

## Silver Eagles Newsletter

August 2012

### New Members:

Mike Levins

### Board News: None

### Member News:

**Bob Pyle** – I'm not sure I have much to share of any value except...To warn any NTSB person planning to retire and lives in DC area to be very careful about moving to another state because the housing values in many places around the USA are downright deplorable and not much chance of recovering in next 5-10 years, and the job markets are extremely bad too...

I just read an article about Florida that stated the housing market and job markets are so bad that many young recent college grads are leaving the state in droves due to such a bad forecast for the future here...they even said they think most politicians are in deep trouble like the Governor because not much is working out as to jobs (although jobs have increased dramatically under the new Governor) and housing...I have friends who had invested like I did in homes in Florida and where those homes were say 400-500K are now about 200k...

The folks with lots of cash are letting their undervalued homes go to foreclosure and then purchasing the same type home in same community for half the price that is for sale (i.e. they buy a home for 1 million and dump their home they bought for 1.5 million and was worth 2.5 million)...why lose 500k if u sell that upside down home???

My oldest son just got married for first time and bought a house once valued at 300k for 125k, and it is very, very nice near the Gulf...

I have one friend who was a millionaire investor in homes in Florida and lost 11 to foreclosure due to not being able to find any renters; he lost millions in values...the real unemployment rates are around 15% in many states like Florida, but it was over 18%, not the 8-9% the BSers in our National Govt state.

I don't know how u can use some info here to warn others, and I shared some personal info with U but not sure I want all to know it, but one of the worst mistakes I made was selling my properties in No Virginia and investing in Florida in multiple homes...I should have rented the Va properties as they went up almost 100% in past 12 years in DC area...it is one of the few areas like that in USA due to the Federal Govt being stable as to jobs.

Also, the job market in most areas was very good back in 2000 and I went back to work for an upstart LED mfg company (the owners had sold their interest in Tropicana Orange Juice to Pepsico) and a guy I knew who worked at Whitehouse during Reagan years was a VP there, but now those startups are rare indeed and most are now out of business...the one I worked at was destroyed by 9/11 incident as it killed the LED business for a few years, but it now has arrived

and u see it in stop lights, car lights, etc...but the business moved to cheaper mfg countries like China and Korea...

**James LeBerte** - It has been almost a year since I have retired from the Safety Board. My first big accomplishment in retirement was purchasing a Harley Davidson motorcycle. I'm back to what I loved when I worked as a Police Motor Officer, riding bikes. It's a lot of fun but the advantage of working for the Safety Board has reminded me of the dangers of riding the roads what to watch for. I have been on a few short rides but planning a cross country trip this fall to Monument Valley. I can say without a doubt that retirement is wonderful. I have spent time in Ocean Isle Beach, NC with my daughter and granddaughter which has been a real treat. I miss the Safety Board and all the friends I had the pleasure working with. Thanks for allowing me to share my story.

**Greg Phillips** - It's hard to believe that this past February it's been 8 years since I left the Board. I still happily (and truthfully) tell everyone who will listen that working with the great people at the Board was the best job I ever had or could have imagined. I left the Board a few years before my real retirement age and became an "Aviation Safety Consultant." I wasn't sure then (or even now) what people think that means but it has paid the bills and kept me busier than I was when I was with the Board. My principal client for these past 8 years has been Willis a major aviation insurance broker based in London. I work for the CEO out of New York and support all their clients which includes many airlines, corporate flight departments, charter operators, etc. I help with their emergency response planning and training and occasionally get to help with an incident or accident investigation. I also helped create a Safety Advisory Board for an upstart aviation charter broker. My work with Willis has taken me many interesting places. From NASCAR race teams to Intel, Ebay, Dreamworks-SKG, Paramount Studios, Campbells Soup, NetJets, helicopter EMS operations, a few Las Vegas casino flight operations, Los Angeles City Police Department Flight Operations, Los Angeles County Helicopter Flight Operations, and some very wealthy private citizens flight departments. It's been a fun ride.

A couple of years ago, Keith McGuire (Seattle office) got me involved with USC and their aviation safety education program. I teach Systems in their accident investigation courses and investigation basics in their Incident investigation course. The USC teaching takes me to Los Angeles 6 or 7 times a year. I've also taught courses for USC in Mexico City, Mexico, Auckland, New Zealand, Mumbai, India, and Singapore (the past two summers). As I write this, I'm preparing for a USC course in Trinidad and Tobago next month. In June/July 2011, I literally flew around the world two and a half times working on projects with stops in LA, Singapore, Fiji, London, Frankfurt, and Cyprus.

I've helped as an expert witness on a handful of defense cases and only when I have time and the expertise to really have something to say. It amazes me that some who have worked for the Board use their time at the Board to "qualify" them to put their "expert" hats on for things that they have only seen others do for the Board.

On the family side, I still live in Waldorf, MD in the house we moved into when I started with the Board in 1988. I still have the same great wife (Debbie). My two grown sons, Chris and Matt, are moving along well with their lives. Matt is now 30 and was married this past May and is

working on getting a Firefighter assignment in Maryland. Chris (now 32) whom some of you may remember from working as an intern up in Public Affairs with Ted and his group, graduated from Goucher College and is living in Los Angeles and working for an international banking consulting company.

Some may remember my building a Van's RV-8A. I successfully completed and flew it just after leaving the Board. I flew it for about 3 years, and decided I wasn't flying enough to satisfy my personal standards for currency so I sold it to a good home in Florida. For spare time fun, my wife and I enjoy making (and drinking) wine from kits that are available to home winemakers. I am also restoring an Alfa Romeo Spider Graduate. I've been riding a Honda Goldwing since 2008 but am about to turn it into a three-wheeled CanAm Spyder.

Although my airplane has moved on to another owner here [see photo in Silver Eagles photo gallery] is a picture of me and the RV-8A taken at St. Mary's Airport in Southern Maryland in the winter of 2005.

Please, I'll be contacting six more members for input. I've added a cute math table from Kay Sommerfeld to the end of this. Read for fun! – or not. I liked it! Thanks!

Jim Henderson

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### **Mathematical Equivalence**

1. Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter = Eskimo Pi
2. 2000 pounds of Chinese soup = Won ton
3. 1 millionth of a mouthwash = 1 micro Scope
4. Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement = 1 bananosecond
5. Weight an evangelist carries with God = 1 billigram
6. Time it takes to sail 220 yards at 1 nautical mile per hour = Knotfurlong
7. 16.5 feet of silver in the Twilight Zone = 1 Rod Sterling
8. Half of a large intestine = 1 semicolon
9. 1,000,000 aches = 1 megahurtz
10. Basic unit of laryngitis = 1 hoarsepower
11. Shortest distance between two jokes = A straight line
12. 453.6 graham crackers = 1 pound cake

13. 1 million microphones = 1 megaphone
14. 1 million bicycles = 2 megacycles
15. 365.25 days = 1 unicycle
16. 2000 mockingbirds = 2 kilomockingbird
17. 52 cards = 1 decacards
18. 1000 kilograms of falling figs = 1 FigNewton
19. 1000 milliliters of wet socks = 1 literhosen
20. 1 millionth of a fish = 1 microfiche
21. 1 trillion pins = 1 terrapin
22. 10 rations = 1 decoration
23. 100 rations = 1 C-ration
24. 2 monograms = 1 diagram
25. 8 nickels=2paradigms
26. 4 statute miles of intravenous surgical tubing = 1 IV League
27. 100 Senators = Not 1 decision
28. Time interval between hitting the delete key and then realizing that file is needed = 1 onosecond