12, a group from George Skurla's team at the Kennedy Space Center – personnel who tested and prepared the Lunar Module for the journey to the moon - assembled in the Skurla Building of the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT). Retiree Launch Team President Lee Brandt delivered a duplicate of the plaque that was left on the moon by Neil Armstrong (on the leg of Lunar Module No. 5) to FIT President Dr. Dwayne McCay and Associate Dean of the FIT College of Aeronautics, Dr. Victoria Dunbar. A subsequent gift by Launch Team member Al Bredberg brought a warm smile to Dr. McCay's face: a five foot, \$1000 check to procure LM related memorabilia for the Skurla Building.



Duplicate plaque as presented to FIT.

Our company's interface with the Florida Institute of Technology's Aeronautics program dates back to the Apollo program days when Grumman's George Skurla headed up the team created to integrate the Bethpage-built Lunar Module (LM) into the massive Apollo structure, test the LM, and follow it through its launch and landing on the moon. George joined the Board of Directors of the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT), where he persistently pursued the development of the College of Aeronautics, avidly supporting the creation of a dedicated building for that discipline. FIT named that building, "The Skurla Hall".

Even after his transfer back to Bethpage and his elevation to corporate presidency, George continued his role on the FIT Board, a role he maintained for 21 years. Now with the maxi-development of the Northrop Grumman corporate image in and around Melbourne, a company officer is again on the FIT Board. All during this time the Skurla family, living locally, has provided staunch supporters to the FIT College of Aeronautics.

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For the past decade, our local Retiree Club Chapter has been supportive of providing the Skurla Building lobby with memorabilia to highlight our corporation's part in aviation and space history. A highlight was funding a set of murals, duplicates of those in the old Grumman Aerospace Corporation HQ building (Plant 5), depicting company activity and products from Roy Grumman (the FF-1 airplane) to George Skurla (LM/F-14). However, building renovations and FIT management changes had deterred this activity until recently.



L to R: Dr. Victoria Dunbar; Dr. Dwayne McCay; Lee Brandt

Also participating in the ceremony were members of the Skurla family, continuing supporters of the College of Aeronautics, shown here with Dr. McCay. A copy of the photo of George, taken at the moment he was told LM5 had landed safely on the moon, is given to the Space Coast Retiree Club Chapter's Skurla Scholarship Award winner each Spring. Pictured are (L to R) Mrs. Marie Skurla; George Skurla, Jr.; James Skurla; Marty Skurla; and Dr. Dwayne McCay.



GRUMMAN RETIREE CLUB NEWSLETTER

(USPS # 023-096) Volume 50, Issue 10, November 2017, is published monthly (except August and September) by Grumman Retiree Club, Inc., Northrop Grumman Corp, M/S Retiree/BP15, 925 South Oyster Bay Road, Bethpage, NY 11714. **Periodical postage rates paid at Bethpage, NY.** Subscriptions rates of \$13 are paid through membership dues.

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



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, Bethpage NY 11714-0748.

**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 \$5.00

Please indicate how many raffles you are purchasing.

<u>Scholarship Program 50/50 Raffle Ticket</u>		

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

**Scholarship Program
Special Announcement**

Thanks to You, Donors!

Thanks to the generosity and the expected numbers of donors to the Club's Scholarship Fund, we will raise the award to \$2,500 for our 2018 winners. As we all know, college costs keep rising. The Fund's directors voted to increase the amount of the awards because you individual donors, and the Retiree Club, and the Bethpage Federal Credit Union have been so dependably generous, and we know your generosity will continue. Pass the word to qualified applicants. Applications will be available soon. Thanks again, and Please Keep Those Donations Coming.

Bethpage Chapter 2017 Calendar

All membership luncheon-meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month (unless otherwise noted), at the Crest Hollow CC.

November 14 Tuesday
luncheon / meeting

December 13 – Holiday Luncheon
Reservation Form - next to Last Page
of this Newsletter

2018: January 24, February 21, March 28



Bethpage Chapter

October 23, 2017

Luncheon to Celebrate
the Retiree Club's 50th Anniversary

Congratulations to the Retiree Club on its Golden Anniversary!

At Noon on Monday, 190 happy retirees and honored guest came to the Cradle of Aviation to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Retiree Club. Guests were welcomed and entered the museum to the entertaining music from a small band and enjoyed a catered cocktail hour. This started a wonderful day of old friendships being renewed and lots of conversations that began with: "Do you remember when we ———". The celebrants were then ushered into the dining area for the remainder of the activities. The seating area had lots on closed circuit monitors that were continuously airing a CD made for the event. The CD featured photos of all the past Club Presidents and contemporaneous pictures from many past club activities over the years.

The official activities were started with a "Welcome" from Club President Bob Ripp, the Pledge of Allegiance led by Sergeant-at-Arms Nick Bazzicalupo, and a moving invocation by Joe Mystkowski. Bob then recognized the people without whose committed and continuing help the celebration would not have been possible:

From the Northrop Grumman site management team: Tom Tack, Director of Programs for the EA-18G Operating Unit and Thea Hare, Manager of Bethpage Site Operations. Tom was unable to attend due to business obligations

From the BFCU: Wayne Grosse, CEO, and Linda Armyrn, Sr. VP Corporate Affairs. A special thanks to Wayne for the Credit Union's financial support of the luncheon.

Retiree Club VIPs:

Directors - Marion Abbott, Betty Bohlander, Vincent De Stefano, Kevin McKenna, Barbara Nilsen, Larry Seiden, and Andy Parton. Andy, as Executive

Director of the Cradle, provided the magnificent facility and continuing administrative support to the Club for the Luncheon.

Club Officers: Bob Ripp (President), Patricia Sullivan (VP), Lou Kubat (Secretary), Frank Rizzo (Treasurer), and Nick Bazzicalupo (Sergeant-at-Arms).

Luncheon Committee: *Thanks* to the Co-chairs of the hard-working committee Marion Abbott and Pat Sullivan and their support volunteers who, with boundless energy planned and coordinated this event. A great job!

"Now enjoy a delicious meal and after dinner you will be introduced to our guest speaker."

The gathering then enjoyed a fantastic luncheon and danced to the fabulous music of The Projectt band. The Lindy, the Electric Slide, and Sambas had the revelers up and bouncing.

After the meal, Bob introduced the guest speaker of the day. First, Bob stated that one guest who was invited but unable to attend is David Grumman. David resides in Illinois and for medical reasons he wasn't able to be here. "However," Bob said, "last week we received a congratulatory letter from him and I just want to read you one paragraph from that letter.

"An organization such as yours is admirable. In particular, for the members' ongoing interest but also because it has lasted so long And I bet a good part of that is due to, well, you just like each other!!! And so, I bet those who gather each month do so because they really look forward to it – to seeing again and keeping in touch with those who they spent so many years with.' End of quote. And how true this is!!"

Bob then introduced our speaker, Dick Dunne, LI native and Grumman Retiree. Dick attended Iona College and graduated from the Academy of Aeronautics (now Vaughn College). He had a stellar career with American Airlines, with Airborne Instrument Labs, and with Grumman where he started as a technical writer, later directing press activities for the LM and OAO programs. In 1992, he



became Director of Community Affairs and finally retired in 2002 as Director of State Government Relations. Dick's entire speech follows:

"Thank you, Bob . . . and a special *Thank You* to the Retiree Club Officers for inviting me here today.

"It is truly special to me to have this opportunity to come before you. Never did I think that when I joined Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation in 1959 that this privilege would be offered to me. Of course, if the facts are explored the Retirees Club did not get organized until 1967.

"Even at that, I am both honored and humbled to stand before you today.

"This is a multi-generational gathering. By that I mean that many of you, like me, pre-date the Retiree Club formation while still others are rather newcomers to this unique organization. I say "organization" because I feel that the word "club" does not fully represent all that this group is. Whatever the name, we all share one thing in common: we are members of one of the most unique clubs or organizations in the aerospace industry.

"Time has a way of dulling the memory – at least that is the situation in my case. So, I thought I'd go back in history and refresh everyone's memory with a "how it all began."

"The founders of our company were Leroy Randle Grumman, better known to many of us as Roy, Jake Swirbul, and Bill Schwendler. They were later joined by Ed Poor and Clint Towl.

"They also had some financial backing from Albert and Grover Loening, principals in a then small but successful aircraft design and manufacturing company. They started with \$77,000 in capital. If you think today's stock market or business environment is risky, imagine investing in a start-up company when they did – 1929. They opened their doors on January 2, 1930, just as the Great Depression started.

"The first location for Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation was a little garage in Baldwin [Long

island]. If their timing was poor, their start was somewhat worse.

"It was the end of their first week and they were working on one of their first projects – the repair of a crash-damaged amphibian aircraft. As the story goes, they towed it with Roy Grumman's Hudson automobile from the Catskills down to New York City, across the 59th street bridge and into Baldwin where they had rented the garage.

"However, they couldn't fit the entire amphibian inside the garage because a steam pipe blocked the tail of the plane. Consequently, the nose stuck out of the front door. As fate would have it, that night a local resident drove his car into the nose of the amphibian. Not exactly how you want to start a new company.

"Roy Grumman was one of our nation's earliest military aviators. He had been commissioned in 1918 as Naval Aviator number 1216.

"One of the great photographs of Roy Grumman shows him holding a pink pearl eraser and a paper clip. He used these two ordinary items to come up with a revolutionary way to fold the wings of Naval aircraft so more airplanes could be put onto aircraft carriers. The folding wings were one of the reasons why Wildcat Fighters set the stage for American dominance of the air war in the Pacific [during World War II].

"The famous Hellcat, designed by a team led by Bill Schwendler, destroyed more than half of all enemy aircraft destroyed by the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps in the Pacific Theatre. Hellcats shot down 5156 enemy aircraft while only 270 Hellcats were lost.

"Both the Wildcat and Hellcat are displayed in the gallery behind you.

"While the real story of Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation is the defense of our nation in World War II, there are other stories and maybe - sometime in the future - I'll be able to share them with you. I refer of course to the Apollo project and the LM and - more recently - the J-Stars, not forgetting, of course, the F-14, the A-6, and the E-2 series of aircraft.



“From 23 employees at the end of 1930, Grumman grew to 813 at the end of 1939, over 2000 by the end of 1940, all the way up to 25,000 in 1943, and an even greater number during the late 1960s during the Apollo Lunar Module era.

“Speaking of Grumman planes and Bill Schwendler reminds me of a personal happening which I would like to share with you. Sometime in the early 1970s, after I had left and returned to Grumman after six years at American Airlines, I received a telephone call from a representative of Cornell University’s Aero Lab. The gentleman on the phone informed me that another Grumman airplane, a Kitten - also on display in the gallery - which was donated by Grumman for use in Cornell’s Wind Tunnel was no longer needed. Did we want it back? If not they would scrap it.

“The Cradle of Aviation at that time did not exist in brick and mortar but many had the idea for such a place and a few aircraft had already been collected. I know there was a Hellcat being stored across the street from here in a Nassau County building and that George Dade was busy with a group of volunteers, the nucleus of the Grumman Restoration crew, restoring Charles Lindberg’s Curtiss Jenny in his garage/basement on the North Shore. That airplane is also in the gallery.

“I responded to the Cornell caller with an enthusiastic “YES!” and called a friend of mine in the Grumman Transportation Department with the details of the pickup. On the Friday afternoon before the Saturday that was scheduled for the pickup of the Kitten, I received a telephone call from Theresa, who was Bill Schwendler’s secretary: “Mr. Schwendler would like to see you.”

“Thinking that he may have heard about my entrepreneurship regarding the Kitten, I raced to the third floor to see Mr. Schwendler. As soon as I walked into his office, I knew there would be no entrepreneur award. “Young man” (I was about 32 at the time), Mr. Schwendler said, with hardly looking up, “I hear you have made arrangements to bring the Kitten from Cornell down here. “Yes” I replied. “I have cancelled that pickup,” he said. He obviously had nothing more to say so I exited his

office and returned to my office thinking all the way how the Kitten was about to be scrapped.

“Not knowing at the time, but finding out a few days later that Mr. Schwendler did not want any evidence of anything less than perfect made by Grumman to be preserved and the Kitten was in that category. I called my friend in transportation, who had also been informed that there would be no Kitten coming to Long Island. We chatted a bit and decided that the Kitten had to come home and made clandestine plans for its pickup and storage in a quiet corner in one of the warehouses on South Oyster Bay Road.

“Of course, it is now here in the Cradle, in all its splendor.

“I told Bill Schwendler, Jr. about this episode some years later after his father had died and he simply said, “Yep, that was my dad.”

“I wanted to tell you this story because I was prompted after reading a copy of the first newsletter prepared by the founding members of the Grumman Retiree Club. In the November 1967 issue - which by the way I brought a copy with me; it is typewritten on 8 ½ x 11 white paper – not the professionally produced copy which we all receive throughout the year now-a-days.

“Dues back then were \$2.00 per year for the first year – and all were entitled to send in funny things that happened while employed at Grumman. My story, which I just shared with you, while not funny at the time, is the stuff our company is made of.

“I am reminded that while I know many of you, there is one person here that I know very well and he probably is known to many of you. His name is Ernie Finamore, badge #30711. You may recall he authored an article in the June 2017 Retiree Newsletter in which he detailed his career and affiliation with Grumman, which dates back to February 22, 1943. To me, he has done it all at Grumman and continues today as a Cradle docent. In his autobiography, he points out that there are currently six Grumman retirees who do aircraft restoration and build exhibits for the Cradle. Even though Grumman no longer manufactures airplanes on Long Island, the Grumman tradition lives on.



“Along these lines, Club President Bob Ripp’s dad was lead supervisor of the Restoration Crew for many years when the group was headquartered and worked in Plant 1. He was also the tenth president of the Retiree Club and, as you know, his son Bob - our current president - is number 24, in this long line of distinguished leaders. I mention these names because they are members of the unheralded part of the Grumman family.

“And, as we close out this day of commemorating an important facet of Grumman Heritage and the significant impact it has had on thousands of people, let me recall for you that we are celebrating another anniversary: The Grumman History Center, now known as the Grumman Heritage Center, is celebrating an anniversary. From the records, we have been able to ascertain that as far back as 1962 Grumman management recognized the significance of its Heritage. Then, in 1967, a formal place was designated to store the memorabilia. From early records, we can conclude that a place in Plant 5, and then a small red brick building between Plant 5 and 25, the former Credit Union building north of Plant 2, a set aside area in Plant 35, and finally today the former Records Center on the corner of Hazel Street and So. Oyster Bay Road.

“In conclusion, while doing research for my talk here today I came across something which I think summarizes the Grumman Retiree Club and of course Grumman, and I would like to share it with you – it goes like this:

‘An airplane factory that became a social force for good.’

“That to me is the true essence of Grumman and the Retiree Club.

“I thank each of you for being here today. As I said in the beginning, it has been my pleasure and distinct honor to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of a world class organization and may God Bless Each of You and God Bless America.”

The remainder of the afternoon was spent dancing and reminiscing about other great times. Finally, after 4PM, the revelers stood and proudly sang

“God Bless America” and started to leave after receiving “Goody Bags” with mementos of the 50th Anniversary. Believe it or not, some were heard to say, “Where do we sign up for the 60th get-together??” Hold tight, we’ll inform everyone about early sign ups in an upcoming Newsletter.

By: Lou Kubat , Secretary

CALIFORNIA / Golden West

The October meeting of the Grumman Golden West Retiree Club was held at the Eagles Lodge in Oxnard, CA. Ten members attended.

Sergeant-at-Arms John Urgo led the Pledge of Allegiance and President Fred Syrett started the meeting.

Plans were discussed for the coming holidays. Don Coler will purchase the poinsettias.

Good to see E. J. Henderson again at our meeting.

50/50 winner was Stephen Young.

Next Meeting: November 15.

By: Fred Syrett, President

Future Meeting: December 12.

CALIFORNIA / San Diego

The Chapter did not meet in October.

There will not be a November meeting.

We’re planning our Christmas luncheon for Thursday, December 14, at the 94th Aero Squadron restaurant. Hope to see everyone there.

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



FLORIDA / First Coast

We had our Fall picnic on Tuesday, October 17. Thirty-one folks attended even though the weather was chilly, very breezy, and cloudy.

President Fred led us in the Pledge and a prayer and sadly announced the sudden passing of Harry Munson. Our thoughts and prayers are with Harry's family.

Thanks to all who brought food and goodies to share. As in years before, Chefs Art Goehler and Bob Rathje did their magic grilling the burgers. Pete Foster brought and grilled franks, and served 'em up with sauerkraut . . . more than enough for all.

Bocce results - 1st place: Gene Earley & Joe (Waxy) DeCrescenzo; 2nd place: Pete Foster & Art Goehler; 3rd place finishers were Bob Rathje & Steve Cacace. The Davies team promises to be back this Spring.

Thanks to all the folks who helped set up and/or clean up.

Next Meeting: November 14 (NOTE: Changed from original date.)

December meeting is Tuesday the 12th.

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

FLORIDA / Manasota West

Next Meeting will be held on October 11, at Noon, at the Pier 22 restaurant in Bradenton, FL.

FLORIDA / SouthWest

On October 10th, we had our first meeting after the Summer with 14 members in attendance. Our usual opening, led by President Clem Moors, was made with the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

Both Willy Wolter and Ethel Czerwinski have some health issues and were remembered in our prayers.

After lunch, our minutes were read and we heard the Treasurer's report.

For discussion, we mentioned the 50th Anniversary of the Grumman Retiree Club on October 23rd and various newspaper articles:

From *Newsday*: Rosie the Riveter died at age 103 and Peter Pantelis of the Lunar Module Team, died this Summer.

An interesting article, called *Moonstruck*, had various retirees' experiences. A few of those retirees currently volunteer at the Cradle of Aviation Museum.

The last article mentioned was from the *Tide of Moriches* regarding Brookhaven National Lab workers with cancer and how to get compensation.

Celeste Perre brought in an old memo pad from Grumman dated 2/70. The acronym AVO was mentioned: "Avoid Verbal Orders."

A request was made by Tom Cummiskey for information on the current situation and contracts awarded to Northrop Grumman as the stock has gone up.

A birthday/anniversary song was sung.

50/50 winners were John Vecchione, Mary Cummiskey, and Linda Baldwin.

We'll start collecting dues (payable to "Grumman Retiree Club" in the amount of \$15. Mail to Tony Moors, 5301 Blue Crab Cir H-3, Bokeelia, FL 33922 or bring to the next meeting.

Next Meeting: November 14. at the Golden Corral in Punta Gorda.

By: Clem Moors, President [clemtony@juno.com] and

Linda Baldwin, Secretary [lsbaldwin48@gmail.com]



FLORIDA / Space Coast

October 18, 2017

The warm October sun welcomed back some of our “Summer gypsies” in time for a Five- Star luncheon and a particularly informative and entertaining speaker. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer by Chaplin Ed Roman noting the passing of Frank Kattanzi, our attendees indulged in a Suntree Country Club luncheon featuring fish (salmon), fowl (chicken) and tortellini salad. President Bob Prais introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Desmond K. Blackburn, PhD, Superintendent of Schools for the entire Brevard County.

Dr. Blackburn had been our guest speaker when he came on board in our school district just two years ago. At that time, he briefed us on the challenges he faced. Now, he happily reported on our district’s performance vs. the other 66 districts in the state. A key one to us grandparents was being No. 10 in high school graduation with 342 graduating students obtaining two year AA degrees, saving \$3M in tuition. Our district now ranks No. 2 in College and Career Readiness in Florida.

The boom in industrial growth has brought more children to the school system necessitating proposed changes in school assignments, not a happy prospect to some families. The recent addition of a dedicated half-cent sales tax for upgrading school buildings, along with re-financing some loans for a \$10M saving, has enabled the district to hold the line on real estate taxes. It was also noted that we receive \$2.1M annually from the federal government as payment in lieu of taxes because of the vast amount of non-taxable federal land in our county.

Controversial items currently being negotiated include the proposed 1% raise for teachers and the afore mentioned school reassignments. On the subject of vocational training, our membership seemed pleased to hear that there is a program to provide more training in mechanical skills, including the addition of aero-mechanical schools.

The subject of Opioid usage in our schools was raised and Dr. Blackburn stated that drug sniffing dogs were now assigned to our schools. Cursive writing is no longer taught or used. We now have a computer for every 1-1/2 students. This led Dr. Blackburn to relate a humorous story of trying to buy 165 square feet of sod in a local hardware super store and the consternation of the staff on how to identify that with what they had in stock. He closed by identifying the worst deficit in our student bodies: communications! He also applied for honorary membership in our club, effective seven years from now, and promised to be back to report on his progress.

Financial Report: **Bill Waldron** reported satisfactory balances in both General and Scholarship Accounts. **Members are asked to pay their annual dues (\$17) in the next two months;** doing so will insure delivery of the Club’s monthly newsletter.

Scholarship: A vigorous discussion was held regarding ways to simplify the distribution of the annual scholarship awards to our students, currently involving a multitude of academic administration organizations. Our goal is to make life easier for our over-worked Scholastic Chairman. This matter was delegated to that committee and the executive staff.

Future Programs:

November will feature an appearance by Norm Daniels, Commander of the Valiant Air Command.

In the New Year, we are looking forward to a program featuring Bob Klein, the new CO of the Northrop Grumman Melbourne facility, and another program with Capt. Tom Tack USN (Ret.) a premier EA-6B pilot with 200 combat missions including over 100 nighttime carrier landings. These are programs you won’t want to miss.

50/50 Drawing: There were five winners. The grand prize of a \$25 gift card for Outback Steak House and a bottle of Pinot Grigio was won by Joe Mullings.

Congratulations to all!



Post Script: Want an emotional kick? Ask Joe Mullings to tell you about his conversation with a grizzled Marine Vietnam Veteran who shed forty years of bitter memories as the result of his tour of the Washington memorials on our local Honor Flight.

Next Meeting November 15, 2017

Meeting Schedule: 12/13 (2nd Wednesday)

FLORIDA / Suncoast

Suncoast Chapter officers have announced the end of the Chapter's operations.

As of the beginning of October, the Chapter no longer exists.

FLORIDA / Treasure Coast

Our October 19th meeting was held at Manero's Restaurant.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dan Knowles, followed by a prayer written by Barbara Knowles in the absence of Chaplain Larry Regier. We had 33 attending the meeting.

VP Werner Bols introduced our speaker, LT Col (Retired) Mark Bellamy, US Army. Mark flew 1726 combat flying hours, of which 994 were in the Mohawk OV-1. He survived two ejections from the OV-1 in SE Asia. His decorations included the Purple Heart, Distinguished Flying Cross, and two Martin Baker Ties. In addition, he also practiced law in the Supreme Courts of the United States, Michigan, and Virginia.

His talk centered on being hit by enemy fire and narrowly escaping death. He didn't have time to detail the other successful ejections. Perhaps Mark could come back as a speaker again to complete the story of his adventures during the Vietnam War.

Birthday: Walt Ludwig - 87

The meeting was adjourned by Bob Watkins.

By: Janet Cuce [jjcuce@comcast.net]

GEORGIA / Peach Pit

Our October 17, 2017 meeting, at El Tequila Mexican Restaurant in Milledgeville, GA, started at 12:30PM. There were 15 present when President Paul Bernichon called the meeting to order and Sergeant-at-Arms Ted Zarkowsky led 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 September 19, 2017 meeting minutes was made by Jesse Griffin and seconded by Ernie Godbee. Since no changes to the minutes were offered, either by proxy or by those present, the motion passed.

New Business:

1. President Paul welcomed those present and shared the Thank You letter received from the Oconee Regional Healthcare Foundation, for our recent financial gift that helps provide the means to keep up with necessary upgrades in medical and other hospital equipment for the Oconee Regional Medical Center.
2. Treasurer Joe Sansotta gave an update on the Chapter's financial condition.
3. October Happy Birthday wishes were extended to: Mary Archer [7th], Joe Lasker [19th], Mike McCabe [17th], and Earl Seagle [22nd].
4. October Anniversary wishes were extended to: Mike & Pam McCabe [26th] and to Steve & Kathy Willis [27th].

Jesse Griffin won the 75/25 Fund Raiser Raffle and donated his winnings to the Community Service Fund. *Thank You*, Jesse.

V.P. Vince Ciampa donated four Grumman Mugs for today's Raffle. The mugs were won by Jesse Griffin, Ernie Godbee, Barbara Bernichon, and Tom Blenk. *Thank You*, Vince, for the donation.



In Memoriam: Grummanite Thomas Hendrix, employed at the Plant 66 tool crib, passed away this month, in Milledgeville. He is in our thoughts and prayers. Our condolences are extended to his family.

Club member Juliane Nussberger was recently hospitalized. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Chapter Anniversary Celebration - January 2018 will mark the 30th Anniversary of the first meeting of the 25 pension-eligible or retired Grummanites (as required by the Club's Constitution) in Plant 66, to petition The Grumman Retiree Club to authorize this Georgia/Peach Pit Chapter. As in past Anniversary celebrations, members planning to attend can chose an evening Dinner or a midday Luncheon, either of which will be held on the third Tuesday of the month, provided the selected Restaurant can accommodate us on that date.

Election of Officers for 20188 - On October 16, 2016, this Chapter's membership voted a "Year 2017/2018 Chapter Officers Ballot". Accordingly, there will be no election for Year 2018 officers this year as the incumbents will continue through next year and will renew their Oath of Office post January 1, 2018.

Community Service:

a.] A Charitable Donation to the Boys & Girls Club of Baldwin/Jones Counties was made on Columbus Day [October 9, 2017].

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

Program:

Attendees continued conversations of their personal impacts from recent Hurricanes and other Summer recess items affecting themselves and their families, plus our upcoming 30th Anniversary event.

A motion by Vince Ciampa, and seconded by Guil Mauldin, to end the Business meeting carried and adjournment was 1: 30PM.

Next Meeting: Nov 21, 2017 at El Tequila Restaurant in Milledgeville, on Garrett Way, starting at 12:30PM.

By: Lew M. Iulucci- Sec'y. iulucci@windstream.net or [478] 452-1357

Maryland / Glen Arm

The Chapter did not meet in October.

Next Meeting: December 19 (Third Tuesday) at 6:30PM, at the Golden Corral in Aberdeen MD. 706 S. Philadelphia Road,

Remember, the Club is always looking to recruit new members. If any current member knows of a fellow Grummanite who isn't a member, but would like to be, please pass on our club contact info.

If you have any suggestions, Ideas or questions, please present them at a meeting or contact President Rick Swinder [410-977-7829; rickswinder@gmail.com].

By: Joe Svach, Sec'y.

New England North

No report of Chapter activity.

NEW YORK
Eastern Long Island Chapter

Fifteen members and guest Anna Puccio attended our October 18th meeting.

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

Pres. Bert Moller asked for suggestions for a charitable donation. Attendees suggested Wounded



Warriors and Charge Syndrome Foundation (318 Half Day Road, #305 Buffalo Grove, IL 60089).

NORTH CAROLINA
Eastern Carolina Chapter

Bert and Pauline Sandmann will attend the Grumman Retiree Club 50th Anniversary at the Cradle of Aviation on Oct. 23rd.

October 11, 2017

We had three 50/50 Winners.

We had a cozy meeting on October 11th, at the "Golden Corral" in Jacksonville, NC, with 11 members present. In the absence of President Pete Mc Namee, Tom Schroder led the Pledge of Allegiance and Jim Karika gave the invocation.

"Dutch" Rotzinger reports the passing of Ronald Moore (8/11), Rocco Francis Savino (10/3), Nicholas T. Lanzisero (10/6), William D. Rizzardi (10/8), and Henry E. Treiber, Jr. (9/27).

We did not have a formal business meeting except for Bob Lamberson's treasury report. He told members we were still in the black and he received a Thank You from the Salvation Army Hurricane Relief for the \$200 donation we made. Bob also noted that Ron Betts and his wife were unable to attend the meeting because Ron had hurt his leg. They donated the cost of their meals to the club.

Our condolences to friends and families of the departed.

After a delicious meal of many choices, Tom Schroder entertained us with his usual litany of jokes. Some groaners; many laughable.

Report illnesses, deaths, etc. to Bill Mytko [1-864-225-4927 or ermytko@yahoo.com].

October Birthdays: 10/3 - Mary Rice; 10/7 - Jeanette Buchham; 10/14 - John Sullivan; 10/17 - Carol Peralta; 10/18 - Sandy Sullivan; 10/27 - Chris Albers.

November Birthdays: Bob Albert, Johanna Albert, Ken Becker (still rehabbing), Henry Bramwell, Ronald Christiansen, Frank DeQuarto, Bill Hamilton (our 50/50 guy), and Edward Matthew.

Happy Birthday to All!

October Anniversary: Pete & Nidda Mc Namee, 10/9.

November Anniversaries: Donald & Elizabeth Buniski (11/23) - Congrats!

Any Birthdays or Anniversaries missed or listed incorrectly? Contact Bob Albert [631-585-7987].

Bob told us that our **November 14th meeting will be held at "Paula's Restaurant" in New Bern**, with Rudi & Marlene Wiehl as Program Directors.

Next Meeting: Nov 15, at the Coram Diner (Route 25 and Route 112, Coram, NY). Lunch (\$15) at Noon; meeting to follow.

Our December meeting will be held at McCarthy Court, in New Bern on December 12, 2017.

Following meeting: Dec 20, Noon, at J & R Steak House (\$15). Route 25, Calverton, NY (opposite the old Grumman Calverton facility.)

Tom then wished everyone a safe trip home.

Happy Halloween!

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

By: Dottie Karika [dotjimk60@gmail.com]



PENNSYLVANIA
Northeastern Pennsylvania Chapter

It was a very nice and sunny day here in Northeast Pennsylvania on Thursday, October 19th. The usual three couples met at Kay's Restaurant in Lake Ariel. The usual conversation prevailed and Ed & Marianne told of their trip to sunny and HOT Florida, and their ride on the auto train.

The business end of the day, carried out by Bod, Fred, and Ed, was the choosing of the appetizers for our December Christmas Party meeting. Remember: At that meeting, we meet at 11:30AM instead of Noon, to have a drink and party on the club. It is a good time, so some of you who have not made a meeting lately, why don't you come on down and party with us?

Dues are due again, and they are still \$15. Make your check out to "NEPA Grumman Retiree Club," not to Fred. Send your check to Fred Rademacher, PO Box 1012, Milford, PA 18337-1012. Dead line for dues is December 31, 2017.

Birthdays for October: Dan Knowles and Richard Petrusa.

Anniversary for October: Edward & Marianne Sparkowski (Number 51)

Next Meeting: Nov 16, 2017, at the Boat House Restaurant, Route 507, Hawley, PA. We will discuss the Christmas Party. This will also be our next-to-last meeting for the year.

See you at the Boathouse.

By: Edward J. Sparkowski Secretary/Chaplain
[570-698-7182; firefly417@verizon.net]

SOUTH CAROLINA
Coastal Carolinas Chapter

October 4, 2017

Our monthly meeting was held at Damon's Restaurant in Myrtle Beach, SC, with fifteen members in attendance. It was a beautiful sunny day and the view looking out over the ocean was wonderful.

President Bob Joyce opened the meeting with Sergeant-at-Arms Nancy Webber leading the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Birthday this month: Barbara Raulsome

Anniversary: Faye & Harold Katzenberger.

Don Webber read the Treasurer's Report, which was accepted as read, seconded, and approved.

Secretary read the September Meeting Minutes. They were accepted as read, and approved.

Sunshine Committee: Artie Rappenport is not doing well.

We received a Thank You note from Helen Timoney, saying how much they appreciated seeing everyone the wake for Marjorie Rappenport.

Just a quick sidebar: Helen is the Organizer who started the Coastal Carolinas Chapter 22 years ago.

The 50/50 Winners: 1st prize, Kathy Fleischer; 2nd Prize, Ed Raulsome.

Our Christmas Luncheon will be on Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 12 Noon, at the *Sea Captain's House Restaurant*, 3002 N. Ocean Blvd, Myrtle Beach, SC. [843-448-8082]

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

News: The End of September and the beginning of October have really been a disaster with hurricanes, shootings, and the California fires. Let's pray and hope we don't have to go through this again.

NOTE: All Future Meetings are scheduled to be held on the 2nd Wednesday of Each Month.

Our second meeting of the year was held on Oct. 11, 2017 at 12:30PM, at Francesco Ristorante Italiano, 6524 Richmond Road (Route 60), in Williamsburg, VA. This is a very fine Italian Restaurant in Historic Williamsburg.

There were eight members in attendance to enjoy the Italian cuisine: Ed Samson; Harold Case, with his lady friend Madeline Wilson; Anne Dannenhoffer; Mary Anne Muller; Dot Marsh - Sperry / Grumman employee; and Beverly & Frank Purstell.

In the absence of Fred & Marjori Meiners, Frank Purstell said Grace.

Marjori is recovering from her surgery very well and should start her follow-up chemo treatments by the end of October. We all wish her well and continue to pray for her speedy recovery. We miss Fred & Marjori at our meetings.

Our Financial Report - we are still solvent.

Next Meeting: November, 8, 12:30PM (the day after Election Day), at Crab Louies Seafood Tavern, 1352 Sycamore Square, Midlothian VA. [804-378-4977].

Directions: from Route 288 (South of Richmond) go East on Route 60 just off Midlothian Turnpike to the yellow building in the shopping center on the left. You all know where it is located!

Our Christmas meeting will be on December 13, 2017, 12:30PM, at Shadwell's Restaurant [434-202-0351].

Directions: Take Exit 124 off I-64, Route 250 West (Charlottesville, Pantops area); go approx. 1/2 mile. Shadwell's is on the left, in front of the Hilton Hotel.

PLEASE notify Frank Purstell [434-282-1303 or srpurs@gmail.com] one day prior to the meeting if you will be attending. Thanks!

All Grumman, Northrop, local Sperry retirees and guests are welcome to join us.



In Memoriam

We extend heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of these deceased members:

Atwell, Gregory	West Bay Shore, NY	09/30/2017
Clark, Merrill	Rutland, VT	08/20/2017
Decolator, Louis	Huntington, MD	08/23/2017
Icart, Arthur	Brentwood, NY	09/15/2017
Katzenstein, Daniel	Jericho, NY	09/22/2017
Lattanzi, Frank	Kings Park, NY	09/16/2017
Quiter, Charles	San Diego, CA	04/25/2017
Reed, Robert	New Hyde park, NY	09/20/2017
Rosso, Eugene	Levittown, NY	09/20/2017
Rizzardi, William	Mt. Sinai, NY	10/08/2017
Schilling, Lloyd	Northport, NY	09/20/2017
Vitello, Fortunato (Peter)	Smithtown, NY	08/25/2017

*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 44

Leaner Times (1992)

On January 21, at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, NASA Administrator Richard Truly presented NASA's George M. Low trophy for quality and excellence to the 200 plus Grummanites from the Technical Services Division who supported the Shuttle Processing Contract. The Low trophy was the premier quality and productivity award in the aerospace industry. Under the contract, Grumman operated and maintained the launch processing system – the computers and software used to prepare and launch the space shuttle.

On January 31, the U.S. Navy accepted the last production A-6 Intruder in Calverton, Long Island. This brought to an end the production of an extraordinary and venerable airplane that began more than 32 years ago as the A2F-1. Grumman built more than 700 A-6s that included special versions such as the KA-6D refueling tanker and the EA-6A & 6B electronic jamming aircraft. The Intruders saw combat in Vietnam, Grenada, Lebanon, Libya, and the Middle East during Operation Desert Storm and would fly well into the next century.

At the pin meeting held on February 7, Grumman Chairman Renso Caporali pointed out that the very slow economy was directly affecting the company's bottom line. He cited that truck deliveries slumped to levels which were a little over 50 percent of three years prior. The slow economy also placed a great drag on government spending as well. Caporali noted that 90 percent of the company business was conducted with the government and that 65 to 70 percent of the revenue was related to defense. He went on to say that with the end of the Cold War, defense spending would be slashed drastically. As tough as things were at that time, he told the Grummanites at the pin meeting that he had little doubt that things would only get tougher.

On April 13, in Melbourne, Air Force Chief of Staff Merrill McPeak presented the Air Force's Air Medal to ten Grummanites on the Joint STARS program for their service in providing system support and in-flight maintenance during Operation Desert Storm. During 49 consecutive all-night missions, Joint STARS pinpointed enemy convoys, trucks, tanks, and Scud launchers, and relayed that information to allied fighters and ground forces. The two aircraft logged over 500 hours in the air and completed all their missions. The Air Force's Air Medal is a prestigious honor usually reserved for military personnel, rarely awarded to civilians. The ten Grummanites were among seventeen civilians who received the Air Force's Air Medal that day.

On April 16, Grumman Chairman Renso Caporali told the shareholders at the annual meeting that 1991 had been quite a good year financially for the corporation. Sales of \$4.038 billion were just off a shade but the earnings per share of \$2.88 were up by 16 percent from the previous year. And, in just over two years, Grumman reduced its debt by almost a half from a peak of \$950 million. However, Caporali tempered the good financial news by telling the shareholders that there were 2,400 fewer employees than the previous year, many of whom were laid off. Defense cutbacks were taking their tolls on the employees.

On April 30, Grumman signed a low-rate initial production contract for the Joint STARS E-8C aircraft with the Air Force's Electronic Systems Division. The first lot of two E-8C aircraft had an estimated value of \$503 million. According to plans at the time, a total of 20 production E-8C aircraft would be delivered starting in early 1996. Grumman Chairman Renso Caporali stated that "Joint STARS may well become one of Grumman's largest programs well into the 21st Century."

On June 2, Hughes Training Inc. joined the Grumman-Agusta team bidding for the Joint Primary Aircraft Training Systems (JPATS). JPATS was the next generation integrated training system for Air Force and Navy pilots. The system would consist of a new primary training aircraft and a ground-based training system. "With this partnership, the team is complete," said Aircraft Group President Pete Oram. He said that the Grumman-Agusta-Hughes team was positioned to deliver a total training system that would provide the Air Force and Navy with proficient undergraduate pilots for decades.

On July 10, Grumman's new Joint STARS aircraft refurbishment and overhaul facility in Lake Charles, Louisiana was dedicated. Chairman Renso Caporali, Systems Group President Al Verderosa, and Melbourne Systems Division President Marty Dandridge were among the Grummanites at the ceremony. The facility was designed to refurbish commercial Boeing 707-300 aircraft into the Joint STARS E-8C configuration in a 40-month process that consisted of refurbishment and modification. Once the modifications were completed, the planes were ferried to Melbourne, Florida for installation of the Joint STARS electronics.

On July 22, the U.S. Air Force awarded a 24-month contract worth \$240 million to the TRW/Grumman team to develop the Follow-on Early Warning System (FEWS), a space-based system to detect and track missile launches. The contract called for the design and demonstration of capabilities and the development of required technologies and production facilities. TRW was the prime contractor responsible for program management, systems engineering, spacecraft and subsystems, and ground segment, while Grumman was the principal subcontractor, responsible for the design, integration, and test of the primary electro-optical payload.

On August 20, the U.S. Navy awarded Grumman a \$115 million contract to supply modification equipment kits to support the re-winging and upgrade of 120 A-6E aircraft. The kits allowed the installation of Boeing composite wings onto the A-6E to resolve metal wing aging and fatigue problems. In addition, the kits upgraded the A6E configuration to the A-6E Systems Weapons Integration Program (SWIP) Block II configuration. This was especially welcomed news to Grumman since defense spending was severely cut across the board during this period.

On September 14, about 150 civic and government leaders, Grummanites and officials from the Department of Energy and the Brookhaven National Laboratory gathered in front of Plant 4, in Bethpage, to officially open a manufacturing center for superconducting dipole magnets. The magnets were being built under a \$42.7 million contract with Brookhaven for use in the particle accelerator at the U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island. The accelerator would give scientists at Brookhaven a state-of-the-art collider to study what matter was like during the birth of the universe.

On September 30, the latest upgrade to the Navy's A-6E Intruder was flown for the first time for two and a half hours at Calverton, (Long Island) N.Y. The Block 1A upgrade package improvements included the A-6's first head-up display, a global positioning system (GPS), a new mission computer, and a towed aerial decoy.

On October 6, President George Bush signed the \$253.8 billion Defense Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1993. The Grumman programs fared rather well considering the state of the economy and the post-Cold War era. Congress approved \$3.06 billion for Grumman programs or subcontracts, \$447 million more than requested. Mike Kerby, vice president of Grumman's Washington Operations cautioned that the following year's budget deliberations would be a lot tougher in light of new faces in Congress replacing retiring Grumman supporters on the Hill and extreme pressures to rein in the budget during the economic downturn.

On October 22, a commemorative ceremony marking the delivery of the 100,000th Postal Service Long Life Vehicle (LLV) was held at the Grumman Allied facility in Montgomery, Pennsylvania, where more than 400 LLVs rolled off the smooth-running production line every week. Grumman Chairman Renso Caporali said, "This is an American manufacturing success story. We really can compete – and American industry can do it better than anyone else, especially when you get everyone on the same team."

On November 3, Democratic Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton won the presidential election over incumbent President George H.W. Bush. At a pin meeting after the elections, Grumman President Bob Meyers said he didn't know how the election results would affect Grumman but indicated that a change in the administration would certainly mean a change in the Defense Department. But, he said, it was obvious that the defense budgets would still be coming down. Meyers was hopeful that President-elect Clinton would be pragmatic and not do anything to reduce the defense budget dramatically in the near term. He noted that the company had been through tough times in the past four years, and was awaiting the change with hope.

On November 23, Grumman announced that on January 1, 1993, the company would consolidate two of its operating groups – the Aircraft Group and the Space & Electronics Group – to form the Aerospace & Electronics Group. Al Verderosa would be the president of the new Aerospace & Electronics Group. The consolidation would result in a more streamlined organization, removing layers of management and administrative positions. Approximately 500 management and administrative positions would be eliminated. Shortly after the announcement, Bob Bradshaw, Tom Kelly, and Pete Oram announced their retirements, to be effective on December 31. Bob Bradshaw was retiring as Vice President of Human Resources & Administration and Corporate Secretary; Tom Kelly was President of the Space Station Integration Division; and Pete Oram was President of the Aircraft Group.

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I wish to reserve seats at the December 13, 2017 Holiday Luncheon (Noon to 4 PM)
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<u>FULL NAME (please print)</u>	<u>PHONE NO.</u>	<u>CHECK ONE</u>			<u>CHECK ONE</u>	
		<u>BEEF</u>	<u>FISH</u>	<u>CHICKEN</u>	<u>RETIREE</u>	<u>GUEST</u>
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
11. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
12. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

- 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 December 6, 2017

Table Captain: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail address: _____

Remarks: _____

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