

Silver Eagles Newsletter

October 2011

We have two new members this month. Again a personal favorite because I... (well, I guess that I can't say "recruited" because I didn't have that power) **strongly encouraged** to come to the Board. She'll be a real loss. The other is a highway investigator who will also be missed. If I remember correctly, he was on Highway's "A" team! At least when I was at a highway accident, he was there, too. Also, we have a second inside person now since Bob Benzon is talking about retiring in December. Karen Bury, formerly part of NTSB's legal team (including a stint as the Deputy GC), aviation's chief writer/editor and now the Senior Advisor to the Managing Director for Program Quality, but I most remember her as riding herd on Bernie Loeb in the Office of Research and Engineering. Does anyone know what happened to Bernie? Any contact info?

New Members:

Crystal Thomas (HazMat) I accepted a job offer with BP doing Gulf of Mexico offshore investigations, so I'll be moving to Houston and becoming a Texan! I can't actually believe that I'm doing it, since I really love my job here, but it's a good opportunity and I don't want to regret not giving it a try.

Chris Voeglie (Highway in Atlanta) retired this month.

Board News:

Bob MacIntosh retired without ceremony. His parting note: "It is time for me to put the landing gear up and fly off to a new destination. I started my aviation career 55 years ago with a Cessna 140 at Ohio State University. I've held a fairly steady course/track since then in commercial and government aviation activities, and the last 23 years we have traveled together at the NTSB. What a great experience and an opportunity to contribute this has been.

I'm heading off to added interests and family activities – knowing that all you NextGen thinkers will strive for even greater improvements to keep us old folks safer and safer!

On a serious note, I have the upmost respect and admiration for each and every NTSB employee – and the mission we so dearly pursue. You have my very best wishes for the future." (I sent an email to Bob inviting him to join, but didn't hear back. If any of you want to try. Feel free. I have his address.)

Crystal Thomas' parting note: "Wow, I honestly can't believe that today is my last day working at the NTSB. From the time I spent here as a co-op student while attending Penn State, to the nearly 6½ years that I've worked here full-time as a hazardous materials investigator, NTSB has been like a home to me. My experience here has been truly amazing and unforgettable. As a hazardous materials accident investigator, I've been fortunate to work with all of the modal offices. I have been involved in many types of accidents, looked into many safety issues, and like to think that I've helped to raise awareness and make the transportation of hazardous materials a little safer. Throughout my time here I have met and worked with a lot of great people, from

whom I've learned a lot of valuable things, and in the process made a lot of fabulous friends! So I just wanted to say thank you for everything... I am so appreciative!!”

Chris Voeglie, Highway in Atlanta, retired, and his parting note: “To my NTSB family,

It is with a heavy heart that I announce my time with the Safety Board must come to an end. As of Friday, I will be retiring from Federal service, and I hope to pursue a long time personal challenge. In so, I hope to again have the opportunity to work with some of you in the future.

I'm proud to have served with the Safety Board and it was an honor to have served with such a distinct group of dedicated professionals. We perform an important and difficult role in the pursuit of the truth while also advancing transportation safety. I'm thankful to have contributed to such a worthy and important mission.

I will forever take pride in our accomplishments, for we have saved many lives through our individual and collective efforts.

My career at the Safety Board has been both exciting and challenging. The opportunity to develop the Office of Highway Safety's EDR program with the help of my OHS family was truly gratifying and I will miss with each and every one of you.

I would like to thank all everyone for all that you do to make the NTSB the most respected federal agency and to acknowledge the many friendships that will last for years to come.

As I depart, I will once again look upon you all with the same "awe" as the public, as we watch you launch to one major accident after another.

Please keep in touch and let me know what exciting new challenges you're facing.

I wish all the best!”

Timothy A. Borson died May 9, 2011 in Largo, Florida. As a teenager, Tim developed a love for flying. This passion was only matched by his love for cars. He could usually be found hanging out at the old Reese Airport in Selma, Indiana, or covered in paint or car grease while restoring antique cars. Tim was able to take a car apart or a jet engine with the precision of a surgeon. The restoration of a classic 57' Corvette, a source of great pride, was driven by his need to create, achieve, and excel.

His concern for others led him to develop SafePath, a patented safety device used on older model cars, creating under bumper lighting, and greater visibility. Always aware of those in need, he developed the program VOWHONOR FLIGHT. This program, still in the development stage, was to provide WW II veterans an opportunity to visit the national monument free of charge.

After graduating from Wapahani High School Tim received a BS degree in Aeronautics, Master Degree in Aeronautics and Space, and a Doctorate in Aero Safety Systems and Engineering at

Oklahoma State University. He was a test pilot, and worked for the **NTSB (National Safety and Transportation Board) in Washington D.C.** His career with the NTSB spanned twenty-three years. During that time, he held several offices. He served as NTSB Catastrophic Investigator, Operations Group Chairman, Field Chief for the state of Alaska, and NTSB Regional Director of the South Central U.S. After leaving the NTSB, he authored a textbook on aeronautic systems and safety, and taught aeronautics at Oklahoma State University. Tim was the son of the late Sondo Borson and his mother, Micci; Lara, his daughter, (husband, Lloyd); sisters, Sonia Main (husband, Thamar), Cynthia Downham (husband, Mike), Diana Borson; an uncle, Earl Borson; and many nieces and nephews will miss him forever. Despite illness and suffering, Tim seldom complained. He understood hope and courage are stronger than despair, laughter and imagination more powerful than grief and love more powerful than death. [This came from **Ron Battocchi.**]

Member News:

Dick Rodriguez and **Carol Roberts** have both changed their email address. See the attached contact list.

This suggestion from **Jean Bernstein** because she is looking for a new doctor in the Reston/Great Falls, VA area: “**I suggest that our Silver Eagles start a list of doctor recommendations in the area where they live.**” (I personally use Dr. Marc Eisenbaum in Fairfax, VA, and believe that he is fantastic, but my wife thinks he treats men with more respect than women. Not sure what that means...)

Linda Jones had similar suggestions, “How about adding a section to the newsletter where people could ask questions of the members? I think there are a number of us living in more rural areas where we don't have great access to the little things that sometimes need answers. What a great amount of corporate knowledge we could draw from. Also, another thing might be if someone were looking for a retired Board employee. There's bound to be someone out there who knows how to get in touch with them.” (On the latter, I've had several requests from the Board for retired Board employee info. I've asked the member before I passed it on.)

Jim Henderson: My thoughts are that this is your group. I'm just initiator. I would graciously accept and forward any thoughts, experiences, questions from each and every one of you! Sometimes it is hard putting together a monthly newsletter because no one is stepping up – and sometimes I've had to save a message for next month's newsletter so as not to overwhelm. Please participate as much as you want! It will only make this group more vibrant! Do we have a group activity coordinator that wants to step up? -or a poet laureate? – a comedian or cartoonist? An offer to collect doctor's information for everyone? There is plenty of room to participate! Likely our group would not have succeeded if **Robert Moore** hadn't put together the website.

BTW – my question on which medical plan works well with Medicare seemed to be answered that all Federal plans work well. The question as to whether you need Medicare Part B when you have and plan to keep a Federal plan is less clear. It seems that it will not do you any good because your Federal plan duplicates it so it doesn't really do anything, but if you later choose to drop your Federal plan then you're screwed because each year after you turn 65 that you delay picking up Part B results in a percent increase in the cost... Apparently the same is not true for Part D, the prescriptions plan. Who knew turning 65 would be such a pain!

Miscellaneous:

I hope this poem has the same effect on you as it did on me - then my forwarding it will be worth the effort. Walk with me by the water.

- worth the read...

A BEAUTIFUL POEM ABOUT GROWING OLDER:



Crap...

I forgot the words....

I was going to credit the person who sent this, but I forgot who did, yikes! [This is an example of a submission that was saved for a future newsletter.]

Autumn is starting! Cool temps with beautiful trees. YEAH!

Jim Henderson