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# rupanews



Journal of the Retired United Pilots Association



Images from Air Force Image Gallery have been modified and can be found at Planes of World War II.

## IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message  
Notices  
About the Cover

Page 3  
Page 3-13  
Page 4

Letters  
In Memoriam  
Calendar

Page 14-29  
Page 30  
Page 32

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**If you move or are a "Snowbird"**, Please be sure to arrange Post Office mail forwarding. The P.O. will only forwards the "NEWS" for 60 days, so let us know, too.

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*Do not send money to me, just letters please*

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I'm on the road and have been since the SFO RUPA Picnic on the first Thursday of August and will be for the rest of the month. We left immediately following the picnic to drive to Washington, D.C. to attend a Marine helicopter pilot/crew reunion. Fortunately the weather in Washington was very pleasant. What I want to convey to you is that if you or anyone you know served in Vietnam and are having health problems of any type, they should go to the Veterans Administration and see if their particular condition could be attributed to Agent Orange. Several people I talked to had been awarded various percentages of disability. I don't think there was any pension involved, but the disability rating could help at tax time. It cost nothing to find out.

The electronic delivery of the *RUPANEWS* is still being discussed. I want to assure all of you that there will be no change in your receiving the *RUPANEWS* monthly, in printed form, and delivered by the post office. The only people who would receive the *RUPANEWS* electronically are those who specifically request it.

One final reminder, starting the first of September, the RUPA dues are \$35.00 a year.

I hope your summer has been as good, or better, than ours.

*Larry*

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## EDITOR NOTE

We have about 45 signed-up for the E-RUPA list, those willing to join our Google Group for testing the Email delivery and communications board. I'll be experimenting with the Google software and restrictions to see if it will work for what we need. If you want to join us, send me an email or visit the Group site, and request to Join. There should be a link there: <http://groups.google.com/group/rupaneWS>

*Denis*

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## RUPA EMAIL USE

The email address [rupa.sectr@yahoo.com](mailto:rupa.sectr@yahoo.com) was opened to serve the RUPA membership with a dedicated "line" to the OFFICE of the Sec/T. It is for the abundance of daily RUPA Sec/T business emails. There have been far too many "Mass Trash" emails with open TO: address lists. Thus, our address is being spread across the internet, resulting in an exponential increase of "mass emails" and spam. The RUPA email address is rapidly become unusable. Service to you and your fellow members suffers. Please delete the RUPA address from any mass emails you may plan on sending.

I do respect your right to "free speech" via the internet. Please respect my right not to "listen" any longer.

It is disappointing and annoying to find the sender of a "snailmail" PC-generated annual letter has an email address, and COULD have sent it directly to [rupadup@gmail.com](mailto:rupadup@gmail.com), the *RUPANEWS* editor. Letters mistakenly emailed to me will immediately be forwarded to Denis. Those PC generated, hard copy letters, requiring transcription or other work to make them useable in our magazine now go right to the bottom of the pile and remain there until I have nothing more *interesting* to do. That includes my personal "stuff"; I don't do all-nighters any more. Sorry, *BruceM*, Sec/T

<p align="center"><b>United Airlines Historical Foundation</b></p>
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<p align="center">Send donated artifacts to: United Airlines Flight Center Mail Room, Attn: Tom Angelos 7401 Martin Luther King Blvd., Denver CO 80207 Phone 303-780-5537</p>
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## CHICAGO AREA LUNCH

On July 2, 2008 our Chicago RUPA group met at the *Wellington* restaurant in Arlington Heights for our Quarterly lunch. We had a good turn out of 41 people on a beautiful day. Milt Jensen did his usual fine performance as MC. Bernie Sterner gave a report on the schedule of the 950 pilot furloughs and the grounding of 100 airplanes. A guest, Barb Hanson, gave an up to date report on the UAL Historical Found. Those in attendance were: Don and Joan Anderson, Pat and Helen Bosse, Al Cicora, Vern Cummins, Bert Depner, Don Diedrick, Dale Dopkins, Price Downey, Don Fett, Phil and Helen Fisher, Barb Hanson, Buck Hilbert and Flo Talbert, Fred Hodge, Ed and Geri Hoffman, Milt and Ina Jensen, Denny and Sheri Keast, Karol Marsh, Jim and Jan Noble, Dick and Frances Schultz, Bud and Jerilyn Solberg, Chuck Spaniol, Bernie and Rachel Sterner, Ed and Lorene Stickels, Sid Tieman, Don and Mary Toeppen, Bill Turner and Tom and Bev Workinger. *Bernie Sterner*

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## DANA POINT RUPA LUNCH

Things are getting formal at the *Wind and Sea*...or at least they asked us early birds to wait while they set the tables to accommodate us. They have a new area with cushions as you enter that makes a wonderful place to sit. Turns out this is their new smoking area. Even had a fire pit. Thinking ahead to winter! Good view of the harbor boats and walkers on the breakwater. All still outdoors. This area also makes a good place to linger after our extended lunch.

On deck were; Park Ames, Carlos Bernard, Bruce Dunkle, Bob Fuhrmann, Pete Hansen, Jack Healy, Rick Hoefer, Ed Judd, Bob McGowan, Jerry Meyer, Bill Meyer, Bill Rollins, Glenn Schwarz, Ted Simmons, Bill Stewart, Joe Udovch, George Webster.

Bob McGowan had his new iPhone 3G. He showed us how he could pin point where we sat from, 21 miles above and then hone in from the satellite with a clear picture of the Deck and the blue umbrellas. It really looked like something a pilot should have. Even showed a large mug of beer that when you tipped it up the beer in the glass went down. Oh yes you can use it as a phone and connect to the internet.

Well I hear its Hats off to the Working pilots. Seems that they are going to remain hatless until Tilton leaves! A Protest. They are unhappy with management...really unhappy. Now that sounds familiar! "Glenn Gotta Go" is the motto.

There is now a website for our loyal customers to post their comments and share their experiences: [www.GlennTilton.com](http://www.GlennTilton.com).

Life isn't about how to survive the storm...but how to dance in the rain!

Next meeting Sept 16<sup>th</sup> , *Ted*

### ABOUT THE COVER

The **P-38 Lightning** was used extensively as a long-range escort fighter and saw action in practically every major combat area of the world. A very versatile aircraft, the Lightning was also used for dive bombing, level bombing, ground strafing and photo reconnaissance missions. The P-38 was the first purely military aircraft that Lockheed produced.

In 1943, sixteen P-38s flew over 500 miles from their base on Guadalcanal to intercept and shoot down the plane carrying Japanese Admiral Yamamoto.

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## DEN 'GOOD OL' BOYS' AUGUST RUPA LUNCH

The August meeting of Denver Good ol' Boys occurred on a delightful day and 30 of the faithful made muster. Several were late in arriving and consequently didn't take full advantage of the happy hour, however this scribe didn't notice that any were worse for the occasion. The bell sounded at somewhere near noon, and the line was already formed at the buffet. Things went smoothly, however, and no complaints were recorded.

George Benkendorf started the boring business meeting off with a good joke and the coordinator followed with one he lifted off the internet about three nuns at a baseball game.

There were no new reports of infirmities, or final flights west, and almost nothing to report otherwise. Someone (the scribe neglected to record the identity) opened discussion about the 'new' BP-6A passes which will be forthcoming shortly. There has been a dearth of information regarding these. The coordinator noted that the BC/BS medical cards should be used to meet the requirements to show your prescription drug I.D. card when procuring prescription drugs at a pharmacy. (Medco requirement)

Ray Bowman brought in several 'carousel' type slide trays, which he no longer needs, having downloaded all his slides onto his computer, he'd like for them to have a good new home.

Business having been concluded, the meeting adjourned at a respectable hour.

Those in attendance included: Mack Connelley, Bill Hanson, Bob Sannwald, Curley Baker, George Benkendorf, Larry Walters, Dave Murtha, Maury Mahoney, Ed Riehl, Hugh Moore, Al Dorsey, Hank Heintz, Ray Bowman, A.J. Hartzler, Chiff Lawson, Jack Davis, Ken Ewing, Dick Bennett, Bill Bates, Jack Turner, Bill Fife, Duane Searle, Dick Shipman, Bob Crowell, Rick Bebee, John Allen, Jim Reid, Russ Ward, Charles Fellows, and the coordinator,

*Ted Wilkinson*

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## LAX SOUTH BAY LUNCH

Small group today. The closure of the Pacific Coast Highway kept Trudy Buck and Norm Marchment away. Those attending were Shirley and Jack Hanson, Fred Oldham, Dick McKay, Loyd Kenworthy, Arvie von Nordenflycht, Chuck Raphael, Walt Albright and me.

Best wishes, *Ret May*

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## MONTEREY PENINSULA AREA: IT'S TIME!

For those of us RUPA members who live around the Monterey Peninsula area – it's time to get together for lunch!

Let's try for Monday September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30 at the *Golden Tee* Restaurant in the terminal at Monterey Peninsula Airport (MRV). The restaurant has beautiful views of Monterey Bay, Santa Cruz, and, of course, the airport! The food is good and the staff is great! There is validated parking in the "Short Term" parking lot just east of the terminal building – can't miss it!

RSVP - call (831) 622-7747 and leave a message or email: one747czi@redshift.com. Please include your name, phone number, and your passenger count!

*Phyllis Cleveland* – Retired 02/2007 - SFOFO

### ***Where are you, ROUDET H LOFTIN?***

I posted your renewal check in July 2008. The address we have in our database for you has not worked. Letters and RUPANEWS are returned with no forwarding address. HELP!! *BruceM*

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## HOSPITAL INFECTIONS: PREVENTABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE

By BETSY MCCAUGHEY  
August 14, 2008; Page A11

On July 30, a jury awarded over \$2.5 million to James Klotz and his wife Mary in a medical malpractice lawsuit against a heart surgeon, his group practice and St. Anthony's Medical Center in St. Louis, Mo. In 2004 Mr. Klotz, now 69, was rushed to the hospital with a heart attack and a pacemaker was surgically implanted. He developed a drug-resistant staph infection called methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). It was so severe that he underwent 15 additional operations, spent 84 days in the hospital and lost his right leg, part of his left foot, a kidney and most of his hearing.

This verdict should send a warning to physicians, hospitals and hospital board members. Until recently, infection was considered an unavoidable risk. But now there is proof that nearly all hospital infections are avoidable when doctors and staff clean their hands and rigorously practice proper hygiene and other preventive measures.

Hospital infections will cause the next wave of class-action lawsuits, bigger than the litigation over asbestos. The germ that Mr. Klotz contracted, hospital-acquired MRSA, infects about 880,000 patients a year and accounts for only 8% of all hospital infections. Hospital infections caused by all kinds of bacteria sicken millions.

The Klotz verdict is not the first sign that hospitals are in a new legal environment. In 2004, Tenet Healthcare Corporation agreed to pay \$31 million to settle 106 lawsuits by patients who contracted infections after heart surgery at Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center in Florida. Since then, numerous lawsuits have been filed against hospitals in Florida, Kentucky and elsewhere by infected patients. Hospitals being sued are saying that their infection rates are within national norms. But for most infections, the only acceptable rate is zero.

Medicare calls certain device-related bloodstream infections, urinary tract infections and surgical infections after orthopedic and heart surgery "never events." Starting in October, Medicare will stop reimbursing hospitals for treatment of these infections. Hospitals will be barred from billing patients for what Medicare doesn't pay, forcing them to take a loss. Next year Medicare will add other types of infections to the list of "never events."

The evidence justifying Medicare's new policy is compelling. Central line bloodstream infections, caused by the contamination of certain devices, are preventable. Hospital patients in intensive care are commonly medicated through a tube inserted into a vein. The risk is that bacteria will invade the tube and enter the bloodstream. Rigorous hygiene, including clean hands, sterile drapes, and careful cleaning of the insertion site with chlorhexidine soap, can keep bacteria away from the tube.

Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City reports that it hasn't had a central line bloodstream infection in the cardiac intensive care unit in over 1,000 days. Dr. Brian Koll, chief of infection control there, explains that the key is using a checklist that doctors and nurses must follow. Implementing the checklist cost \$30,000 and saved \$1.5 million in treatment costs. Lives saved: priceless.

Other hospitals -- from Johns Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore to Sutter Roseville Medical Center in Sacramento -- have reached the goal of zero central line bloodstream infections. No wonder Medicare calls these infections "never events." Why should jurors reach a different conclusion in a lawsuit?

We have the knowledge to prevent infections. What has been lacking is the will. A recent survey from the patient-safety organization Leapfrog found that 87% of hospitals fail to consistently practice infection prevention measures. Insurance companies that sell liability coverage to hospitals could change that by offering lower premiums to hospitals that rigorously follow infection-prevention protocols.

To be sure, lawsuits are not the best way to improve patient care. Many verdicts are unjustified, and few truly injured patients find a lawyer to take their case. Still, the coming wave of lawsuits, as well as financial incentives from Medicare and insurers, will fight complacency about hospital hygiene.

Ms. McCaughey, a former lieutenant governor of New York State, is chairman of the Committee to Reduce Infection Deaths.

WALL ST JOURNAL ONLINE 8/14/08

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## OHIO NORTH COASTERS - AUG. 21, 2008

We had a surprisingly large turnout for our luncheon at *TJ's* in Wooster today. The weather was so very nice we thought some of our golfing members would be on the links, but many showed up. Dick Saunders flew in with Al Cavallaro acting as co-pilot and me as chauffeur!! The usual flying stories were told and we received an update on the TWA 800 hearings (long delayed, perhaps the Feds are waiting hoping Ray Lahr will pass away before they have to come clean!) Dick Orr supplied the report and was acting as Head Honcho for the vacationing (cruising?) Rich McMakin. Seemed like old times with Dick at the head table trying to keep some kind of order. We were very surprised that our monthly joke teller, Ken Wheeler said he had no new ones to tell! But then his jokes are hardly ever new!! The usual good time was had by all and those having fun were: George Bleyle, Al Cavallaro, Bill Dilzell, Dick Saunders, Harv & Pat Morris, William Christe (rtd.), Jim Burrill, Dick Orr, Don Karaiskos, Joe Getz, Ken Wheeler and your scribe,

*Ed Griffith*

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## ONO NENES

Only six of us could find the time to meet this past Thursday the 31st. As usual the *E & O Trading Company* provided marvelous food. Those in attendance were Adele & Dave Crooks, Yasuko & Yuz Morita, and Corky & Jim Sorensen.

Next month the Beckers, our sponsors for Mid Pac, will still be out of town. We'll compensate with somewhere else on the south side.

Aloha and ho'omaluhia, *Jim*

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## SAN DIEGO RUPA LUNCHEON

First time attendee Don Kyle and wife Ann. Bill Paulsen Pete Moyer and friend Ellen. I did not attend so do not know what was discussed But I can imagine. Sorry I missed Don and Ann especially since I heard you picked up the check. *Bob Bowman*

## THANKS FOR THE "EXTRA"

The following have added a "Little Extra" to their dues, (in some cases a lot and a couple of AWESOME amounts!!) received from July 24 thru August 20, 2008:

James Arnold, Eleanor Ashley, John Baker, Delmar Bastian, Elizabeth Beaulaurier, Van Blake, Gerry Blacklock, Henry Brunjes, Duane Bucksath, Bob Burkel, Carl Bye, Mike Carlin, Stuart Carlson, Bill Cary, John Cerisano, Gerald Chatham, Jerry Cornwell, Walter Crawford Jr., Barry Davidson, George Dobison, Kent Draper, Wayne Erb, Kenneth Ernst, Barbara Everson, Brad Fleming Jr., Harold Flinchum, Vic Fox, Max Friebel, Peter Gallant, Wayne Gate, Joe Gerken, Gary Gore, Edward Gorman, Leland Gould, Clay Grant, Robert Gruber, Jim Handshaw, Phred Hayes, Wilford Hartman, Nicholas Hinch, Fred Hodge, Poss Horton, Albert Jarrett, Garet Jenkins, Lionel Johnson, Robert F. Jones, TH Pete Jones, Sheldon Joyce, Skip La Roque, William Lawrence, Bill Lindfors, Harry Lloyd Jr., Woody Lynn, George Mathes, Clay McFarland, Mary Ann McGarry, Gleason McMichael, Ken Miller, Richard Mitchell, Pat Murphy, William Nielsen, William Northup, Sam O'Daniel, James O'Donnell, Donna Paulsen, James Razmus, John Reed, Ken Richard, Jim Rigsbee, Rick Robbers, Natalie Smith, Joseph Swenson, Robert W. Turner, David Westlake, Dick Wilson, *BruceM*

**\$35.00**

As announced in The President's Message in the August 2008, issue, with reluctance and regret the RUPA annual dues have been increased to \$35.00 per year, effective immediately. Please check your renewal date on the mailing label of your Post Office delivery *RUPANEWS*. If you are sending a renewal for 2 years or more, PLEASE note that on the memo line of your check. Make your checks out to "RUPA", please. Mail to:

RUPA  
PO BOX 275  
HALF MOON BAY, CA 94019-0275

Annual Dues  
now:  
**\$35.<sup>00</sup>**

### **SFO NORTH BAY LUNCHEON**

The North Bay RUPA group lunch was held..on the first Wednesday..August 6th, at the *Petaluma Sheraton's Tolay Room*..Larry Whyman introduced his guest, and old friend, Gerald Ballard, and a first-timer, Jules Lepkowsky was also introduced, and welcomed! Greetings to the group from call-ins, unable to attend were relayed, and a thankfully brief sick-call/obit review was held. There had been a few complaints about the acoustics in the open room..some unable to hear the speakers over the conversations, so a device that makes a large metallic clicking sound was tested as method of getting everyone's attention, and seemed to work quite well. A number of late news items re uaua were reported on, and several articles regarding operational incidents were passed around, and on the display board. News of the recent court action by uaua v ALPA, changes in sick leave, new mgt techniques, and BP6-A, were discussed. The possibility of uaua canceling about 49 Airbus orders, and losing a large deposit, was the latest item in the news. Our Health and Welfare Chairman, George Hise, reported on PSA testing for those over 75 no longer being recommended by some physicians. A mention of taking Bilberry pills for improving eye health was also commented on.

Several attending allowed as to how happy they were to be retired!!

Attending: Bill Greene, Ken Corbin, Bill Smith, George and Pat Hise, Bill McGuire, Bob Grammar, Jim Mansfield, Dick Hanna, John Baczynski, Gerald Ballard, Larry Whyman, Dick Smith, Leon Scarbrough, Al and Linda Fink, Jules Lepkowsky, Norm DeBack, Rick Saber (Norton 1), Deke Holman, Gardner Bride, Dick Lammerding, *Bob and Doris Donegan*.

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### **THE WIDOW**

Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked,  
'How old was your husband?' '98,' she replied.  
'Two years older than me'  
'So you're 96,' the undertaker commented.  
She responded, 'Hardly worth going home, is it?'

## RUPA MEXICAN RIVIERA/SEA OF CORTEZ CRUISE

**Date of Cruis: October 12, 2008**

Holland America has decided to run the cruise in the reverse order than was first published. Instead of sailing to Puerto Vallarta for the first stop, the ship will now stop at Cabo San Lucas first, and Puerto Vallarta will now be the last stop. Also taxes have been increased slightly to \$129.35. The tax increase will only pertain to new bookings. Due to the rising cost of fuel, there will be a \$9.00 pp per day surcharge applied to all new bookings. All cruise lines have added this surcharge effective the first of the year.

The 2008 RUPA cruise is planned as a 10 day trip from San Diego to the Mexican Riviera and back to San Diego.

Verandah cabins are very scarce if any are left at this time.

Check back issues of the *RUPANEWS* for details if you are interested in going on this cruise. Following is a list of RUPA members who have signed up for this cruise:

Wally & Marjorie Amling	Joe & June Hall	Kent & Chris O'Brien
Hugh & Jo Berry	Nate & Elenor Hall	Sharon & Jerry Poulin
Rich & Georgia Bouska	Sunee Jines	Patti Robinson & Sally Haake
Ken & Shirley Corbin	Howie & Patricia Jundt	Barbara Thompson
Gil & Patricia Coshland	Marlin & Mary Kalpin	Jim & Frances Trierweiler
Joe & Barbara Collins	Edward & Lynda King	Richard & Frances Shultz
Bob & Muriel Clark	Ed & Pat Manning	Lynn & Linda Smith
Jack & Angelina Davis	Bill Marsh	Jim & Lula Staib
Jim & Nan Day	Susan Miller	FB Steve & Shirley Stephenson
Ken Ewing & Kathleen Brendlinger	Laurie Nicola	Lloyd Whitlow & Donna Koepf
Jim & Yvonne Glendenning	Ofelia Nickel	Edward & Rachel Wallof
Ed & Corrine Greer	James & Theresa Nist	

Submitted by *Rich Bouska*

## NIGHTMARE

In it was the FAA, crew scheduling, bad schedules, bad management, self-serving union, unserviceable aircraft equipment, changing weather, freezing rain, no extra holding fuel, ever-changing procedures, endless flight manual revisions, dead heading in the middle seat, broken and lost luggage, nasty passenger agents, crabby old flight attendants, all-nighters, foreign countries, sleep deprivation, mergers, seniority squabbles, company threats, freezing rain, food poisoning, no food, bad coffee, bidding, pulled away from my family for weeks at a time, fleabag hotels, early get-ups, late cabs and maniac cab drivers, bidding vacation, waiting for gates, weather, freezing rain, low visibility approaches, aircraft de-icing, PCs, Gestapo check airman, medicals, commuting to and from work in unspeakable weather, freezing rain, the parking lot from Hell, parking lot buses, inter-terminal busses, spring break, Christmas rush, Easter rush, PA announcements, insurance, drug and alcohol testing, noise violations, customs lineups, dry cleaning, terrorism, security passes, rude (dumb as dirt) security personnel, high gas/oil prices, pay cuts, rush hour traffic, freezing rain, that infernal alarm clock, crash pads, catching cold away from home, lackadaisical crew members, sexual harassment threats, flight attendants and co-pilots implying that they are a gift to aviation after being there **three years**, back biting, gossip, cell phones, aircraft cram courses, plus laying my job on the line several times a year with simulators, endless procedural memorization and Annual Recurrent Training days ... did I mention freezing rain?

Then I woke up..... and joyously found myself still retired!

Whew!!!

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## REMEMBERING THE BEN

The once popular UAL layover Hotel, The Benjamin Franklin, in San Mateo has undergone a remodeling and is about to be reopened. Many of you will remember how well you were treated by Mr. Irwin Best and the staff.

They are looking for photographs and/or stories that capture your memories of the historic Hotel. Please submit any photos and/or stories that you wish to share about the "good old days" of the Ben. Those selected will be displayed throughout the new Hotel Benjamin Franklin opening this Fall.

Please submit your photos and/or stories to:

Renée Roberts (public relations)

Hotel Benjamin Franklin

44 E. Third Avenue

San Mateo, CA 94401

Tel. 650-652-9939 FAX 650-652-9909

E-mail [reenerobertsinc@aol.com](mailto:reenerobertsinc@aol.com)

Stephen Haag

Haag Digital Photography

60 E. Third Avenue Suite 130

San Mateo, CA 94401

Tel. 650-344-4224

Photo Return: All photographs will be handled with care and returned to you. Photos used in the gallery will be professionally duplicated and originals returned. For questions please email: [remember@thehotelben.com](mailto:remember@thehotelben.com).

### AIR FORCE CLASS 59-G-----ATTEN-HUT!!!!

NOW LISTEN UP!! Coach HARDY will be watching from PILOT HEAVEN for all those who don't make the **CLASS 59 Reunion**, October 8-12 at Wright-Patt AFB while we ingest all that "poison" that he wrung out of us at PT on Monday mornings-----remember????

The reunion will be ALL INCLUSIVE-----all classes during the year of 1959---Class 59-A thru 59-H.

There is a web site to go to for all the info that is out thus far. The site is: [www.class59-d.org](http://www.class59-d.org)

The site will give you 1. A newsletter from 59-d about the reunion and 2. A registration form that you will print out and send in if you plan to attend.

If you have any friends that may have been in ANY class during 1959 please pass this information on to them. It's a herculean task to organize a class reunion for just one class (like 59-G from all bases) let alone all classes for the whole year. Someone else is doing all the "grunt/leg work" and all I'm trying to do is pass the information on in an organized manner. If you decide to attend, let me know and I'll pass the attendees on to all the class members.

For those of you who haven't been to the Wright-Patt Air Museum recently, you have a real treat in store as the Museum is One -of -a kind for all the kinds of aircraft that we were around while we served in the Air Force.

I only have a few e-mail addresses for our class. If you know of anyone who is NOT on the list, please make it known to me via e-mail. *Paul Schueler* [peschueler@hotmail.com](mailto:peschueler@hotmail.com)

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## SEA GOONEYBIRDS JULY LUNCHEON

July 17th

There were 15 Gooney Birds at the *Seattle Marriott* for lunch on a very nice summer day. Bill Brett was out of town to tell the traditional story so our blonde server filled in with a blonde/aviation joke. She may replace Bill! Present were: Don Anderson, Keith Blue, Ray Dapp, Vince Evans, Dave Gardner, Ray Hanson, Ray Hull, Dan Jessup, Neil Johnson, Herb Marks, Gerry Pryde, Fred Sindlinger, Bill Stoneman, and Al Teel.

Submitted by *Chuck Westpfahl*.

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## SEA GOONEY BIRDS AUGUST LUNCHEON

The Seattle Gooney Birds gathered for lunch and conversation on a rainy, windy day more like Spring than August. The lunch was excellent as usual and the conversation lively. We welcomed a new member to our group, Bruce Miller, and also Jerry Ackerman was welcomed back after some months' absence. Jerry's wife, Suzann, recently retired as a flight attendant after 38 years. Congratulations to Suzann! John Bley told a couple of good baseball jokes and yours truly told a Dumb Blonde Joke to end the frivolity. In attendance: Herb Marks, John Bley, Chuck Westpfahl, Bill Stoneman, Neil Johnson, Tom Smith, Jim Barber, Gerry Pryde, Fred Sindlinger, Ray Hanson, Ken Case, Dick Anderson, Herb Breivik, Bruce Miller, Jerry Ackerman, and *Bill Brett*.

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## PRESIDENT TRUMAN

When President Truman retired from office in 1952, his income was substantially a U.S. Army pension reported to have been \$13,507.72 a year. Congress, noting that he was paying for his stamps and personally licking them, granted him an 'allowance' and, later, a retroactive pension of \$25,000 per year.

When offered corporate positions at large salaries, he declined, stating, 'You don't want me. You want the office of the president, and that doesn't belong to me. It belongs to the American people and it's not for sale.' Even later, on May 6, 1971, when Congress was preparing to award him the Medal of Honor on his 87th birthday, he refused to accept it, writing, 'I don't consider that I have done anything which should be the reason for any award, Congressional or otherwise.'

Today, some Presidents and many in Congress have found a way to become quite wealthy while enjoying the fruits of their offices. Political offices are now for sale.

*Good old Harry Truman one time observed: 'My choice early in life was either to be a piano player in a whorehouse or a politician. And to tell the truth, there's hardly any difference.*

"If things do not turn out as we wish, we should wish for them as they turn out."

*-Aristotle*

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## JUDGE PRUDENCE CARTER BEATTY

***"I mean, they get paid an awful lot of money. The only good thing about them is they can't work after they're 60."*** - Judge Prudence Carter Beatty, New York Southern District Bankruptcy Court, regards Delta Air Lines pilots. Reported in *The Wall Street Journal*, 18 November 2005

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## EARLY TEST FOR CANCER ISN'T ALWAYS BEST COURSE

By TARA PARKER-POPE

Sometimes what you don't know might end up being better for you. For years patients have been told that early cancer detection saves lives. Find the cancer before the symptoms appear, the thinking goes, and you've got a better chance of beating the disease. So it might have seemed surprising last week when a panel of leading medical experts offered exactly the opposite advice. They urged doctors to stop screening older men for prostate cancer, which will kill an estimated 28,600 men in the United States this year.

Their advice offered a look at the potential downside of cancer screening and our seemingly endless quest to detect cancer early in otherwise healthy people. In this case, for men 75 and older, the United States Preventive Services Task Force concluded that screening for prostate cancer does more harm than good.

"We've done a great job in public health convincing people that cancer screening tests work," said Peter B. Bach, a pulmonologist and epidemiologist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. "We're uncomfortable with the notion that some screening tests work and others don't. That seems mystifying to people." But the reality is that while some cancer screening tests — like the Pap smear for cervical cancer or mammography for breast cancer — clearly save lives, the benefits of other screening tests are less clear.

Studies of lung cancer screening, for instance, have failed to prove that it prolongs life. A mass screening for neuroblastoma in Japanese infants was halted after it became clear that the effort wasn't saving children and worse, led to risky treatments of tumors that weren't life threatening.

The case seemed stronger for screening for prostate cancer. By some measures, death rates from the disease in the United States have plummeted since the introduction of the screening test for prostate specific antigen, which detects levels of a protein that can signal prostate cancer.

The data, in fact, are highly misleading. The introduction of screening can trigger big statistical fluctuations that can be difficult to interpret. But if you look at prostate cancer statistics in the 1970s, long before screening was introduced, death rates have dropped only slightly since then. The small decline seems largely because of improvements in treatment, many experts say, though others point to early detection as the reason.

Whether there really is a measurable benefit from PSA screening for younger men won't be known for a few more years, after data from two major clinical trials studying the test are reported. How can it be that finding prostate cancer early doesn't help save lives? For starters, a large percentage of prostate cancers aren't deadly. They are slow growing and unlikely to result in any symptoms before the end of a man's natural life expectancy. By some estimates, as many as 44 percent of the men who are treated for prostate cancer as a result of PSA testing didn't need to be. Had they been left alone, they would have died of something else and never known they had cancer.

"Screening tests don't only pick up life-threatening cancers, they pick up tumors that look identical to traditional tumors, but they don't have the same biologic behavior," said Dr. Barry Kramer, associate director for disease prevention at the National Institutes of Health. "Some are so slow growing they never would have caused medical problems in the person's natural life span."

In the case of PSA testing, the Preventive Services Task Force, an expert panel that makes recommendations about preventive care for healthy people, said there was not enough evidence to recommend for or against screening of younger men, although they urged doctors to advise men of all the risks and benefits of screening. But they did conclude that 75 is the age at which the risks clearly begin to outweigh the benefits, and the disease, if detected, would most likely not have a meaningful effect on life expectancy.

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Another problem with determining the value of screening is that it results in “lead time bias.” For instance, someone diagnosed with lung cancer at the age of 65 may die at 67 and be remembered as a two-year survivor. If the same man had been diagnosed at 57 through screening and died at the age of 67, he would be known as a 10-year survivor. That sounds a lot better, but the reality is that diagnosis and treatment didn’t prolong his life. He died at 67 either way.

“Even a harmful screening test could appear on the surface as a helpful test,” Dr. Kramer said. “Because you measure survival from the date of diagnosis, even if the person dies of the same cause on the same day they would have without screening, it looks like survival was longer.”

Any screening test can lead to false positives, followed by invasive and risky tests. Large numbers of people often end up being poked, prodded and tested only to discover they’re fine. Biopsies to detect prostate cancer get mixed reviews. Some men find them to be a minor discomfort; others say they were left in debilitating pain. Once cancer is found, surgery, radiation or hormone therapy, or “watchful waiting,” may be advised.

Treatments for prostate cancer can cause significant harm, rendering men incontinent or impotent, or with other urethral, bowel or bladder problems. Hormone treatments can cause weight gain, hot flashes, loss of muscle tone and osteoporosis. “It’s just a needle stick, but the cascade of events that follows are fairly serious,” Dr. Bach said. “I think the burden is on medicine to try and generate some evidence that the net benefits are there before drawing that tube of blood.”

The problem with prostate screening is that some men are very likely to have been saved by early detection. But how many have been hurt? “I’m a little worried we may look back on the prostate cancer screening era, after we learn results of clinical trials, and see that we’ve harmed a lot of people without doing them good,” said Dr. David Ransohoff, a professor of medicine and cancer screening researcher at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. “By being so aggressive with so many people, did we do the right thing? I don’t know that it’s going to turn out that way.”

August 12, 2008 *Well*

### **THE 2009 RUPA DIRECTORY**

***NOW is the time for changes or corrections to last year's directory. The list of current members in the 2009 Directory will close December 15, 2008. If you have lost or misplaced your 2007 directory, and don't know if it's correct, send all your correct details, including "snowbird" addresses, all phone numbers and email addresses, either by USPS or email, only. Oh yes, if you've traded wives, well, we've had a couple of those, too.***

If your dues expire before December 31, 2008, to ensure that you are listed, mail that check by 12/08/2008. It must be “in hand” by 12/15/2008. No exceptions, no “Check’s in the mail” phone calls.

If it is against your “principles” to write checks before a due date, I will accept post-dated ones!!

**Our address: RUPA, PO.BOX 275, HALF MOON BAY, CA 94019-0275**

**Email: [rupa.sec/tr@yahoo.com](mailto:rupa.sec/tr@yahoo.com)**

**The RUPA Directory is delivered only by USPS mail. It is not available on-line.**

# LETTERS

**DARREL ANKENY**—Rogers, AR

It's been seven years since the brakes on that impressive 747 were set for the last time. I see names and read the letters of fine pilots I flew with over the years. They bring back so many memories of fun trips and good times. Have survived Prostate cancer and other more minor health problems.

After leaving HNL, Trish and I returned to CO for a few years until moving to Northwest AR to be near daughter and parent for family support. We started a Property Management company three years ago and it has done well. That's the good news. The bad news is, we don't have much time off to enjoy the beautiful lakes here in the Ozarks. I remember flying MEM-DEN and looking down on this huge chain of lakes in northern AR and southern MO and wondered what they looked like close-up. They're beautiful and so much shore line!! We did take time out to celebrate our 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary with a cruise to Russia. What a treat!

I read this publication from cover to cover each month. Thanks to all who are responsible for getting it to us and thanks to all of you who write letters. They're very informative and a great way to stay in touch.

*Darrel* dankeny01@yahoo.com

**DON BARNHART**—La Center, Washington

Dear United Friends, A little more than a year has passed since Don, at almost 88 years of age, rolled his ATV on our farm. He will be 89 years young on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> and is doing very well. His health is excellent now but his walking is limited due to a balance problem. He no longer drives and has doctor's orders not to get on any farm equipment. However, we just purchased a new "set of wheels" for him. It is an electric scooter which can be used indoors and out and he is really enjoying this freedom from the walker and wheelchair.

When *RUPANEWS* arrived a few days ago. I found him totally engrossed in it. He looks forward to reading the articles, searching for names from the past, enjoying the cartoons and sharing the jokes

with me. He has been retired from Dispatch for 26 years after having worked in Seattle and San Francisco. He was hired in Portland in 1941. Don continues to keep up with airline and industry trends with his subscription to "Aviation Week."

Our best wishes to all at United. Our thanks to those who kept Don in their thoughts and prayers over this year of recovery.

Sincerely, *Don & Barbara*

**DELMAR BASTIAN**—North Salt Lake, UT

Dear Bruce, Enclosed is my check for a couple more years of the great *RUPANEWS*! Thanks to all of you volunteers, I know it is a lot of time and effort to do all you do on our behalf. I sincerely appreciate you.

Wanda and I are in good health and enjoying life here in Utah.

My best to all, *Delmar*

**DENNIS BERG**—San Diego, CA

Thanks to all who keep this going. 8/1 was #9. Retirement is fantastic. Fun trips to Tuscany, in villas with friends, to Vienna, a fantastic city, and a 10 day stay in Budapest which I recommend very highly. After the sale of our home in La Jolla we moved to downtown San Diego, bought and remodeled a nice high up condo and now live in Todos Santos, Mexico most of the year with an occasional visit to the condo during the winter and 2 to 3 months summertime when it's too hot down south. We have friends that I grew up with in San Diego who also have houses in our little community in Mexico, and the 4 families all hang out. We spend a lot of time watching the 100's of whales, the perfect weather, and the 4 guys still surf together, ride on more than 100 miles of pristine beach with our quads, surfboards, fishing and diving gear, camping and exploring. I think it's a very healthy, tranquil way to preserve our health and spend stress-free time as the days go by. We all try to take advantage of everything our little corner has to offer.

All the best. I wish good health and happiness to everyone in/at RUPA. *Denny*

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**CARL BYE**—Sarasota, FL

Thanks for helping bring back good memories of a “great airline.” Getting close to an age I’ll be able to shoot – Big “80!” Gratefully, *Carl*

**STUART CARLSON**—Palm Desert, CA

This month I become 77 years old and I would like to know when the golden years began. It seems like yesterday I flew my last flight, which happened to be 1987, when I had my first heart bypass. Since then I have become a medical marvel, having another open heart surgery in 1996, a couple of leg vein bypasses, diabetes, and just recently, kidney failure. I started dialysis treatments a couple months ago and had a pacemaker and defibrillator installed a couple months ago. All the time, I have felt great, except for a few aches and pains. A couple days ago, the area where the pacemaker and defibrillator were inserted developed an infection so they had to be removed. After ninety days, the Dr. will replace them.

In the meantime, our bus travels have suffered. We plan on going to San Diego for a month or two in September, where I can get dialysis treatments. At least we will get out of the heat in the Desert, which happened to be 114 degrees today. It's just as well we aren't travelling, as the price of diesel is so high. and I only get 6 miles to the gallon. That's all for now. Peace.

*Stu Carlson*, LAXFO

P.S. Annie and I had dinner with Joe Fabbo recently, and he looks as chipper as ever for 85.

**C.L. “CHUCK” COREY**—Evergreen, CO

Dear Denis, Postage check is in the mail. Not much news from Evergreen. Pass flying is becoming more difficult by the day, let alone trying to plan for the future. Southwest looks better all the time.

Thanks to everyone for keeping the *RUPANEWS* coming to us all.

*Chuck*

**SHARON CRAWFORD**—Redondo Beach, CA

Hello! I keep reading letters from other retirees saying how amazing it is to find another year gone, and now it is my turn to say the same thing. I am trying to stay busy by golfing, flying our Cardinal, visiting with grandkids in Phoenix and Seattle, instructing at the Torrance airport, and dragging my husband to any destination I can dream up. We are currently working on playing golf in each of the US states and have done 32 so far. Last year we finished off the goal of landing in each of the states but didn't have time to golf them at the same time. One of us is always wanting to get home, and it is not usually me.

We lost our dogs and won't get more until we slow down, hopefully in more than 10 years. In the meantime my grandson was amused to find that I have composting worms for my pets. They don't roll over, but they do help out with the scraps.

Regards to all, *Sharon*, LAX  
captaincrawford@earthlink.net

**WAYNE ERB**—Lake Hopatong, NJ

Gentlemen, Another year about to begin for me on Aug 12<sup>th</sup> and am looking forward to another year of “News from the Front!” Or is it “Back?” Thanks for all the effort – it’s a great way for all of us to share in what was the greatest profession we had the good luck to follow.

Tally Ho, *Wayne*

**FRANK ERNST**—Cape Coral, FL

Just read the July issue of *RUPANEWS* and when I saw the names of the pilots who attended the NYSKYSCRAPERS luncheon, I vowed that I will attend the next one. Some of the best times and best laughs I ever had were with many of these pilots. I really believe that within this particular group are people who have tremendous potential to embark on a new and exciting career. There are pilots within this group who definitely have the creative ability to write movie scripts, unlike any that Hollywood has ever seen, that would be certain to receive major acclamation and awards. Others within this group could easily fill the casting requirements.

June and I moved from Long Island to Florida three years ago. We love the warm weather and the ability to beach and boat year round.

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It was very refreshing to read the article about "Herbie" Kelleher, co-founder of Southwest. If this article had been written in the late 50's, early 60's, it would have been just another article about a great person; however, these days, he is a rare breed and the Southwest employees were very fortunate to have him. ALPA should fund research to find a way to replicate the genetic detail that allows Mr. Kelleher to be the great person that he is and lobby for legislation that will require all CEOs to be injected with the resultant solution. Uncle Glenn would probably require a double dose.

This is a great Journal and we always appreciate receiving it, thanks to all of the volunteers who make it happen. My check is on its way to Half Moon Bay. If anyone heads this way, please don't hesitate to stop by. --- flypaco1@yahoo.com

Our best wishes for Health and Happiness.

*Frank Ernst*

**M. "MAX" FRIEBEL**—Puyallup, WA

Greetings All; This years birthday slipped past me and I never even saw it coming. Things are well in the great North West, and I have managed to keep up with most of the duties and chores around home. I had one serious decision to make this past year, and that was to sell my airplane. It was traumatic to see my C 185 leave the home field and I was not in it. The airplane now has a good home in New Brunswick, and I was invited to visit the new owner and his family, and do some flying in the Maritimes. The airplane has a new bigger engine in it and new set of floats, and a paint job - - and it looks great!

I have also been busy with an on-line course that has really kept me busy. Very intensive and time consuming, but it does keep me off the streets.

I am fortunate to have my son and his family about four blocks away, and manage to spend time with my grandson frequently. He recently qualified for his SCUBA license. He is on his school swim team, and plays saxophone in the school band/orchestra and he will have his 12th birthday next month - - - I guess you would have to say that I am another proud "Gramps"!

That's it for now - - Check is in the mail to RUPA  
My best to all! *Max*

**JOE GERKEN**—Kihei, HI / Portsmouth, OH

Denis, just a note to let the rupa folks know we are alive and well. living mostly in Kihei, Maui with summer and fall in west Portsmouth, Ohio.

Mary Ann is still flying, mostly to china. I spend most of my days in pursuit of the elusive single digit handicap. Visitors, especially golfers, are always welcome both places.

aloha, pono, maluhia, *Joe and Mary Ann Gerken*

**ROL HAMELIN**—Vail, CO

How time flies! Now over 10 years into retirement and all is still great. A fabulous powder year here in Vail but still skied Austria for 2 weeks in Jan. Then picked up my new Ferrari 430 Spider at the factory in April and exercised it for a month on Italian back roads and German autobahns. Returned to Vail for two days before Ingie and I went to Maui for 5 weeks.

Then we were off for more Ferrari exercise in Sweden, Germany, Austria and, finally, Lucerne, where we got to sightsee Switzerland upside down in various Breitling planes from their Pitts to their jets. Of special interest to me was being able to fly their Connie over the lake there as I had previously flown Eastern's in '66 when they were training FE in MIA.

Will return to Italy and the 430 for two months this fall to continue with it's Italian education prior to returning it to Ferrari for shipment here. (Anyone need a beautiful 360 Spider? Three of these toys is too much!)

Best memories of UAL: Flying the 737-200 up and down the Rockies and West Coast and the DC-10-30 on ten day orient trips.

Best wishes to all! *Rol*

rolvail@aol.com

**BOB HAYGOONI**—Tiburon, CA

Dear fellow Ruparians, Almost 2 years since last setting the parking brake on the 777. Currently almost 2 years of corporate flying which can be extremely rewarding and also extremely frustrating at times. Considering the renewed fall of UAL's fortunes, I'm rather happy to be in the private sector. Still get an occasional layover in Kona.

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Many thanks to those bright and hearty souls who put out the magazine. It's a great read which I share with my flying partner who just happens to be the son of a UAL 747 Capt (Ret). For old times sake we still wear the UAL ties when we are at work.

Sincerely, *Bob Haygooni*

**TOM HELMS**—Lake Villa, IL

The letter from Bob Langevin in the July *RUPANEWS* spurred my memory.

It was 1974 and I was in the left seat of a B727 with a new SO/FE by the name of Bob Langevin who was recently furloughed from UAL but kept his seniority number! While flying along Bob handed up a Progress (or lack thereof) Report that EAL wanted on all new-hires.

After pretending I was writing it, I asked how to spell ----- and whether it ended in a y or ie. Then I asked how to spell ---hole. I could see that Bob was turning white back there so I signed the blank report and instructed Bob to fill it out anyway he wanted but not give himself 100% as the office knew I was the only 100% pilot Eastern had! Bob also was a super salesman in his part-time job at a Ford dealership in Woodstock and I bought a new blue 1974 Mustang from him. Bob asked my opinion as to whether he should stay at EAL or go back to UAL and I said that, in my opinion, he would be better off with UAL as there was no chance they would ever go out of business. I threw that crystal ball away as unreliable. That Bob was a great guy, good salesman and smart too!

Some years later a UAL Captain came into the EAL ORD Chief Pilot office and asked for a jumpseat pass to Florida. The office secretary, Anette, informed him in no uncertain way that no offline pilots were permitted jumpseats on Eastern. New Chief Pilot Bob Shipner overheard this conversation and instructed Anette that in the future any pilot from any airline that walks in the door asking for a jumpseat pass, give it to him. The United Captain was Jimmy Carter!!! When he came up from Florida he always brought a bag of oranges and grapefruit in the office: so many I got sick of oranges as I was a Check Airman at the time so was in office so got an extra share.

Captain Carter and Anette struck up a friendship and finally got married and are married to this day.

By the way Shipner became EAL Vice President of Flight Operations and his son, Bobby, is a UAL B777 Flight Officer at ORD. It really is a very small world! *Tom Helms*

**LISLE O. HICKS**—Loon Lake, WA

Last year I wrote about my heart attack and my recovery through prayer when my heart stopped. The doctor put me on statin drugs just to be sure; there was a 60% blockage in one of the major arteries. I did not like what I read about these drugs and their side effects, but I went along with it for awhile. My muscles ached, I forgot more than usual, I got dizzy, etc. They tried several different statin drugs but they were all the same. Finally, I decided to quit the drugs altogether. I browsed the web and found several anti-inflammation vitamins that were recommended for heart and circulation problems, and other vitamins and minerals recommended for general health. I started feeling better almost immediately. So much for drugs.

About a year after the heart attack I went back for a stress test, RMI and a cat scan. When the doctor saw the results he said that the blockage that I had previously was irregular in shape and that was a bad sign; it generally means that it is growing. He again explained all about stents in the arteries and said that I had to get in immediately to get this done. He said that this had to be done NOW!

Two days later went in and he did another scan preparing me for the stent. In the meantime, my wife, Donna, was in the waiting room praying for me. She said she picked up a magazine just to pass the time and then she felt guilty for not spending that time in more prayer. She said she then got the feeling, or it was revealed to her somehow, that she had already prayed for me and that I was going to be OK and that she could go ahead and look at the magazine.

In about 30 minutes I was wheeled back into a room to wait for the doctor. I did not know at the time if he had put in a stent or not. He came in several minutes later and looked somewhat disturbed. He said that he did not know how it

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happened but there was NO obstruction in the artery. He said that, "I do not know how this happened. I have never seen this happen before. It does not happen." My wife told him it was the power of prayer. He did not acknowledge her statement. He said that, "Whatever you are doing, just keep doing it." With that he left the room. I felt so badly for him that I almost called him back and told him to put in a stent if it would make him feel better. Poor guy. He never knew what happened. I know what happened. Prayer happened and God answers prayer.

God Bless, *Lisle*

**“POSS” HORTON**—Virginia Beach, VA

I want to thank you and the others who sacrifice your time for the good of the RUPA organization. The *RUPANEWS* is something I look forward to every month. I see the familiar names and it always triggers lots of great memories.

I moved to Virginia Beach almost four years ago to be near my daughter and grandchildren. They say the grandkids keep you young, that is if they don't kill you. I'm still married to Sandra, forty five years this December. I don't ski anymore because a couple accidents not related to skiing, but still hunt and fish.

I guess most of you who knew Rachel Woodings know that she passed away this spring. For those of you who didn't know her, you missed a trip. She was audacious and brave and loved her job. There are probably Flight Attendants who were as good at the "Job" as she, but few could provide the ongoing jokes, wisecracks, and succinct analysis of a situation or person that she could. She was compassionate and helpful to the new hires, while making sure they knew they had to measure up, that included the new hire pilots who she usually called "Junior".

It is possible that some of you who remember her haven't heard the news. She was a great person and we should mark her passing. I'm lucky to be here and look forward to making a luncheon this fall with the gang at DCA.

Thanks, *Poss*

**HOWARD P. HUNTER**—Tucson, AZ

Nothing much new--- still enjoying life as much as I can without Katie, in a delightful retirement home at the foot of the Catalina Mountain range here in Tucson. Lots of interesting residents, and I do try to keep busy.

Always look forward to *RUPANEWS*--- fewer and fewer familiar names.

Best to all, *Howard*

**GARET JENKINS**—San Juan Capistrano, CA

On Tue, Aug 12, 2008 at 2:55 PM, Garet & Wendy <copit@cox.net> wrote:

Hello to all, I've been pretty lazy in the writing department so this is my first letter in about ten years. I enjoy everyone else's news and felt a bit guilty about never chiming in. Wendy and I will make it to fifty years together soon and who knew that the Delta stewardess I met at the swimming pool on an Atlanta layover would have seen me through all these years. We have a daughter, Christine, who is visiting us from London with our grandson and a son, Roy, who lives in LA with his wife and our other two grandsons. He does a lot of commercials and is a writer. Christine works in London for US Bank's commercial aviation credit card division. I pretty much do as little work as possible, work out at the gym everyday and try to beat the stock market. Our health good, for our age that is, and we feel fortunate to not be dependent on UAL anymore. Wendy and I both started out on the DC-3 and I finished up on the 400 so I think we were blessed to see the best years of aviation as a career. I got back into motorcycles after retiring and still enjoy the thrill of revving out my Yamaha FJR-1300, don't have to worry about any snide remarks from Harley riders. We live three blocks off the Ortega Highway in Orange county and it happens to be one of the best motorcycle roads in California so I avail myself of its thrills often. I rode all over the western US for years and went through two bikes but my back is getting a bit cranky about long rides now so I just do the short ones.

Wendy belongs to all the local civic organizations which keeps her busy when she's not day-trading and I like to do the cooking, Cajun influence I

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guess , but that way I get to decide what's for dinner.

We're still in the same house we bought forty years ago in San Juan Capistrano, it's getting a bit long in the tooth like I am but don't even think about moving. I'd hate to leave all my fruit trees to someone else. Always sad to hear news of some of the fine gents I flew with flying west but without the *RUPANEWS* we'd all melt away without a footnote for our friends to remember us if even for a short while. Got my check in the mail a few weeks early, seventeen years without touching an airplane control. I do miss it sometimes when I look up at a sky with contrails and think how casually we all accepted the privilege of making our mark up there. It gets harder and harder to realize I was once part of it. Just have to figure how lucky we all were to experience what most people will never know. Ten more years and maybe I'll still be able to write again, until then make yourself known to us all who will remember you.

*Garet Jenkins*, LAX, SFO, EWR, JFK, MSY, DCA.

#### **DONALD KARAISKOS**—Wooster, Ohio

It just occurred to me that if the FAA were to raise the pilot age limit to 75 I would still be over the limit. August 2<sup>nd</sup> I turned 78 years of age (postage money is in the mail – honest). In another 12 years I'll be 90. Haven't written anything in a couple of years so figured it was about time for an update.

Life is good. Bev and I are enjoying a wonderful summer here in the great Buckeye State of Ohio. Despite all those crazy winters in Ohio that gave one pause when runway 28 at CLE was the assigned runway and you tried to negotiate a howling wind out of the northwest and snow squalls that all but obliterated visibility – Ohio is a great place to be in the summer time. Many wonderful evenings are spent on the back porch taking in all that the surroundings have to offer – the chirp of crickets, the fragrance of the flowers and the newly mown grass, the winking of fireflies and a gentle breeze caressing one's countenance. Throw in the beverage of choice and man, THAT is living! You can have Florida with its hurricanes and alligators and San Fran with all its quirksiness. Give me the good old heartland U.S.A. anytime.

On the other hand one must be circumspect about northern Ohio winters. That's why we have spent the last 15 winters in Arizona.

We don't own any airplanes or yachts and other than occasional trips to Europe, Hawaii and Alaska we spend a lot of time with kids and grand kids – a much more profitable use of time as far as we are concerned. With kids living in PVD, DEN, LAS and CMH, we have a choice of places to visit.

Now for the Karma. In early 2004, while taking a shower, I noticed a lump in my left breast, right behind the nipple. I had my son-in-law, who is a physician, take a look at it. He recommended that I have a biopsy, post-haste. This I did. The 4cm lump proved to be malignant. I was one of 1500 – 2000 men who are diagnosed with male breast cancer each year. Some odds eh? I underwent a modified radical mastectomy (read: removal of breast). 22 lymph nodes were removed and luckily they proved to be negative for cancer cells. All this was followed by adjuvant chemo-therapy and yes, I lost all my hair. Hormone therapy was recommended in the form of taking tamoxifen for 5 years – just like the gals. Other than occasionally having a terrific desire to cross-dress and crying while I watch soap operas, there are no base side-effects. Two years later, in 2004, while undergoing my annual “finger wave”, a hard spot was detected on the prostate and a PSA test indicated a jump in readings. A biopsy was taken and cancer was indicated (6 on the Gleason Scale). After consulting 4 doctors in the Tucson area I had 4 different recommendations. “Watchful waiting”, surgery, cryosurgery and brachytherapy (radioactive seed implants). I decided on the radioactive implants after asking a specialist at the University of Arizona Medical center what he would recommend had I been his father. I now had a radioactive crotch (The radio-activity dissipates after 18 months or so). My PSA is now less than 1. Beverly has had both knees replaced and an operation on her thumb. Other than that, we both are enjoying relatively good health. We are both active with our hobbies – Bev with her quilting and I with my book, and writing groups. Throw in golf about twice a week. As far as flying is concerned, I'll continue to do it vicariously through one of my daughters who is a CRJ Captain in Denver for Sky West. We continue to attend the Cleveland Craziest RUPA monthly meetings here in Wooster.

That's all there is from the State that gave us 7 Presidents. Only problem is that they were all Republicans. Keep the "blue side" up and the "green side" down. And remember, it is not what you do for yourself that counts for anything – it is what you do for others.

*Don & Bev Karaiskos*

PS. Just read that Percy Wood passed away. Without question he truly was one of the good guys. RIP.

**SKIP & JEANNE LA ROCQUE**—Hobe Sound, FL

Another orbit around the sun; another year older. Although I was born on August 17<sup>th</sup>, my birthday anniversary falls on August 16<sup>th</sup> this year. Because a year is 365 days, 6 hours long, 2 things can change your birthday, the time of day you were born and leap year – *what???*

Last summer, Jeanne fell and injured her right shoulder. In October, with the pain getting worse, she went to see an orthopaedics doctor. She has a detached rotator cuff that cannot be repaired surgically. The rotator cuff muscles have atrophied and cannot be stretched so the tendons can be reattached to the upper arm bone. The doctor gave her a cortisone shot which kept her pain free while we were on a cruise in November on the Emerald Princess to the Eastern Caribbean.

In December, our son and his family drove over from Cape Coral to celebrate an early Christmas with us. Then we drove up to Virginia to spend Christmas with our daughters and their families. That was most enjoyable, because we didn't go to Virginia the Christmas before. My tennis club fielded 2 tennis teams in the winter league this year. Both teams finished the season in 1<sup>st</sup> place, so we get to keep the crystal punch bowl trophy for another year.

In April we went on another cruise on the Caribbean Princess. We enjoyed this cruise more than the November cruise – less people. In May, we drove to Maryland to see our #7 grandchild make her confirmation – 3 day visit – 4 days on the road!

Five weeks later, we were on the road again for our annual July vacation to Virginia to enjoy the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with our daughters and grandchildren. Then up to Massachusetts to visit a cousin on a lake for a

week. On the weekend, we had a "gathering of the clan" – got to see many relatives from both sides of the family. We also got to have lunch with several old friends, which was nice, because we're not sure we are going to make the drive any more. The drive between Washington, DC and New York City has to be the worst area in the country to drive thru ! On the road again down to Myrtle Beach for a week. We had great weather at the ocean, and had dinner with friends from many years past. After 26 days and 3,353 miles, we got to sleep in our own bed again – sure felt good !!

The last 9 months I've hated to read my e-mail. Too many of my peers or their wives have "flown west". A piece of little known information. In 1953, Pat Brodigan, Tom Coffey, and I started our military career's together in the "Polish Air Force". We were "airmen no-stripes" in the Massachusetts Air National Guard, who's commanders were all Polish. After flight school, Pat went to work for United, Tom went to work for Capitol, and I delayed my airline career until 1964.

As of this moment, Jeanne is in good health, except for her right shoulder. If the pain gets to be unbearable, the bottom line is shoulder replacement. Stay tuned ! I'm still running around the tennis court 3 to 4 days a week. I haven't lost any speed yet, but my reaction time is a half second slower than it was last year. A few months ago, I started getting arthritis pain in my right hip. A friend suggested I try cool Castiva. In 5 days the pain was gone.

Til next year, good health to all and check six !

*Skip and Jeanne*



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## AVIATORS

You see those folks at airport terminals around the world. You see them in the morning early, sometimes at night.

They come neatly uniformed and pleated, sleeves striped; wings over their left pocket; They show up looking fresh. There's a brisk, young-old look of efficiency about them. They arrive fresh from home, from hotels, carrying suitcases, battered briefcases, bulging, with a wealth of technical information, data, filled with regulations, rules.

They know the new, harsh sheen of Chicago 's O'Hare. They know the cluttered approaches to Newark ; they know the tricky shuttle that is Rio ; they know but do not relish the intricate instrument approaches to various foreign airports; they know the volcanoes all around Guatemala.

They respect foggy San Francisco . They know the up-and-down walk to the gates at Dallas, the Texas sparseness of Abilene, the very narrow Berlin Corridor, New Orleans ' sparkling terminal, the milling crowds at Washington. They know Butte, Boston, and Beirut. They appreciate Miami 's perfect weather; they recognize the danger of an ice-slick runway at JFK.

They understand short runways, antiquated fire equipment, inadequate approach lighting, but there is one thing they will never comprehend: Complacency.

They marvel at the exquisite good taste of hot coffee in Anchorage and a cold beer in Guam. They vaguely remember the workhorse efficiency of the DC-3s, the reliability of the DC-4s and DC-6s, the trouble with the DC-7 and the propellers on Boeing 377s. They discuss the beauty of an old gal named Connie. They recognize the high shrill whine of a Viscount, the rumbling thrust of a DC-8 or 707 on a clearway takeoff from Haneda, and a Convair. The remoteness of the 747 cockpit. The roominess of the DC-10 and the snug fit of a 737. They speak a language unknown to Webster

They discuss APA, ALPA, EPRs, fans, mach and bogie swivels. And, strangely, such things as bugs, thumpers, crickets, and CATs, but they are inclined to change the subject when the uninitiated approaches.

They have tasted the characteristic loneliness of the sky, and occasionally the adrenaline of danger. They respect the unseen thing called turbulence; they know what it means to fight for self-control, to discipline one's senses.

They buy life insurance, but make no concession to the possibility of complete disaster, for they have uncommon faith in themselves and what they are doing.

They concede the glamour is gone from flying. They deny a pilot is through at sixty. They know tomorrow, or the following night, something will come along they have never met before; they know flying requires perseverance and vigilance. They know they must practice, lest they retrograde.

They realize why some wit once quipped: "Flying is year after year of monotony punctuated by seconds of stark terror." As a group, they defy mortality tables, yet approach semi-annual physical examinations with trepidation. They are individualistic, yet bonded together. They are family people. They are reputedly overpaid, yet entrusted with equipment worth millions. And entrusted with lives, countless lives.

At times they are reverent: They have watched the Pacific sky turn purple at dusk and the stark beauty of sunrise over Iceland at the end of a polar crossing. They know the twinkling, jeweled beauty of Los Angeles at night; they have seen snow on the Rockies .

They remember the vast unending mat of green Amazon jungle, the twisting Silver road that is the father of waters, an ice cream cone called Fujiyama; the hump of Africa, the checker board approach into Hong Kong. Who can forget Everest from 100 miles away, or the ice fog in Fairbanks in January?

They have watched a satellite streak across a starry sky, seen the clear, deep blue of the stratosphere, felt the incalculable force of the heavens. They have marveled at sun-streaked evenings, dappled earth, velvet night, spun silver clouds, sculptured cumulus: God's weather. They have viewed the Northern Lights, a wilderness of sky, a pilot's halo, a bomber's moon, horizontal rain, Contrails and St Elmo's Fire. Only an aviator experiences all these. It is their world. And once was mine And remains in my memory

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**HARRY LLOYD**—Islamorada, FL / Toms River, NJ

Hi Denis: I'm ten years into retirement and I can hardly believe it! Jane and I are doing well with our semi annual trips between NJ and FL at our own pace; spending almost ten days on the road each time. We get a chance to visit our daughter and sons and their families en route.

We really enjoyed the NY Skyscrapers luncheon in June. It would be nice to have the fall luncheon in September, as we head on south during the beginning of October each year. That way we would be able to see the guys from New England too.

I noticed the change in the cover of *RUPANEWS*. Seems like our new editor is acting like past CEOs; when they took over they repainted the airplanes.

The check is in the mail to Bruce for renewal. Thanks for all the work you guys put in for all of us. Wishing everyone all the best,

*Harry Lloyd* EWRFO/ JFKFO

**GEORGE MATHES**—Woodstock, IL

Denis, First decade since retirement is history. And quite a decade to have behind us. Not many would have predicted the significant decline in the corporation for which we all toiled for so many years.

Fortunately, many of us have been able to almost completely extract ourselves from the remains of UAL. Even more fortunately, the demise of UAL doesn't diminish the friendships established there during those years.

Good health and welfare still prevail for both retirees in this household. Thanks to all those who make RUPA and *RUPANEWS* work. Check in the mail.

*George & Jacquie Mathes*

**GEORGE MENDONCA**—San Mateo, CA

One of the VAA 29 members at Hayward airport gave me a list of the airports within 100 nautical miles of the airport ( public use only ). I had flown into a lot of them and decided to finish out the rest. Two of them are closed and I found 5 more that were not on the list. The total is 71 airports and I have completed all of them. (2=KC-135, 8=B737, 20=RV-4, 9=C172, 5=PA28, 27=Kitfox) It doesn't

mean a thing but it was fun. I flew the Kitfox to Lompoc, CA for the West Coast Piper Cub fly in again this year. I was the bombardier for a friend in the flour bomb drop from his J-3 Cub. I missed by a "mile". I went to the Boonville, CA fly in last weekend and had a ball. On leaving I made a high speed pass (120 MPH). I am still flying Young Eagles and I'm up to 1365. I am a docent at the Hiller Museum once a month and stand by either the B-737 or the B-747 in uniform, yes I can still fit into it. I feel it is one of the better Museums I still have a great time flying and socializing with friends. I had the pleasure of giving a friend Steve, Senior Director of Development for Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott, AZ his first ride in a light airplane and he had a great time taking photos of San Francisco and all the sights around the bay area. I'll try to keep the dirty side down, until next year. *George* george737ual@juno.com  
LAX SFO ORD SFO September 2008

**KEN MILLER**—Reno, NV

Aug 11th is my 74th b'day. I heard on the news that UAL is suing the pilot group because of a "sickout". I also heard that the PBGC is going to take a look at the checks they're sending to the retirees. Save your money! My health is still good thanks to Lipitor (Chol.) and Lisinopril (Blood Press.). I was sorry to hear that Capt. Coffey passed away. One flight I remember---Dulles to Rome, he asked if anyone objected to smoking in the cockpit and I said no and immediately he lit up his cigarette and the S/O lighted his pipe and the cockpit was filled with smoke for what seemed an eternity! Still traveling around in our 42' Country Coach with 4 Shih Tzus in spite of the price of diesel! And still working on the border with the Minutemen (as I write this the Minutemen are picketing the SFO mayor's office asking him to resign; what an idiot!) Thank you Denis for taking over the editor's job and donating your precious time; also thanks to the other RUPA volunteers. Denis, I hope you had a good avocado crop this year! until next year, *Ken Miller*

**KATARINA MITCHELL**—Laramie, WY

Hi Denis, just a note to let you know that all of us are doing well. Doug would have celebrated his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday the end of July. We miss him so very, very much! His integrity, dependability, his

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warmth, sense of humor, and the twinkle in his green eyes.

I still live in the ranch house with the red tile roof, that Doug designed.

We had visitors from Sweden and Germany and enjoyed every minute of it. Also, Pete and Karen Cecchinelli stopped by the other day in their beautiful motorhome on their way to Canada. Pete looked good. He is hanging in there, and his glass is always half full.

I enjoy reading *RUPANEWS*, even though I don't know many of the pilots. Keep up the good work.

*Katja*

Enclosed is a little extra money for whatever is needed.

**PAT MURPHY**—Morrison, Colo. '56-'91 IDL-DEN-SFO

It's been a quiet year in Paradise, last Summer finally ended with a record number of ninety plus degree days. It looks like this Summer will break that record. If Colorado's heat wasn't enough, last September caught twelve of us in six small airplanes flying to Brown Field on the Mexican border, guests of the U S Navy at San Diego. We were given a tour of the USS Theodore Roosevelt during her port refurbishment, compliments of the XO, who was an ex-squadron mate of one of our group. The story in last month's (July) *RUPANEWS* by P.J. O'Rourke was great, thanks for including it in spite of the political bend. I'm fairly conservative, and definitely politically challenged, but I enjoyed his descriptions of carrier life. Even though it's a whole new ball game from the time I flew Hellcats and Banshees, some of the impressions still banged around in my memory. We met several hundred of the five thousand or so "kids" running the "TR", they are indeed a fine group of people. Makes me want to suit up and try a steam catapult launch and a meatball approach to an angled deck trap--all new since my years with the fleet. I did get some time in the F-18 simulator, including a carrier landing while we visited the squadrons at NAS LeMoore, piece o'cake.

Speaking of great ships, in June, Dee and I boarded the Queen Mary 2 in Brooklyn and spent six days of luxury crossing the North Atlantic to Southampton, England. What a magnificent piece of work. wish I could have taken in the whole ship.

The bridge and engineering spaces were off limits. and at a steady 26 knots and a head wind, the outside deck spaces were to be explored in five minute excursions. We were on an Elderhostle session learning about the "Cambridge Five" cold war spies, so from the dock we went directly to Cambridge for another six delightful days of lectures and field trips. The weather was unbelievably sunny for that part of England, even on the day we went punting on the Camm. Murphy's law took a holiday.

Our thanks, as usual, to the *RUPANEWS* (small letters noted) folders, stuffers, assemblers, dispersers and collectors. Check's in the mail to Bruce with a little extra for the office coffee kitty, etc.

Sincerely. *Pat*

**BOB NICCOLLS**—Medford, Oregon 1961-1994

Another year, 14 and counting...and gone too quickly. As the wise man said it is like the roll of toilet paper that seems to unwind faster the closer to the end of it one comes. But it all is good and appreciated. Appreciated also are the efforts to maintain and grow our RUPA group. It's much work done by a few and we are all in debt for it is really nice to be able to maintain the relationships and memories through the group. Ours is such a diverse group and so it is always of interest to hear of others activities and life events.

We continue to enjoy our beautiful Southern Oregon with our homes in the valley here and at the coast in Brookings plus the cabin on the Chetco River. Children, grand kids, gym, the real estate projects, fishing trips and travel all combine to complete a full and active life.

In closing I find I need to express to all those who have been really hammered by the events of UAL my feelings of sadness for the trauma for so many at the end of careers that should have been concluded in quite a different scenario. It is just plain sad.

Hopefully to a better future, *Bob Niccolls*

**FRED NICHOLS**—Marietta, GA

You probably hear this a lot, but I'm sorry I'm a little late renewing.

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Dorothy and I are doing very well (together 45 years this month) – we are both in good health. I play golf three days a week and have a 14 handicap. We also do a lot of walking. We are also lucky to spend time with our children and our three granddaughters.

Thanks to everyone for the *RUPANEWS*. We enjoy the letters and humorous stories.

If you need to raise the dues, I am sure everyone will understand.

Best wishes, *Fred*

### **BOB ODGERS**—Western Springs, IL

It's time for Birthday Letter # 79, and being a "real pilot" I am just under the wire for my yearly subscription in these inflationary times. I cannot express how grateful I am to the group of pilots who devote their time and effort to this information age.

I would also like to acknowledge my appreciation to all the flyers that have kept me alive and happy through small planes, 6 years in Navy Patrol Aircraft and 35 years with the finest group of pilots on the "former United". It has been quite a trip and I am alive and kicking, and looking forward to the big '8.0'.

In these uncertain times of financial worry in and about our lives as retirees, I had the eye-opening shock of web browsing our Missing P.O.W.'s. During the search/recovery for a fellow Navy Pilot that I received my Wings of Gold with in 1952, not only was the information of his last flight, but to my amazement the huge numbers of missing U.S. Pilots during the "Cold War". Especially the 'patrol aircraft' and the huge numbers of fighters/bombers/etc. that were shot down in/around Korea. **'Their luck was not so great as mine'**.

When we are young and fearless, we tend to give off an air of bravado. Or as the old saying goes "Only our laundryman knows how brave we are". As we gain experience and enjoy the life of a flying career...we tend to discount the many who have gone before us. To those, who have not had the full life and career choices that we have attained, I feel the loss and sacrifice of such a gallant clan. Needless to say, I appreciate my life and feel an immense debt of gratitude at being able to look back on a voyage of life with such an outstanding group of airman.

To my comrades, I wish you health and happiness. Memories are worth so much more than financial acumen.

I salute you!

*Captain Bob* MDW, SFO, EWR, DCA, EWR, CLE, DEN, ORD & LAX

**HAM AND RUTH OLDHAM**—Delray Beach  
Had a nice 80 birthday party with my kids and grandkids. No more boats or airplanes, but got a nice set of grab bars for my walk in shower. Also replaced cataract with a crystalens that works near, far and in between. Also found that red yeast rice keeps my cholesterol low.

In October will make my annual trip to Virginia to church home coming and to Georgetown football game to watch grandson kickoff and hopefully kick some extra points.

Ruth and I will miss Ted. UAL is pulling out all flights from PBI and FLL Sept. 2 and only two trips a day from MIA. Both are regional jets, one to IAD and one to ORD. Thanks for the nice *RUPANEWS*.

*Ham and Ruth*

### **MIKE PHILLIPS**—Dover, DE

Hi Denis: It's been almost a year since I unpacked my suitcase following my final flight. It was actually the first time in over twenty years that it was **completely emptied**.

The thing I miss most is the same thing I missed when I retired from the Air Force after 20 years — the absolutely outstanding professionals with whom I had the honor of working.

I've spent a good deal of my newfound spare time as a volunteer at the Air Mobility Command Museum at Dover Air Force Base. Check out their web site at: <http://amcmuseum.org/>. The C-121 Constellation was the first aircraft I worked on. It has a very interesting history; in fact some of folks from ---Pennsylvania and New Jersey might have eaten or had cocktails inside her when she was sitting on top of a restaurant outside Philadelphia. We are now in the process of restoring a C-123.

We haven't had much of an opportunity to do the traveling my wife Pam and I had looked forward to doing. She has had numerous medical problems which have kept us close to home. Hopefully we'll find a doctor who can provide her with some help.

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Since this is my first letter to the RUPA organization, I want to take the opportunity to use this forum to express my sincere thanks to the many wonderful pilots I shared a cockpit (and a cocktail for that matter) with: guys like Bob Beavis, Bob Eccles, Bob Falco, Rich Granger, Mike Perry, Jack Traeger, and especially Jody Kraly. These guys taught me so much about commercial aviation, and flying in general. Can never thank them enough.

That's about it for now. Thanks for the terrific newsletter.

Keep your scarves out of the rudder! *Mike*

**JOHN PINTER**—Vermilion, OH

Gee wiz, I must be getting younger, I remembered to get this letter and my dues to RUPA in my birth month. Now all I need to do is remember how old I am and to mail this thing.

It's been a busy year but don't ask me what we did. Our year is split between the condo in Tequesta Florida and the condo in Vermilion Ohio. Condo living is GREAT! No more cutting the grass and worrying about the 1000 other things those houses require, especially in the maintenance department. Right now we plan 6 mos. In each place but I foresee maybe 8 months in Fla. and 4 months in Ohio.

A few months before our infamous strike we suffered a devastating flood when the ice jammed the Vermilion River. Every year when the ice goes out in the spring we would worry about a recurrence. This year the water came up to the doorsteps and if we still owned our house we would have had to make an emergency trip to Vermilion just in case it flooded again. What a good feeling not to worry.

Speaking of good, both JoAnn and I are in really good health. No sickness at all, even evaded the flu last winter. We are very fortunate and blessed to be able to enjoy our retirement in good health.

We worked the Honda Classic PGA tournament in Palm Beach last winter as volunteer marshals. It was a very rewarding experience, especially standing next to the pro's as they tee off, and we plan to make this a yearly event. Now that we are on the list we will probably get an invitation to volunteer at the LPGA tour event and plan to fit that into our schedule also. One of the things volunteers get is a free round of golf at these courses but I imagine I will be waaaaay out of my

element playing on a championship tour course. Hell, I can hardly play put-put golf. JoAnn should do all right though, she got a new set of clubs and I have all I can do to keep her from beating me! It's hit the ball, drag John...

Golf has taken over a great portion of our lives. Our granddaughter also plays golf. She is now 5 years old. Last year at 4 she came in second in the US KIDS Cleveland summer tour and took a second in the fall tour as well. She would have taken a first in the summer tour if she hadn't missed a tournament because she had to attend "Safety Town" which is required before she can attend kindergarten. I even got a chance to caddie for her when she got her first par. They play a shortened course that measures 1000 yards for her age group and play to the full PGA rules. On one course she had a water hazard of about 80 yards she had to drive over and she did it! Wow, I wish I could have learned at that age.

All in all, as the song goes, "It Was A Very Good Year". I can't tell you what we did but I can say we were never bored or left wanting something else to do. One of the things JoAnn and I look forward to is the *RUPANEWS*. **Our thanks to all the volunteers that run RUPA and publish the newsletter** so we can keep up with all of your musings. *John*

**JIM RAZMUS**—Rockford MI

RUPA, Since I enjoy reading the letters other members send I thought it only fair to send one of my own. This is my third year of "retirement" and what I'm most thankful for is my health and my family. A pension would have been nice to say the least. My wife Shirley is a retired State Police Officer so we have that pension and medical benefits to save us from poverty. To keep us busy and provide additional income, we became Allstate insurance agents and operate two offices in the Grand Rapids, MI area. What a change of pace - no commute and same time zone!

We have two children with families that gave us four grandchildren to enjoy. Our daughter and family live in Sydney, Australia so we don't see them as much as we would like.

We are in the phone book in Grand Rapids and our email address is [jtrazmus@aol.com](mailto:jtrazmus@aol.com) if anyone would like to visit.

Hello and best wishes to all readers. *Jim & Shirley*

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## ALTERNATIVE ENERGY: NUCLEAR OR “TERRESTRIAL”

One form of alternative energy often mistakenly grouped with solar, is geothermal energy. Geothermal is produced when the natural heat of the earth comes in contact with groundwater. This can produce geysers and "fumaroles"--steam leaks that are now being harnessed to produce electricity.

Where does this heat come from? Temperatures at the earth's core reach 7,000 degrees Centigrade, hotter than the surface of the sun. Some of this heat comes from gravitational pressures and the leftover heat from the collisions of astral particles that led to the formation of the earth. But at least half of it (we don't know the precise percentage) comes from the radioactive breakdown of thorium and uranium within the earth's mantle. This is "terrestrial energy," and a nuclear reactor is simply the same process carried out in a controlled environment. In order to harness terrestrial energy in the form of uranium isotopes, we mine it, bring it to the surface, concentrate it, and initiate a chain reaction that releases stored energy in the form of heat--the very **same process** as that used to harness solar energy from coal.

When Albert Einstein signed the letter to President Roosevelt informing him of the discovery of nuclear energy, he turned to some fellow scientists and said: "For the first time mankind will be using energy not derived from the sun." This possibility emerged in 1905, when Einstein posited that energy and matter are different forms of the same thing and that energy could be converted to matter and matter to energy, as

reflected in the famous equation,  $E = MC^2$ . The co-efficient,  $C^2$ , is the speed of light squared, a very, very large number. What it signifies is that a very, very small amount of matter can be converted into a very, very large amount of energy. This is good news in terms of our energy needs and the environment. It means the amount of fuel required to produce an equivalent amount of energy is now approximately two million times smaller.

Consider: At an average 1,000 megawatt coal plant, a train with 110 railroad cars, each loaded with 20 tons of coal, arrives every five days. Each carload will provide 20 minutes of electricity. When burned, one ton of coal will throw three tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. We now burn 1 billion tons of coal a year--up from 500 million tons in 1976. This coal produces 40 percent of our greenhouse gases and 20 percent of the world's carbon emissions.

By contrast, consider a 1000 megawatt nuclear reactor. Every two years a fleet of flatbed trucks pulls up to the reactor to deliver a load of fuel rods. These rods are only mildly radio-active and can be handled with gloves. They will be loaded into the reactor, where they will remain for six years (only one-third of the rods are replaced at each refueling). The replaced rods will be removed and transferred to a storage pool inside the containment structure, where they can remain indefinitely (three feet of water blocks the radiation). There is no exhaust, no carbon emissions, no sulfur sludge to be carted away hourly and heaped into vast dumps. There is no release into the environment. The fuel rods come out looking exactly as they did going in, except that they are now more highly radioactive. There is no air pollution, no water pollution, and no ground pollution.

**Objections to Nuclear Energy**--What are the potential problems with nuclear power?

First, some fear that a nuclear reactor might explode. But this is impossible. Natural uranium is made of two isotopes--U-235 and U-238 (the latter having three more neutrons). Both are radioactive--meaning they are constantly breaking down into slightly smaller atoms--but only U-235 is fissile, meaning it will split almost in half with a much larger release of energy. Because U-235 is more highly radioactive, it has almost all broken down already, so that it now makes up only seven-tenths of a percent of the world's natural uranium. In order to set-off a chain reaction, natural uranium must be "enriched" so that U-235 makes up a larger percentage. Reactor grade uranium--which will simmer enough to produce a little heat--is **3 percent** U-235. In order to get to bomb grade uranium--the kind that will explode--uranium must be enriched to 90 percent U-235. Given this fact, there is simply no way that a reactor can explode.

On the other hand, a reactor can "melt down." This is what happened at Three Mile Island. A valve stuck open and a series of mistakes led the operators to think the core was overflowing when it was actually short of cooling water. They further drained the core and about a third of the core melted from the excess heat. But did this result in a nuclear catastrophe? Hardly. The public was disconcerted because no one was sure

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what was happening. But in the end, the melted fuel stayed within the reactor vessel. Critics had predicted a "China syndrome" where the molten core would melt through the steel vessel, then through the concrete containment structure, then down into the earth, where it would hit groundwater, causing a steam explosion that would spray radioactive material across a huge area. In fact, the only radioactive debris was a puff of steam that emitted the same radiation as a single chest x-ray. Three Mile Island was an industrial accident. It bankrupted the utility, but no one was injured.

This of course was not the case in Chernobyl, where the Soviet designers didn't even bother building a concrete containment structure around the reactor vessel. Then in 1986, two teams of operators became involved in a tussle over use of the reactor, and ended up overheating the core, which set fire to the carbon moderator that facilitates the chain reaction. (American reactors don't use carbon moderators.) The result was a four-day fire that spewed radioactive debris around the world. More fallout fell on Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, from Chernobyl than from Three Mile Island. With proper construction such a thing could never happen.

Another objection to nuclear power is the supposed waste it produces. But this is a mischaracterization. A spent fuel rod is 95 percent U-238. This is the same material we can find in a shovel full of dirt from our back yards. Of the remaining five percent, most is useful,

but small amounts should probably be placed in a repository such as Yucca Mountain. The useful parts--uranium-235 and plutonium (a manmade element produced from U-238)--can be recycled as fuel. In fact, we are currently recycling plutonium from Russian nuclear missiles. Of the 20 percent of our power that comes from nuclear sources, half is produced from recycled Russian bombs. Many of the remaining isotopes are useful in industry or radiological medicine--now used in 40 percent of all medical procedures. It is only cesium-137 and strontium-90, which have half-lives of 28 and 30 years, respectively, that need to be stored in protective areas.

Unfortunately, federal regulations require all radioactive byproducts of nuclear power plants to be disposed of in a nuclear waste repository. As a result, more than 98 percent of what will go into Yucca Mountain is either natural uranium or useful material. Why are we wasting so much effort on such a needless task? Because in 1977, President Carter decided to outlaw nuclear recycling. The fear then was that other countries would steal our plutonium to make nuclear

bombs. (India had just purloined plutonium from a Canadian-built reactor to make its bomb.) This has turned out to be a false alarm. Countries that have built bombs have either drawn plutonium from their own reactors or--as Iran is trying to do now--enriched their own uranium. Canada, Britain, France and Russia are all recycling their nuclear fuel. France has produced 80 percent of its electricity with nuclear power for the last 25 years. It stores all its high-level "nuclear waste" in a single room at Le Havre.

## **Conclusion**

The U.S. currently gets 50 percent of its electricity from coal and 20 percent from nuclear reactors. Reversing these percentages should become a goal of both global warming advocates and anyone who wants to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil (the latter since a clean, expanded electrical grid could anchor a fleet of hydrogen or electric cars). Contrary to what some critics charge, this would not require massive subsidies or direct intervention by the government. Indeed, the nuclear industry has gone through an astounding revival over the past decade. The entire fleet of 103 reactors is up and running 90 percent of the time. Reactors are making money hand-over-fist--so much so that the attorney general of Connecticut recently proposed a windfall profits tax on them! The industry is poised for new construction, with proposals for four new reactors submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and almost 30 waiting in the wings.

The rest of the world is rapidly moving toward nuclear power. France, Russia and Japan are not only going ahead with their own nuclear programs, but selling their technology in the developing world. America, which once dominated this technology, is being left behind. The main culprit is public fear. Nuclear technology is regarded as an illegitimate child of the atomic bomb, a Faustian bargain, a blasphemous tinkering with nature. It is none of these. It is simply a natural outgrowth of our evolving understanding of the universe. The sun has been our prime source of energy throughout human history, but energy is also generated in the earth itself. It is time to avail ourselves of this clean, safe terrestrial energy.

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**KENNETH R. RICHARD**—Littleton, CO

I think this publication is very important although you would never guess it by my lack of participation. Thanks to you guys who keep it going. I think you do a great job.

I'm turning 74 in a few days so things they are a-changing. I have prostate cancer that was treated with seeds in 2000 and didn't work. I'm now on hormone therapy and have good control of my PSA -- 0.1 at the present. Side effects of the hormone therapy are lots of hot flashes and a lack of energy and some loss of body hair. I'm on an intermittent treatment, so I'm on for a year and then off for about a year or until the PSA gets too high.

I also had both hips replaced in 2004 and they hurt significantly although considerably better than before surgery. Just had cataract surgery in February of this year and I don't see very well out of either eye. I can read the newspaper without glasses though.

Sounds like I have really gone downhill very fast but, that's what happens when you don't send an annual update in. I'm going to do better! My wife and I had a new patio home built last year. We moved in in NOV of 2007. We still haven't got it decorated yet but it's coming along. We forgot to downsize but, at least, someone else does the yard and shovels the snow.

I have lots of pleasant memories from 65 to 94. Thanks for those memories!

*Ken & Emilia* - kenrrich1@msn.com

**RICHARD ROBBERS**—Belfair, WA

The President's Message suggested writing an annual message. I hope I am sending this to the proper address.

The other day my wife (a get-rid-of-that-junk person) gave me the chore of cleaning the garage. Now I am a saver so there was lots to go through and in one box I found my old UAL nameplate. Since my last name is unusual it brought back memories of flying with some good guys with names that paired with mine. First while in SFO I flew once with Milo Kopp and we were later in a Heb Caen column. Then, after I had bid up to SEA I had a trip with Ed Crooks. Ed was not a talker and the trip was a turn to LAX. When on the ground in LA Ed looked at me and said "I wonder what the people think of flying with Crooks and Robbers." Maybe you can remember some of the

other combinations. I know there was Ralph Jaekel and Jim Hyde in SFO.

By the way I kept most of my junk and threw hers away.

*Rick Robbers*

**GUY SAPP**—San Rafael, CA

Howdy Bruce and Fellow RUPARIANS - A quick update on "Life in the Retired Lane", as most of you would agree it has been a roller coaster ride this past decade, but life is good and the old cliché if you have your health etc. certainly applies. Been fortunate in that regard and the "they" brothers who coined the phrase that life is like a roll of tissue paper, the longer you've been around the quicker it goes got it right!!! My lovely life companion Christine (retired Flt. Att.) and myself seem to be on the move constantly, family, grandkids, cruises, tennis, golf, hiking, biking and the list presses on. Not to mention our terrific pals!!! We are both Docents at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and extend an invite to all visiting SF to give us a ring and we will make room for a tour of the de Young, currently state of the art west of the Mississippi (did I spell that correctly). Miss the flying but don't know how I could fit it in with the other schedules.....

Best to all, *Christine & Guy Sapp*

(PS, many thanks and Congrats to all the RUPA officialdom that keeps the association fine tuned.)

**MARTY SEAHOLM**—Mesquite NV

Another year flies by and here I am facing number 74 after 12 years retirement. I'm getting tired of being the oldest at the birthday parties, but at least I'm there, eh? After an MI ten years ago that resulted in angioplasty and a stent, I continue to say my daily thanks for waking up each morning. I have asked the Crew Desk to defer scheduling my Final Flight West for as long as possible. We reside summers in central Oregon on Lake Billy Chinook near Bend. After my "honey-dos" around the house, we go fishing, cruising, or anchor and do a BBQ. We sold the Nordhavn 46 a few years ago so no more Alaska trips. We are now selling our Class A diesel motor home that we lived aboard during our winters in Mexico each year. We are about to begin our first winter in our new home in Mesquite NV. We'll move as soon as the bloody hot temps moderate. *Marty*

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**THEODORE G. (TED) SHOLL**—Cardiff, CA

Denis, first of all, thanks so much for taking on the job of Editor after your outstanding stewardship as RETUP moderator. You obviously manage your time better than I do.

Was very saddened to hear of the passing of two UAL friends recently—Pat Paterson and Jim Lovejoy, both true gentlemen and aviators extraordinaire.

Marion and I have spent the last year volunteering on the USS Midway museum. She works in the Safety Department and I am a Docent. We try to put in two or three 5 hour watches a week. It is extremely rewarding and a lot of fun working with a group of really dedicated volunteers who come from all backgrounds—military and civilian, as well, including retired schoolteachers, ex AF, Army, Coast Guard enlisted and officers, and of course, lots of Naval Aviators. The museum is beautiful, with new exhibits and aircraft opening up frequently. For example, four ready rooms recently opened up below the flight deck amidships, with three more coming in the Spring, and lots more new displays on the horizon. For anyone living in the San Diego area with a little time to spare, the Midway is looking for new volunteers. There is a new docent class in late August and another in November. For ex-USN types, it's a chance to learn things and places on the ship you never knew existed. Info is available on the USS Midway website.

Have also been playing a little golf at Sea 'N Air (North Island) with the Men's Club. Golf is still lousy but we have a lot of laughs, and every now and then, win up to \$5. Had my second hip replacement operation on 17 July and all went well. By the 19th they sent me home under the 24 hour care of my CO, Marion. Had a couple of weeks of in-home therapy with a therapist, and now in the middle of 4 weeks at the hospital of outpatient therapy. Pain has been very manageable, and after a month, I'm nearly done with the cane. They get you going right away with rigorous exercise. Had some concerns especially after reading Marion Paterson's story and hearing several other "horror stories", but had confidence in the Doctor and staff, and they did a great job. Had it done at Scripps Hospital in Encinitas. I'm now hoping to be back on the Midway in a week or so and back on the golf course in September.

The July issue of *RUPANEWS* was great. I particularly enjoyed the piece about "The Big Stick." (The USS Theodore Roosevelt.) A great read. Thanks to all. Keep up the good work!! Check to Bruce is in the mail, as they say.

Cheers, *Ted* UAL 1968-1995

**NATALIE A. SMITH**—Plainfield, IL

I just put in the mail a check for the coming year as I hope that you will continue sending the *RUPANEWS* to me.

Charlie died on the 17th of March. When he retired he said that even though he didn't want to retire he was going to make it wonderful and he was going to live as many years and months that he worked. He made the 31 years and four months plus 2 more months. He enjoyed working on his airplanes recovering all eight at least once and repairing and majoring engines. He kept busy at that until the last 18 months of his life. He had a number of light strokes and was unable to use his right hand. His shop is just as he left it, the airplanes and engines are here.

United airlines meant so much to us as we worked in the great years of United being the top and growing. I was a Stewardess starting in February 1946 until we were married.

*Natalie*

**VINCE SWINNEY**—Abilene, TX

Retired 13 years and busier than ever. Still Board Chairman of a non-profit. (Herald of Truth). Never knew I would have to travel so much – from Hawaii to Spain representing a great organization.

All of my travels have been on American Airlines and there appears to be "little" happiness in the cockpit or cabin. It appears the "best of flying" days are over.

We were blessed to fly during the times we did. Thanks to all the officers, committee chairmen, Directors and others who make the RUPA Publication possible. P.S. Check enclosed.

God Bless, *Vince*

# IN MEMORIAM

## GERALD H "GERRY" BEAULAUER

1927 - 2008 Resident of Burlingame, CA Captain Gerald Henry Beaulaurier made his final flight on July 6, 2008 on his 81st birthday at his Burlingame home surrounded by his wife and nine children. He was born in 1927 in the northern reaches of Montana. In 1937, his widowed mother moved the family to Salem, Oregon. He attended Oregon State University through a Naval program and did his flight training in Pensacola, Florida. In 1948, Gerry moved to San Francisco where he got a job flying for United Airlines. He worked there for 38 years until retiring as a DC-10 Captain in 1990. Gerry met his future wife, Elizabeth Anne Tull, on her maiden trip as a United Airlines stewardess. Her proper East-coast upbringing made a lively counterpart to his West-coast ways. They married and had seven daughters and two sons whom they lovingly raised. His adventurous spirit made him a unique and wonderful dad: his lullabies featured songs about raucous cowboys; his lunches were served while exploring the neighborhood by foot; and his summers were spent in a Ford van stuffed with kids and camping gear. Gerry was a consummate story-teller and author. His childhood adventures, depression era struggles, and harrowing piloting exploits all served as rich fodder for his riveting and amusing tales. In his retirement, he wrote a novel inspired by his Montana boyhood. Gerry also loved projects, whether it was adding on to the burgeoning family home or building giant sand castles at the beach. His enthusiasm for his stories, projects and life itself was infectious - and all who met him felt enriched by the encounter. Gerry is preceded in his death by his parents, Henry and Molly Beaulaurier, and his sister, Catherine. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; nine children: Michelle (and Claude) de Labaca, GERALYN, Mary, Joseph, Anne Marie, Susan, Sharon Rose (and Joseph) Vause, Renee (and Michael) Taylor, and Daniel; grandchildren Séraphée and Sébastien de Labaca and Bridget Vause; his sister Frances (and Jim) Walker, brothers Larry Beaulaurier and Martin (and Shirley) Beaulaurier; and many nieces, nephews, great and great-great nieces and nephews, godsons and goddaughters and relatives by marriage. Gerry also leaves behind countless belly-buckling tales, plus plenty of salvaged bricks, lumber and other treasures for some new adventure

just around the bend. A memorial mass celebrating his life will be held on Tuesday, August 5, 2008 at 2 PM at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, 1310 Bayswater Avenue in Burlingame. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Catherine's Building Fund, PaintbrushDiplomacy.org, or the UCSF Foundation, Box 0428, SF, 94143-0248, attn: Dr. Electron Kebebew.

## THOMAS ALLEN "AL" LAHEY

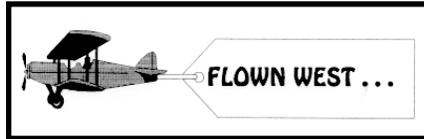
Thomas Allen "Al" Lahey passed away on Tuesday, July 22, 2008 at Renown Regional Hospital in Reno, NV. He suffered a heart attack the previous Thursday, shortly after completing a round of golf. Thomas Allen was better known as simply "Al" to his many friends throughout United Airlines where he had been employed for over 38 years.



He was born in Chicago, IL on August 23, 1938. He was the son of Thomas P. Lahey and Alice L. Dyrberg. He is survived by his loving wife Joyce Lahey; daughters Paula Ingalls and Rachel Collette; sons Kevin, Nathan, and Tim Collette; brothers, William and Paul Doran of Illinois; grandchildren Jason Ingalls, Hayden, Tyffany, Darryn, Sadie, Aiden, Madelyn and Isaiah Collette, and one great-grand daughter, Savannah Ingalls. Al was preceded in death by his mother Alice and his first wife, Dottie.

A memorial service, a celebration of Al's life, was held on Monday, July 28, 2008 at Reno Christian Fellowship Church in Reno. The Lahey family requested that in lieu of flowers, a donation be made in Al's name to the Woodlake High School Foundation. Al served as a member of their board. The donations will be used to support their college scholarship program. The address is: Woodlake High School Foundation, P.O. Box 475, Woodlake, CA 93286.

Thomas Allen "Al" Lahey was many things to many people. However, this retired United Airlines Captain will be best remembered for his love of family and friends and a lifelong passion for the game of golf. Perhaps it was fitting that when he departed, he had just finished a round of golf, and he made a par on the final hole that played.



<b>GERALD H BEAULAURIER</b>	<b>July 06, 2008</b>
<b>RONALD M. BOLICK</b>	<b>June 01, 2008</b>
<b>GILBERT S. CHASE</b>	<b>July 28, 2008</b>
<b>ROBERT C COLLINS</b>	<b>July 12, 2008</b>
<b>DAVID L. DYE</b>	<b>March 10, 2008</b>
<b>BRENDA L. HOUSTON, 47 (Active)</b>	<b>July 28, 2008</b>
<b>THOMAS "AL" LEAHY</b>	<b>July 22, 2008</b>



### HIGH FLIGHT

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds, - and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air....

Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark or even eagle flew -  
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

*John Gillespie Magee, Jr., September 3, 1941*

#### **United Airlines Retired Pilots Foundation, Inc.**

Send memorial and other donations to: Capt. T. S. "Ted" Bochniarz, Treasurer  
1165 Regency Dr., Westchester, IL 60154-5638

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## RUPA'S SOCIAL CALENDAR

### Monthly Scheduled Lunches

1st Wed. SFO North Bay—*Petaluma Sheraton*  
2nd Mon. Nov, Jan, Feb, Mar SW FL—*Olive Garden, Ft. Myers* - 239-540-9112  
2nd Tue. San Diego Co—*San Marcos CC*- 760-723-9008  
2nd Tue. Nov-Apr Treasure Coast Sunbirds—*Mariner Sands CC* - 772-286-6667  
2nd Wed. PHX Roadrunners— *Please call for directions* - 480-948-1612  
2nd Thu. Oct-Apr. SE FL Gold Coast— *Flaming Pit* - 561-272-1860  
3rd Tue. DEN Good Ole Boys— *11:30am American Legion Post 1* - 303-364-1565  
3rd Tue. LAS High Rollers—*Memphis Barbecue* - 702-558-9422 or 702-565-7175  
3rd Tue. Dana Point CA— *Wind & Sea Restaurant* - 949-496-2691  
3rd Wed. Reno's "Biggest Little Group"—*Macaroni Grill* - 775-747-4429  
3rd Thu. LAX—(Even Mo.) *Hacienda* - 310-821-6207;  
3rd Thu. LAXV—(Odd Mo.) *Mimi's, Chatsworth* - 818-992-8908  
3rd Thu. Ohio Northcoasters—*TJ's Wooster* (Always coed.) - 440-235-7595  
3rd Thu. SEA Gooneybirds—*Airport Marriott* - 360-825-1016  
3rd Thu. So. Oregon (MFR)—*Pony Express, Jacksonville* - 541-245-6896  
3rd Thu. TPA Sundowners—*Daddy's Grill* - 727-787-5550  
Last Thu. Hawaii Ono Nenes—*Mid Pacific Country Club*

### Bi-Monthly Scheduled Lunches

1st Wed Mar, Jul, Nov. Chicago Area—*Wellington Restaurant, Arlington Heights* – 630-832-3002  
2nd Tue Jan, May, Sep. McHenry (ORD)—*Warsaw Inn* – 815-459-5314  
3rd Thu Feb, Apr, Jun, Oct, Dec. NE FL —*Spruce Creek CC* - 386-760-0797

### Quarterly Scheduled Lunches

3rd Wed. Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct. Washington Area—*Westwood CC* - 540-338-4574

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**Deadline: September 17, 2008**

**Mailing: October 1, 2008**

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**RUPANEWS**

P.O. Box 275

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019-0275

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