



# The Grumman Retiree Club Newsletter



July, 2011

Volume 44 , Issue 7

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## CHAPTERS / MEETING LOCATIONS

### PARENT CHAPTER

Bethpage / Woodbury  
**President**, Marion Abbott (516) 575-3777

California - Golden West / Pt. Mugu  
**President**, Fred Syrett (805) 647-4934

California - San Diego / San Diego  
**President**, Cliff Robinson, (760) 749-8183

Florida - First Coast / St. Augustine  
**President**, Fred Bauer (904) 819-9817

Florida - Manasota West / Bradenton  
**President**, Burt Stern (941) 378-7082

Florida - Mid-West / Spring Hill  
**President**, Hank Mehl (352) 686-2735

Florida - Southwest / Locations Vary  
**President**, Carolyn Moors (239-283-8294)

Florida - Spacecoast / Melbourne  
**President**, William Steenson (321-751-3346)

Florida - Suncoast / Pinellas Park  
**President**, John Newark (727) 360-7339

Florida - Treasure Coast / Port St. Lucie  
**President**, Nancy Schaefer (772) 878-2295

Georgia - Peach Pit / Milledgeville  
**President**, Wendell Barr (478) 456-1854

Maryland - Glen Arm / Belair  
**President**, Frederick Kief (410) 557-7138

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

New Jersey - Garden State / Lakehurst  
**President**, Al Larsen (732) 350-1170

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

North Carolina - Eastern Carolina / Locations Vary  
**President**, Bob Lamberson (252) 249-2782

Pennsylvania - Northeast PA / So. Sterling  
**President**, Charles Teufer (570) 586-7590

South Carolina -  
Coastal Carolinas (NC & SC) / Myrtle Beach  
**President**, Richard Seidler (910) 575-3145

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

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

Virginia - Potomac / Locations Vary  
**President**, Ed Barron (202) 244-6808

## Corwin H. "Corky" Meyer

1920 - 2011

Corky Meyer began his flying career in 1937 and was qualified in military jets for thirty years. During that time, he tested more than 100 different types of jet and piston military aircraft.

Corky joined Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation, in 1942, as an Engineering Test Pilot. He was the Project Pilot on the F6F Hellcat, F7F Tigercat, F8F Bearcat, F9F Panther, XF10F Jaguar, F11A Tiger and F11F Super Tiger. He tested Grumman's first jet aircraft, the XF9F-2 Panther, in November 1947. In 1954, he became the first civilian to qualify for jet squadron operations aboard an aircraft carrier.

In 1960, Corky joined Grumman's Business Development activities and served successively as Director of Aircraft Development and Director of Program Development. He returned to flight test activities as Director of Flight Test in August 1965. In July 1968, he was appointed Director of Manufacturing and in September 1969, was given responsibility for the direction of Manufacturing, Flight Test, Quality Control, and Material.

Corky became a Vice President of the Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation in 1967. In '69, he was elected to continue as VP in the newly formed Grumman Corp. subsidiary, Grumman Aerospace Corporation. Also in 1969, he became a Director of Grumman Aerospace. In '71, Corky became Senior Vice President of Grumman Aerospace. From 1963 to 1969, he also served as President of Grumman International, Inc.

Corky was elected to the Board of Directors of Grumman American Aviation, in January, '74, and became President of that company in May of the same year.

Corky was an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) and a Fellow in the Society of Experimental Test Pilots.

The following is a quote from the Editor-in-Chief of *Flight Journal Magazine*:

***"Those of us at Flight Journal mourn the passing of our regular contributor and close friend, Corky Meyer. It's a cliché to say that he was a one-of-a-kind, but all who spent even a short time with him would have to agree. Besides having been an important cog in the wheel of history, as a Grumman pilot through WWII and well into the 50's, he was one of the funniest, warmest people most of us have ever met. We always enjoyed his writing because of those exact traits. He put you in the cockpit and let you share the thrills while poking fun at himself at the same time. He was one of the most enjoyable people we've ever known."***



**Scholarship Fund Contributors**

The Scholarship Fund thanks the following for their recent contributions:

Abbott, Marion

Bischoff, Willard

Gilleran, F.

Marvin, Sally

McDermott, Catherine

Porter, George

Shauer, Berhold

Walters, J.P.

Winslow, Eileen

**Defensive Driver Training**

**2011 Dates: 09/06; 11/03**

Classes held in Plant 25. 8:30AM sign in. To register, call Liz McGowan (516-221-6573) **WEEKDAYS ONLY!** Call between 6pm & 9pm. Classes fill up quickly: Check your expiration date and **sign up early.**

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**Bethpage Chapter Calendar**

Membership meetings/luncheons are generally held on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

***25th Annual Picnic***

**September 14**

**Marjorie Post Park, Massapequa  
Use coupon, below, to sign-up now**

***Business Meeting***

At Crest Hollow Country Club: 9/21

***Luncheon Meetings***

At the Milleridge Inn: 10/26, 11/16  
Holiday Luncheon Crest Hollow CC, 12/14

**Bethpage 25th Annual Picnic**

**September 14, 2011**

**\$15pp.**

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Guests \_\_\_\_\_

Please respond by September 8, 2011

Send this coupon and your check (payable to Grumman Retiree Club) to:  
Grumman Retiree Club, PO Box 476,  
Bethpage, NY 11714-0476

**GRUMMAN RETIREE CLUB NEWSLETTER**

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## Scholarship Awards

The All-Chapter Scholarship Program and the Florida Space Coast Chapter Scholarship Program both had their Award Presentation Ceremonies during June. Here are the chosen Scholars:

### All-Chapter Scholarship Program Scholars



*Left to Right in photo:*

- Gabriella Gilmartin - St. John the Baptist DHS, West Islip, NY [Sponsor: George Gilmartin] Marist College
- Christine Degenars - Immaculate Heart Academy, Wash., NJ [Sponsor: Isobel Comis] Boston College, MA
- Valerie Anne Batchter - W.C. Mepham HS, Bellmore, NY [Sponsor: Kenneth Lieb] SUNY Plattsburgh, NY
- Jayne Batchter - W.C. Mepham HS Belmore, NY [Sponsor: Kenneth Lieb] Drexel University, Philadelphia
- Katelyn Lesse - Syosset HS, Syosset, NY [Sponsor: Nicholas Papandreas] Princeton University

*Scholars who were unable to attend the Award Presentation Ceremony:*

- Elizabeth Reade Adkins - Dreher HS, Columbia, SC [Sponsor: Nicholas James Soley] Barnard, NY
- Emily Benz - Smithtown HS, East Smithtown, NY [Sponsor: John Benz] Buffalo University, Buffalo, NY
- Justin Graff - Henry Clay HS, Lexington, KY [Sponsor: Sol Graff] Emory College, Atlanta, GA
- Gabriella Graziose - Locust Valley HS, NY [Sponsor: Robert Boistis] Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY
- Jeremy Zitomer - John Jay HS, Golden Bridge, NY [Sponsor: Martin Gallant] Yale College, New Haven, CT

*For additional All-Chapter Scholar information, see Page 4*

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### Florida Space Coast Chapter Scholar Awards



L to R: Bill Steenson (Chapter Pres.), Mark Bayless, Scholar Jonathan Bayless, Bob Prais (Scholarship Chairman) Missing: George Skurla Scholarship Winner, Brandon Baxter  
*For Space Coast Chapter Awards details, see Page 7*



## All-Chapter Scholarship Awards Luncheon

The 13th annual scholarship awards luncheon was held at the Crest Hollow Country Club, with over 200 in attendance. The afternoon began with the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by a moving invocation given by Steve Kalman.

President Marion Abbott welcomed all and proceeded to acknowledge several guests and sponsors among whom were: Jack Bierwirth, former CEO and Chairman of the Board of Grumman Corp; Greg Aloisio, First Vice President - Investments, Wells Fargo; Gary Bolnick and Kelly Graham of Command Business Products; John Vosilla, GRC Board Member; Ed & Jan Hanlon from the Coastal Carolina Chapter (Jan is VP of that Chapter), as well as Dave & Barbara Seeman, from Patuxent River, Maryland. Dave is a former Grumman test pilot. Representing the BFCU were Grace Braeuer, also a GRC Board Member, Rich Nicolich, also a Scholarship Committee Member, and a number of other VIPs from the Bethpage Federal Credit Union.

Marion announced that today was Norma Landin's 82nd birthday and that her husband, George, and their family were there to celebrate the occasion. Also, one month from today, on July 22, Norma & George will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. Anniversary wishes were extended to George & Norma; birthday wishes were extended to Norma and to Andy Pfortsch, who will celebrate his birthday on June 25th.

A special acknowledgement was extended to Betty Bohlander for the hard word that she puts forth in making this annual event such a success. Acknowledgement was also extended to Harry Prod, who was our roving photographer for the day.

Marion wished everyone an enjoyable afternoon and reminded us of the upcoming 25th Anniversary picnic on September 14. A wonderful lunch was then served with background music provided by Kenny Whiteside.

Following lunch, Paul Schatzel, Scholarship Fund President, welcomed members and guests to the 13th Annual Scholarship Awards Presentation and thanked all who so generously support this program.

The awards are co-sponsored by the Grumman Retiree Scholarship Fund, the Grumman Retiree Club, and the Bethpage Federal Credit Union. The scholarship awards have special meaning for Retiree Club members because the awards are available exclusively to direct relatives of Club Members. The award winners are selected based on excellence in academic and personal achievement. Awards are open to members of all Chapters. This year, ten \$2000 awards were given. Paul thanked the BFCU for its continuing significant financial partnering in the scholarship awards.

## Scholarship Committee



L to R: Marion Abbot, Steve Kallman, Richard Nicolich (BFCU), Lynn Wesnofske, Diane Bryers, Betty Bohlander, Harry Daum, Isobel Comis, Patricia Sullivan, Paul Schatzel, Howie Schilling. [Missing: Betty Bell]

The five Scholarship Award Winners who were in attendance were introduced to the audience:

Jayme Batcher, North Bellmore, NY\*  
 Valerie Anne Batcher, North Bellmore, NY\*  
 Christine Degenars, Montvale, NJ  
 Gabriella Gilmartin, Massapequa, NY  
 Katelyn Lesse, Syosset, NY

[\*As an interesting note, the Batcher sisters, who are triplets - not twins, are the first sisters simultaneously selected. Their third sister will be attending the Naval Academy at Annapolis.]

Each attending scholar provided a short biography and her hopes for her future, and expressed thanks to the Club for the award. Each scholar was presented with a personalized plaque honoring this achievement.



Award winners who were not able to attend are:

- Elizabeth Adkins\*\*, Columbia, SC
- Emily Benz, Nesconset, NY
- Justin Graff, Lexington, KY
- Gabriella Graziose, Locust Valley, NY
- Jeremy Zitomers, Golden Bridge, NY

\*\*Accepting on behalf of his Granddaughter, Elizabeth Adkins, was Nick Soley, who read an acceptance and thank you letter from Elizabeth.

Alternates are Amber Miller and Jesse Mutschler.

**[Editor's Note: For detailed Scholar high school and college information, see Page 3.]**

The \$2000 scholarships will be sent directly to the colleges being attended.

Congratulations to all the winners and also to all of the remaining applicants. You all are outstanding and should be proud of your achievements.

What would a Retiree meeting be without the prizes?

There were two "50/50 Mail - in Raffle" winners: Ralph Liccione, Cummings, GA, and Roland Winter, Melbourne, FL. Ralph and Roland each won \$250.

Scholarship 50/50: Nicholas Stratakis, for \$165.

Door Prize Winners were Alisa Batcher, Nick Bazzicalupo, Agnes Dick, Robert Kopack, John Wallace, Marguerite Burt, Doris Laturno, Peter Laturno, Edna Grudzinski, Norma Landin, Mary Anton, Dan Gray, Charles Farley, Robert Degenaars, Jack Diana, and Marion Abbott who donated her winnings back.

A portion of the proceeds from the Mail-In Raffle and the Scholarship 50/50 go to the Scholarship Fund and will be used for next year's scholarships.

Thanks to everyone who participated.

It was an enjoyable event for many reasons. We wish you all a happy summer and we will see you in September.

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**CALIFORNIA / Golden West**

No report of June activity.

No meetings in July and August

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**CALIFORNIA / San Diego**

The San Diego June luncheon was cancelled.

*Meeting Schedule:*

- 08/25 - lunch at 94<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron;
- 10/08 - picnic, Admiral Baker recreation facility
- 12/15 - our Christmas luncheon.

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**FLORIDA/ First Coast**

Twenty-nine members and a guest speaker attended our June 21 meeting. President Fred Bauer led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by an invocation recited by Chaplain Janet Cassford.

After our usual buffet luncheon, Fred opened the meeting with no new correspondence or sickness reports.

Bob Rathje reported our Treasury as solvent.

Fred thanked all the members who pitched in with cooking, grilling, supplies, and set-up/clean-up at the May picnic.

Since we had our spring picnic in May, Fred announced birthdays and anniversaries for two months:

May Birthdays - William Soldt, Bonnie Maguire, Kathleen Walsh, Karen McDonald, Steve Cacace, Barbara Gaillard, Roseanne Sendelback, Billy Newman, and Mary Gillespie.

May Anniversaries - Bill & Anne Wilke, Richard & Deborah Bier, and Tom & Corinne Foley.



June Birthdays - Steve Congro, Don and Mary Martin, Antoinette Polasky, Kathleen Hirschlein, Frank Fleming, Bob & Jinny Rathje, and Fred Sievers.

June Anniversaries - Don & Sandi Schroeder, Ralph & Lauren Davies, Chuck & Cynthia Osborne, Bill & Rhoda Lonnie, Robert & Myrna Fitzgerald, Steve & Eileen Cacace, and Bill & Gerri Newman

Our Guest speaker was Cecil Bateman who most of us know from the St. Augustine facility. Cecil still works and has been active as a financial planner. C.B. gave a good presentation of the importance of having a good plan and many other fine points. He will be retiring soon and is available to all those interested.

Our 50/50 drew five winners

Well, it's time to break for summer.

**Next Meeting: Sept 20**, at the New Century Buffet On US1 So, in St. Augustine.  
Oct 18: our fall picnic will be October 18. (When it cools down to 80 degrees) :-)

Have a safe and pleasant summer, be well, be happy.

God Bless America

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

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**FLORIDA / Manasota West**

**Manasota West Chapter is on Summer break.**

**Next Meeting: in October.** We meet at Matterson's Riverside Restaurant, in Bradenton, FL.

By: Nancy Winding (941-355-7888)  
nanwinding@comcast.net

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**FLORIDA / Mid-West**

**Florida/Mid-West Chapter is on Summer break.**

**Next Meeting: September 15**, 11:30AM, at Buffet City on Rte. 50, in Brooksville. Please mail your checks (payable to "Grumman Retiree Club") to Hank Mehl, 11059 Heathrow Ave., Spring Hill, FL 34609.

Please try to make our meetings, which are about good food, good friends, and good entertainment.

By: Joan Mehl, Sec'y. hmehl@tampabay.rr.com

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**FLORIDA / South West**

**Florida/South West Chapter is on Summer break.**

**Next Meeting: September 13**, at Noon, at the Golden Corral in Punta Gorda.

By: Tony Perre (239-731-7146) tara88@comcast.net

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**FLORIDA / Spacecoast**

Vice President Dan Postupack led 69 members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance to open our June 15 meeting at the Suntree Country Club. Past Sgt-at-Arms Ed Romano followed with one of his especially meaningful invocations.



The prime thrust of our meeting was to honor the two new recipients of scholarships awarded by our chapter. It was timely to review the history of our scholarship program, as it was just five years ago that we awarded our first \$500 scholarship. That year's winner, Caroline Wise, has now completed her undergraduate education (Cum Laude), has married, and is now seeking employment in our area. Caroline has a resume' that tells of her continued interest in both professional organizations and charitable community activities.

Our president saluted the promotional efforts of past president Peggy Graefe and former Scholarship Chairman Angela Romano for being the driving force in getting our program off the ground.

### Scholarship Awards

Our program has now grown, and now provides two students each year with \$500 grants for each of their four undergraduate years. **This year's winner of the general club scholarship, Jonathan Bayless, was in attendance**, with his father, to receive a plaque from Scholarship Chairman Bob Prais and to meet the members of our club. Besides his impeccable scholastic credentials in high school, Jonathan has an astounding record of community service, which won him the highest possible ratings from our Scholarship Committee. He will be majoring in Physics at prestigious Cal Tech, in California.

Bob reported that **the winner of the George Skurla scholarship, Brandon Baxter, was unable to attend this meeting** but is looking forward to being with us in September. Bob also reported that the Brevard School Foundation has agreed to assume the administrative task of forwarding sustaining funds to all our scholars with the appropriate school agencies.

While we must single out the generosity of Marie Skurla and the Bethpage Federal Credit Union for their major part in supporting this program, it is heartening to see the broad general support of our membership with anonymous contributions, large and small, that keep our chapter scholarship fund healthy.

Thanks to the on-time delivery of our Newsletter, the reading of the May minutes was dispensed with; they were approved as printed.

**Community Relations:** Chet Emery reported on the passing of Don Mandery. It was good to see Jim Leahy recovered and back at our meeting.

**Treasurer's Report** - Bill Waldron reported that both General and Scholarship accounts were in healthy condition.

**Travel:** Maureen Ayers was absent – travelling on a cruise of Chesapeake Bay.

**Historian Report:** George Graefe reported on a successful show at the Valiant Air Command over Memorial Day weekend. George may be in the middle of an inter-service conflict with two donors wanting to fund two different paint jobs for the F4F – one a Navy veteran, the other a Marine. Good Luck, George!

### Old Business:

- FIT Lobby – A key meeting was held with FIT staff regarding configuration and funding of the upgrading of the Skurla building lobby. Unfortunately, family illness kept Marie Skurla from attending. It was decided, however, that the downstairs lobby, the main entrance to the auditorium, would be dedicated to Grumman history with the historical mural on the West wall. The upstairs lobby will commemorate general aviation history. The school architect was instructed to come up with renderings of the lobbies to support publicity and funding efforts.

### Pension Plan:

- Bill Steenson reported that the quest to obtain a 2009 Pension Fund Annual Report had now reached an almost comedic turn. The Plan's agent, Hewitt Associates, informed us that all was cleared to send the report, originally requested February 1st, and - to insure no mis-understanding - had us FAX the cover sheets of the appropriate Schedules to their office in Orlando. The requested report would be delivered in 7-10 days.



Nine days later, we received by mail, from the Atlanta office, copies of the exact same prior years' sheets we had sent to Orlando. Following a phone call, the supervisor informed us that Northrop-Grumman was no longer supplying that information; we would have to get it from the Department of Labor, in Washington, DC.

Our letter to the Dept. of Labor went out this week.

**Employee Birthdays:** Bel Carter, Jerald Ernst, Louis Klein, Larry Pike, Thomas Feeney, Gene Burgess, Joseph Guttadauro, Franklin O'Brien, Arthur Hudson, Joseph Grusauskas, Charles Farrell, and Albert Gagliano

**Spouse Birthdays:**  
Claire Manley, Amy Ruiz, Angie Cheslack, Terry Harris, Jeanne Jacob, and Judy Felber

**Anniversaries:**  
Bill & Barbara Waldron, Heinz & Gloria Schreiber, Jim & Barbara Leahy, Stephen & Katherine Petrovits, Joseph & Janet Grusauskas, Richard & Susan Higbie, Pete & Barbara Gelpi, Richard & Angie Cheslack, and Richard & Marie Passarella

There were five 50/50 winners. The grand prize was won by Allan Dooley

**Next Meeting: September 21**, at the Suntree Country Club.

**We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Summer.**

By: Camille Steenson, Acting Secretary

**Meeting Schedule**  
No Meetings in July and August;  
9/21; 10/19; 11/16; 12/14

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**FLORIDA / Suncoast**

**Florida/ Suncoast Chapter is on Summer break.**

**Next Meeting: October 19**, at Noon, at King Buffet, Park Blvd. & 49<sup>th</sup> Street, Pinellas Park, FL.

After break schedule: 11/16; 12/21

By: Patricia E. Newark, Sec'y. [www.newarkjohn@rocketmail.com](mailto:www.newarkjohn@rocketmail.com)

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**FLORIDA / Treasure Coast**

The June 16 meeting of the Treasure Coast Chapter was held at Manero's Restaurant in Palm City, with 71 members and guests attending. President Nancy Schaefer led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge was followed by the invocation, which was given by Lawrence Regier, who reported the death of club member Robert Rispaud, and the passing of Wayne Hartzog, who worked in Stuart and was a friend to many of our members. Our condolences to their families and friends.

Lunch was either Beef Stroganoff or Bassa Picata (sic), both of which, I hear, were delicious.

Our "guest" speaker for June was none other than our own Bob Watkins. Bob opened his talk with remarks about the passing of Corky Meyer, who many knew personally and every one knew of. Bob had some wonderful things to say about his friend.

Then, with the final Space Shuttle flight launching this month, Bob felt that it would be a wonderful time to refresh our collective memory about the contributions made to the space program by Grumman. Peppering his talk with personal anecdotes, Bob took us all back to the very beginning, before man actually went into space, and then forward to the wings that we built for the space shuttle, with many stops along the way. It was a wonderful speech, everyone found out something that they had not known (or didn't remember), and we thank Bob for speaking.





Bob thanked all of the officers and others who make our meetings such a success and wished every one a wonderful summer.

President Schaefer announced the milestones: Anniversaries - 50th anniversary for Fred & Doreen Meyer (It was great to see Fred and Doreen!), and Bob & Irene Falkowski celebrated 56 years together. Birthdays - Malcolm Gerry, 80; Dick Terry, 90; Fred Petrushik, 86; and Pete Meier, 69.

We had two visitors: Jane Cenicola and Don Kingfield (hopefully, new members in September).

Club business includes two upcoming events: our picnic on November 3rd, (tickets will be available at the September meeting at \$13 per person); and an evening at the Lyric Theatre, event and date to be selected before our next meeting. The Lyric Theatre event benefits our scholarship fund and was a great success in January of this year.

Five lucky persons won our 50/50 \$5 bills and our raffle two prizes of homemade Cinnamon Raisin Bread generated \$70 for our scholarship fund.

With best wishes for a safe and pleasant summer, the meeting was adjourned.

**Next Meeting: September 15,** at Manero's Restaurant.

By: Nancy Schaefer (772-528-8169) for Raeann Wallace, raeann\_wallace@yahoo.com

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**GEORGIA / Peach Pit**

The June 21, 2011 pre-summer break Social meeting was cancelled.

Secretary Lew Iulucci was asked by President Wendell Barr to issue the following administrative notes:

(a) Belated May Happy Birthday wishes to: Tom Main [12th], Bob La Manna [13th], and Nick Scanipico [13th].

(b) June Happy Birthday wishes to: Lee Hicks [2nd], Ann Peterson [2nd], Jennifer McNeese [11th], Ann Baumgart [12th], Lille Kate Collins [16th], Marie Guida [25th], Jack Johnson [27th].

(c) June Anniversary congratulations to: Mario & Marie Guida [1st]; Ernie & Nancy Godbee [5th]; and Mary & Herman Archer [7th].

(d) July Happy Birthday wishes to: Virginia Klingener [11th]; Patsy Potter [13th]; Hans Borstell [13th]; Gloria Griffin [18th]; and Jerry Potter [22nd].

(e) No July Anniversaries to report.

(f) August Happy Birthday wishes to: Herman Archer [13th]; Marion Duspiva [16th]; and Pam McCabe [23rd].

(g) August Anniversary congratulations to: Vince & Jennifer McNeese [6th]; and Earl & Penny Seagle [26th].

No new sickness or illness to report.

In Memoriam: none reported.

**Community Service**

Community Service disbursements, per our Donation Plan:

- Scholastic donations to: Georgia Military College; on June 14 [Flag Day]; and Georgia College & State University, on July 4 [Independence Day].
- Philanthropic donation to the Cen/Med Foundation- Emergency Medical Services on August 29 [Katrina Day of Remembrance].

**There are no meetings in July and August.**

**Next Meeting: September 20, 12:30PM,** at the Golden Corral Restaurant; Milledgeville

The Officers wish our members an enjoyable and pleasant summer break.

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

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**Maryland**

Our June meeting was our First Regularly Scheduled Evening Meeting. Unfortunately, it was not a big success. Only five of our New Members attended. On the bright side, it was a start.

We plan to continue our Evening Meeting Program. As with anything new, we start off slow and strive to improve.

We will again put our Phone, Internet, and Newsletter contacts, to work.

**Next Meeting: July 19, 11:30AM, Golden Coral Restaurant, Pulaski Highway (Rt. U.S. 40), Aberdeen, Maryland.**

By: Rolfe Feser, Sec'y. Poppyro@verizon.net

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**New England North**

Our June 14th luncheon was held at the Inn at Long Trail, in Killington, VT. There were thirteen attendees. The Inn is known as Killington's "first and foremost Irish Pub!"

President Bill Egner led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Edie Clark led us in prayer.

The announcement of the passing of Don Williams, on June 12, was received with shock and sadness. Don was the seventh president of our chapter, in 1996-97, and he and his beloved wife Cindy have been active in all Chapter activities.

In his retirement, Don was a participant in many charitable organizations, such as the Kearsarge Council on Aging; New London, NH Historical Society; Meals on Wheels; and Habitat for Humanity. In lieu of flowers, the club has sent a contribution in his memory to the Kearsarge Council on Aging, per family preference.

**Next Luncheon: July 14th, at the Sirloin Saloon, in Rutland, VT. Plans for future luncheons are in process.**

By: Bill & Joan Wanner  
Joan.C.Wanner@comcast.net

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**NEW JERSEY / Garden State**

Our June 21, 2011 meeting was held at the Lakehurst Diner and was called to order by President Larsen at 1PM, with 17 members present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence for our sick and departed members and for our service men and women.

The Minutes of the previous meeting and the Treasurer's Report were accepted as read.

There were no birthdays in June and the only anniversary was for Les and Lorraine Grizlo who celebrated their 61st anniversary on June 4th.

**Sunshine Report:** Gloria Larsen sent letters to members Don Smith, Harry Adams, and Les Grizlo, who have been unable to attend the last several meetings. Gloria also told us that she has just recovered from pneumonia and her husband Al is recovering from the aches and pains of a recent fall as well as skin surgery. (When it rains it pours)

**Old Business** – None

**New Business** – President Larsen opened the floor to any member who would care to talk about a particular experience while working at Grumman. Ron Kerr told of an experience while working on the LM. The first lunar landing was scheduled to blast off in little more than a month when simulated flights in Plant 5 resulted in crash landings. The problem was determined to be a split pulse between the Landing Radar and the LM Guidance Computer (LGC). The pulses represented LM altitude from the lunar surface. The Computer was counting a split pulse as two separate pulses and incorrectly gauging the altitude. A conference call between Grumman and the MIT Instrumentation Lab in Cambridge, Mass. concluded that the fix would be a combined blocking oscillator and pulse generator package in tandem (in case one failed in flight). The resulting package would be called the LGC Repair Module.



Ron was called to the office by Bob Steel and was told that he was in charge of getting the Module built and installed ASAP.

“That same Friday morning, leaving my tuna fish sandwich in my desk, I was flying out of Republic Field with another engineer and a Grumman Pilot to Cambridge. Flying through cloudy skies, the pilot kept telling us to watch out for other planes! We returned to Grumman the next Tuesday with drawings of the repair circuit and a bag of electronic parts, each with a history of its pedigree. My desk neighbors were glad to see me get rid of the smelly tuna fish sandwich locked in my desk. The new module was assembled, stycast, and tested, and . . . burned out! We had no more pedigree parts so we had to buy ‘off the shelf’ parts from Lafayette Radio and burn them in for 100 hours without a failure in order to qualify them. All went well - the repair module was installed in the LM and Apollo 11 blasted off on time. That was the only mission that used the repair module. A software change corrected the problem in all the following missions.” President Larsen suggested that our club should meet in July and August instead of January and February. A vote was taken and approved without exception.

**Ways and Means** – Chairlady Gloria Larsen conducted the drawing. Winners were Ruth Geiszler, Peggy Knipper, Bill Staples, Carolyn Kerr, Karl Noor, Ann Kramer, Ruth Kirkwood, Walter Matuza, Carl Hein, John Zator, Ron Kerr, and Mickey Poland.

**Next Meeting: July 19**, at 1PM, at the Lakehurst Diner.

By: Carolyn Kerr, Sec’y. (732-244-4483)

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**NEW YORK / Eastern Long Island Chapter**

Thirty-three members and guests were welcomed by Prez Bert Moller to our June 15th picnic/meeting. Sgt-at-Arms Richie Myers led the Pledge of Allegiance and Prez Bert read a short prayer for our ill and departed members and for our service men and women.

After our “indoor picnic” lunch (hot dogs, burgers, salads, etc.), Prez Bert introduced Don Fisher, President of the Railroad Museum of Long Island, which is located in Greenport and Riverhead. The Museum is an all-volunteer operation with many a Grumman Retiree participating.

Don spoke of their many exhibits and restoration projects, including that of “ol’ engine 39”. He described the train ride from Riverhead to Greenport as being more scenic than the Strasburg (Pennsylvania) railroad trip.

Don and VP George Faeth invited all of us to visit and to volunteer! Contact the Museum (631-765-2757 or [www.rmli.org](http://www.rmli.org)). After a lively Q&A, the Club voted to contribute \$100 to the Museum.

VP Bob Albert read the minutes from our previous meeting. The motion to accept the minutes was seconded and approved.

Treasurer Marty Getzelman told several jokes (Where’s the Ship and Which Watermelon?!), then reported that Community Relations Rep. Bill Mytko returned our \$75 check for Community Relations’ expenses. Thanks, Bill!

Treasurer Marty also reported that our Club is still solvent!

Marty’s report was approved and accepted by the members.

Bill (aka “Billy Bob”) Mytko reported from “hot & humid” South Carolina that Ray Raynor’s wife, and Charles Fish’s brother James, and Byron (“Barney”) Terwilliger have passed away. Also, Art Bolomey underwent hip replacement surgery in Florida. Our condolences to all who have lost a loved one, and our “Get Well” wishes to all our ailing members. Contact Bill Mytko (1-864-225-4927 or [ermytko@yahoo.com](mailto:ermytko@yahoo.com)) concerning illnesses , deaths, etc.

Prez Bert asked members to list interests for future meetings - speakers, Medicaid, funeral planning, etc. He also relayed that many members of the Long Island Vets Home are Grummanites - try to visit them!



VP Bob read a letter from the “Vets Place” in Yaphank, thanking the Club for the food and clothing that was delivered by the Hamiltons in May. If you know of anyone who can use the help of the L.I. Vets Place, contact them at 631-924-8088 or [www.scuv.org](http://www.scuv.org) for more info.

Prez Bert encouraged all to go to the 25th Annual Bethpage Chapter Picnic (at Marjorie Post Park in Massapequa) on Sept 14 (see page 3 of the June Newsletter for details).

Bert then welcomed (again!) the “snowbirds”: Jewel Black, Terry Carver, Harry Carver, and George Faeth - and Don Fisher of the Railroad Museum of Long Island.

**Birthdays**

July - Bob Hodge & Chet Zelinski  
August - Bert Moller, Chas. Fish, and Harry Carver  
Sept - Vito Farinola

**Anniversaries**

Our lone Anniversary celebrants are Kay & Bob Albert, celebrating 54 years on Sept 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Congrats to all !!**

We had three 50/50 winners drawn, and Chuck Kennington contributed his winnings back to the Club (Chet Zelinski didn't win?! ) Thanx, Chuck! Again Marty smiled!

Thanx again to our “door people” Pauline & Roy - another job well done! I hope “Aunt Sissy & Meatball” keep up the good work!

**Next Meeting: Sept 21**, the Holiday Inn Express, Rte 58, Riverhead. [East of the Tanger Mall & Riverhead Raceway.] Lunch at Noon (\$14); meeting at 1PM. Contact Bob Albert (631-585-7987) by Monday of meeting week for reservations/ cancelations (needed for accurate lunch head count). If paid in advance, no need to call.

No meetings in July & August!

Remember: Independence Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>; Labor Day, Sept 5<sup>th</sup>; and Patriots Day, Sept 11! !

Have a happy and healthy Summer!

Future meetings: Wed. Oct 19<sup>th</sup> and Nov.16<sup>th</sup>

By Bob Albert

\*\*\*\*\*

**NORTH CAROLINA**  
**Eastern Carolina Chapter**

Our June meeting, the last meeting before the summer break, was held at the “Clamdigger,” in Pine Knoll Shores. Artie Miller was our Program Director. Forty members and guests attended on a beautiful Carolina day with the view of the Atlantic.

Artie thanked everyone for coming and handed out his usual trivia sheet about the early days of Grumman. Did you know that Leroy Grumman graduated from Huntington High School and was salutatorian of his class? The topic of Mr. Grumman’s speech was the airplane. Later, Mr. Grumman served his country in the Navy.

In the absence of Ken Gruebel, Artie led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

Artie announced the birthdays & anniversaries:

***Birthdays***

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 6/7 - Ken Wendell     | 6/18 - Joan Muench    |
| 6/23 - Bernie Kuntz   | 6/27- Walter Muench   |
| 6/30 - Barbara Betts  | 7/7- Paul Albers      |
| 7/9 - Dave Shannon    | 7/10 - June Schroder  |
| 7 /14 - Jan Hilbert   | 7/21 - Barbara Jacobs |
| 7/26 - Joe Dispinette | 7/27 - Joyce Leun     |
|                       | 7/28 - Bev Nicholson  |

***Anniversaries***

- 06/04 - Robert & Judy Glowacki [55 yrs];
- 06/04 - Walter & Marie Herrmann [55 yrs];
- 06/08 - Bill & Joan Williamsen [52 yrs];
- 06/25 - Larry & Bernie Byrd [51 yrs];
- 07/09 - Al & Dolores Brown [55 yrs];



07/21 - Ken & Yvonne Johnson [55 yrs];  
 07/23 - Joe & Roseann Dispinnette [67 yrs];  
 07/24 - Tom & June Schroder;  
 07/30 - Terry & Doris Walker [49 yrs].

(4) We were also sorry to read in the Retirement News that one of our members, Walter Schultz, passed away on 5/12.

All were long standing members of the club and will be greatly missed.

Tom Schroder entertained everyone with his usual array of jokes. He certainly enjoys telling those jokes since he laughs as much as we do.

Wes Johnson called the 50/50. Winners were Mary Paulik, Pat Johnson, Bob Lamberson, Mary Olstad, and Artie Miller. Jim Karika won the organ CD donated by Joe Mele.

President Bob thanked everyone for making his year as President a success and especially the officers who served with him. He wished all a great summer, good health, and safe home. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.

**Next Meeting: September 7**, at the Emerald Club, in New Bern.

By: Dottie Karika, Sec'y. dotjimk@aol.com  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**PENNSYLVANIA / Northeastern Pennsylvania**

Our June meeting was opened by President Chuck Dowd, at 12:20PM, with the salute to the flag. Chaplain Ed Sparkowski said Grace.

We had 13 people at this meeting and we welcomed Joseph & Gloria Renderio to the meeting. They were at Mount Airy Lodge and came to the meeting. It's a shame that, with a roster of 55 Members, we only get 11 to 15 out to a meeting. Contact anyone who does come and you will find out that you are missing a good time. If we could get more members out, we could plan a lot more activities.

Treasurer Fred Rademacher informed us that we are solvent.

Secretary Ed Sparkowski reported on the following:  
 (a) The new e-mail address for Bill Herling is: wkherling@gmail.com.

Artie turned the meeting over to President Bob Lamberson, who thanked Artie for the great job he's done all these years. Bob also had trivia questions from the 7/28/1969 Plane News. Most of the questions pertained to the Apollo 11 moon landing. It's amazing how our memories faded after 42 years. He had a few old Plane News and some newspapers that Ken Gruebel had given him.

Bob asked for a report from the Sunshine Committee. Dottie told members that a card was sent to Gail Ramcke; Evie Gruebel was ill; and Dick & Helen Guarino's son was in a serious accident. Cards will go out to Evie and to the Guarinos.

Bob gave the Treasurer's report in the absence of Fred Reynolds. Tom Schroder and Dottie Karika accepted the report as read.

Bob turned the meeting over to Wes Johnson, our faithful Nominating Committee Chairman. Wes happily announced that we have a full slate of officers. Bob introduced: President - Rudy Wiehl; Vice-President - Joe Mele; Treasurer - Fred Reynolds; Co-Secretaries - Dolores Brown & Dottie Karika; and Chaplain & Sergeant at Arms - Ken Gruebel.

Rudy said a few words, hoping everyone will work with him to make the 2011- 2012 year a success. He already has the September thru December volunteers:

- September Program Director - Joe Mele, at the Emerald Club in New Bern, on 9/7.
- October Program Director - Marty Olstad
- November - possibly a trip
- December Program Director - Artie Miller, at the "Clamdigger" on 12/13.

Dottie told members:

- (1) We will be saying farewell to Bobbie Fischer, who is moving to Pennsylvania.
- (2) Jean Galluzzo will be leaving for California the end of July.
- (3) Al VanEssendelf left for New York.



(b) Ed spoke to Claudia Stahley and informed her that the President of the Grumman Restoration club was trying to get in touch with her, because he and her father were very good friends.

(c) The Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal of a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the Pledge of Allegiance. This ended the seven year battle involving two separate cases, one in California and the other in New Hampshire.

Ed spoke about the ceramic firepots that use a jellylike fuel for burning. These pots have injured some people, especially a 14-year-old boy on Long Island. People are trying to refill these pots with the jell, thinking that the pots have gone out, when in actuality they are still burning. This is what causes the pots to explode. Sparky recommends that a pot cover, or a non-flammable cover, be placed over the pots first to extinguish the flame. Then, let the pots cool, before attempting to refill them. Trying to refill them when they are still hot or even warm is not a good thing to do.

Sergeant-at-Arms and Trips Chairman Charlie Teufert stated that the baseball game has been canceled this year due to lack of interest. Nothing else in the works at this time.

There was no Sickness report. All of our walking wounded were at the meeting. If anyone knows of a member, or any Grummanite, who is sick or in distress, let Sparky know so he can get the word out.

July Birthdays: Jane Belding, Charles Dowd, Andrew Goszack, Ed Hirsch, John Robb, Richard St. Denis, and Charlie Teufert.

July Anniversaries: Linda & Ron Algoni, Sharon & Ed Drydol, and Dan & Barbara Knowles.

The 50/50 was won by Carol Lee

**Next Meeting: July 21**, at Ehrhardt's Lakeside Restaurant again. Anyone needing directions, contact Sparky.

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

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## SOUTH CAROLINA / Coastal Carolinas

**Coastal Carolinas Chapter is on Summer break.**

### **Future Meetings**

- **09/07**, Noon, at Pat & Mikes Irish Pub, 1359 Highway 17, Calabash, NC.
- 10/05, Noon, Derbsters Dining & Sports Lounge, Hwy 17, Calabash, NC (diagonally across from what used to be Haleys)
- 11/02, Noon, at Friendlys Restaurant, 4705 North Kings Highway, Myrtle Beach.

We welcome all former Grumman, Northrop Grumman, and Northrop retirees and their guests.

By: Nancy Webber, Sec'y. (843-347-2113)  
nwebber90887@sc.rr.com

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## TEXAS / Houston

Our last Grumman retiree meeting was June 21, 2011 at the Clear Lake Park building on NASA#1Pk'y. This is the last meeting till September 20, 2011.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by our guest, Richard Sessions, Program Chairman for the EAA. The 50/50 was won by Bill Masone, who donated back to the Houston Chapter. What a group of members! Most winners donate the winnings back to the Chapter, as did Bill. Thank you, Bill.

For the next chapter year we have several guest speakers lined up: a retired Navy Commander, who flies WWII aircraft for shows and for hire (rides); perhaps an Astronaut; retired Continental Airline Pilot(s); a trip to the revised Millionaire FBO; and several interesting celebrities. I'll be looking forward to next Chapter season.

This year, the Hobby 1940 Air Terminal Museum is raffling, as a fundraiser, a 1957 Cessna model 172, with low-time engine hours, for \$50/ticket. Drawing to take place July 16, 2011.



**Tattered Wing Tips**

- ¢ Bette Specion (281-332-3961) - recovering from back surgery
- ¢ Joe Abbondola (281-232-3962) - still visiting doctors
- ¢ Billy Berglund (281-482-1857) - doing fine, cannot drive: doctor's orders
- ¢ Ed Denzler (281-485-2475) doing fine, still has a visiting nurse
- ¢ Joe Debonis (281-482-9284) - still in rehab near his Friendswood, TX Home
- ¢ Richard Keschinger (281-485-2074) - had a pacemaker installed
- ¢ Gary Mead (-281-508-5561) - has been in/out of three hospitals

**On the Move**

- ¢ Pauline Debonis back in Texas after selling their New York Home.
- ¢ Elinore Epstein is moving after a long stay in the Stella Link area
- ¢ We welcome New Member Ken Maloney to our chapter (281-280-8346)

Our guest speaker, Richard Sessions, Program Chairman of the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter(s) (EAA), enlightened us further after FAA Paul Downs introduced us to the association. EAA was established in the 1980's for persons wanting to build aircraft from kits, build their own designs, old vintage, WWII aircraft, and early 1930 models. The kits when built fly 200 - 300 mph and faster. They are constructed under FAA standards. The FAA regulates and governs pilots and builders with DAR and DER surveillance. The EAA also helps making flying affordable under a recreational pilot certificate, which authorizes you to apply using your automobile driver's license (check with your local FAA office for details). The recreational pilot can only fly in daylight hours and under 10,000 feet msl.

The EAA meets this July, in Oshkosh, WI, where thousands of aircraft gather from all over the USA and countries throughout the world. Mixed in with the experimental home built aircraft will be a Boeing 787, the 747-8 and the Air Bus A320.

Richard set up a slide show of the EAA gathering from years past of the Oshkosh Pioneer Museum. The EAA has a magazine, which is issued five

times a year to its members. They also conduct workshops on building, painting, fabric, welding, etc. and encourage members' families, friends, and spouses to attend.

This has been one great and educational year for our chapter. Next year we hope to continue with our friends in the aircraft industry.

**Next Meeting: Sept 20;** details will be announced in the September issue.

Have a wonderful and safe summer. We will keep in touch with you.

Thank you.

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

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**VIRGINIA / CENTRAL VIRGINIA**

Members enjoyed the potluck luncheon meeting held at the Monticello Fire/Rescue facility on June 8th. As usual, the Chapter ladies brought their delicious specialties.

We opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer given by Marjorie Meiners. Frank Purstell presented the Treasury status.

Recommendations were made for our Fall, 2011, meeting places.

**Next Meeting: Sept 7, 12:30PM.** Picnic meeting at the Barbeque Exchange in Gordonsville.

The October 5th meeting will be at Sabans, in Charlottesville, at 12:30 PM.

There will be no meetings during July and August.

\*\*\*\*\*

**VIRGINIA / POTOMAC**

No report of activity



## Nostalgia

### How Many Remember?

I cannot give you dates of these happenings because, at 90 years of age, they slip my mind.

First of all, there was only Plant 1; the only fighter under construction was the F4F.

Gas rationing was in effect; not enough gas to drive 20 miles to work, so you had to car pool.

You arrived at the Plant 1 gate; everyone had to get out of the car, hood open, all doors open, and trunk open. If you had a lunch box, that had to be opened, also.

The gate opens and you drive in. I almost forgot, outside there were several UNION members handing out fliers trying to get men to vote the union in. Needless to say, it never came to a vote.

Enter the door to Plant 1, open the lunch box again.

Big memory! Christmas: On the final assembly floor stood Leroy Grumman; next in line was Jake Swirbul. Third in line was the man who handed out the turkeys.

Leroy Grumman shook your hand; then Jake Swirbul shook your hand. No frozen turkeys back then. You were handed a brown paper bag. You grabbed it by the top. Not only did you have the bag, but you had the turkey by the neck (head removed).

Then they built Plant 2. All of us assembly people were given a choice: go to Plant 2 or go to Port Washington (Plant 15). Grumman had taken over the old Pan American hanger on the water in Port Washington. We were building TBF wings. Grumman set a monthly quota. The first I remember was 30 a month. If we made the quota, there was a party at a local restaurant, with all the food and beer you wanted. Needless to say, we ALWAYS made the quota, and making that quota meant a bonus check reward.

We also received the Navy E for excellence from the government each time we made the quota.

Then, my friends and neighbors picked me for the Service. I joined the Navy in April; the following Christmas, in the mail, I received the Christmas Bonus. Can't beat that!

It was a Great Company to work for.

Bud Clark Badge #2318  
2568 Lincoln Hill Rd.  
Shrewsbury, VT 05738



### In Memoriam

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

<b>Altman, Joseph J., Jr.</b>	<b>Port Charlotte, FL</b>	<b>04/16/11</b>
<b>Cain, Marion B.</b>	<b>Largo, FL</b>	<b>04/24/11</b>
<b>Desolms, Doris V.</b>	<b>Sarasota, FL</b>	<b>04/16/11</b>
<b>Donovan, Richard</b>	<b>Wading River, NY</b>	<b>06/18/11</b>
<b>Dorn, John R.</b>	<b>Clover, SC</b>	<b>02/02/11</b>
<b>Haberski, Albert S.</b>	<b>New Port Richie, FL</b>	<b>03/31/11</b>
<b>Janes, Everett</b>	<b>East Rockawy, NY</b>	<b>06/20/11</b>
<b>Johnston, John F.</b>	<b>Huntington, NY</b>	<b>05/26/11</b>
<b>Mandery, Donald H.</b>	<b>Melbourne, FL</b>	<b>05/23/11</b>
<b>McCalla, Erwin S.</b>	<b>Monkton, MD</b>	<b>02/21/11</b>
<b>McNally, Edward A., Sr.</b>	<b>Farmingdale, NY</b>	<b>06/10/11</b>
<b>Meyer, Corwin H. "Corky"</b>	<b>Naples, FL</b>	<b>06/01/11</b>
<b>Pozsonyi, Zoltan A. "Zoli"</b>	<b>Levittown, NY</b>	<b>06/02/11</b>
<b>Rispaud, Robert</b>	<b>Stuart, FL</b>	<b>05/21/11</b>
<b>Ripp, Rita Marie</b>	<b>North Babylon, NY</b>	<b>06/06/11</b>
<b>Ruggiero, Pasquale "Patsy"</b>	<b>Kings Park, NY</b>	<b>05/20/11</b>
<b>Stahley, Charles W.</b>	<b>Souderton, PA</b>	<b>04/25/11</b>
<b>Westervelt, Ed</b>	<b>Spofford, NH</b>	<b>02/08/11</b>

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.

The Retiree Club Directors and Officers  
wish all members  
a Happy, Healthy, Safe, and Sun - Burn Free  
Summer!

See You in September

**There will not be an August issue of the Retiree Club Newsletter**



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**Newsletter**

Editor: Neil Klaskin  
 Nostalgia Coordinator: Charles Mooney

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