



Silver Eagles Newsletter

December 2012

Have a great Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanza! – ummm... Festivus for the Rest of Us (for you Seinfeld fans) -I think that most of the other fests are at other times of the year, but Eid Mubarak and well, “Have a fantastic time, too!” One person responded to my request for life-events this month. Thanks, Jeff! I’ll keep trying!

Wow, the 100 mark! Quite a milestone! I have yet to receive any recommendations on what we should do to celebrate, but this may be the wrong time of year to make plans. How about a DC party? –and how about volunteers to plan one? –someone with an ability to attract party people and perhaps another someone with solid connections with the Safety Board. Neither are my strong suit. I have twice given parties that no one showed up!! Oh well, I have other strengths.

Okay, one IMPORTANT change on my part. I purchased a new computer and am attempting to learn Windows 8 and my ability to transfer info from one computer is a continuing chore. Within a day after this message each of you should receive a message titled “Silver Eagles Christmas Test” from my new computer. If you do not receive this in 3 days (and only if you do not receive it!), please respond to me using this newsletter. I can use your response to include your address on my new email list. Thanks!!

New Members:

Barbara Bush

Malcolm Brenner

Board News:

Malcolm Brenner retired on Dec 18. “After 26 years at the NTSB as a human performance investigator, I plan to retire following my last day at work on Tuesday December 18. Most of my activity has been in aviation, but I have been fortunate to work in all transportation modes, with safety studies, and at the Training Center. It has been a wonderful career and I have many fond memories.

Thank you so much for the honor of being your colleague.”
(Malcolm retires photo)



Malcolm Brenner

Vern Ellingstad retired Nov 30. “**Ha det bra / au revoir**” (According to Karen Bury, Ha det bra means ‘Take care’ in Norwegian, and au revoir is something like “be seeing you” in French – although typically interpreted as goodbye.)

“Colleagues –

Today is my last day at the NTSB. Before I unplug and pack up my computer and send it back to DC, I want to say goodbye to friends and colleagues who have been very important to me over my 22 years at the Board. We work (I have a few hours left) for a unique and important agency. Take good care of it.

Vern”

[I caught up with Malcolm before he left – not Vern. If anyone knows how to contact him, please let me know.]

Jolly Holiday Party – Okay, my party abilities are already in question... I didn’t make it. Talking to Lorenda, only two Silver Eagles we expected to show up. Need I say more...

Member News:

Jeff Guzzetti - The Guzzetti family is doing well. Jeff continues to lead a large staff of auditors as the DOT’s Assistant Inspector General for Aviation Audits (including the recent audit on the Board at MWAA - Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority). Kathy (Silbaugh) continues to demonstrate why she earned the Department of Justice’s New Employee of the Year award last year, as the Deputy Director of the Departmental Ethics Office. Both miss their work at employees at NTSB (Jeff in Office of Aviation Safety, Kathy in the General Counsel’s office). Their two sons – Jason (age 6) and Matthew (age 5) – continue to make life interesting. (Guzzetti family pictures below)





Miscellaneous comments on Debbie Taylor's list [from the November newsletter]:

Kay Sommerfeld - Debbie Taylor's list is priceless!!! Although I was not at NTSB during some of those events, her vivid descriptions brought back my own memories of Board meetings, report changes, greensheet prep, rec letters to the 50 States, footnotes, and many appendixes. Please convey to her my congratulations on the colorful capture of life at the Safety Board.

Hope the results of the elections met your expectations! If you didn't vote, then shame on you!

Jim Henderson

A little humor that I found on Facebook for our literary folks!

HOW TO WRITE GOOD

- 1. Avoid alliteration always.**
- 2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.**
- 3. The passive voice is to be avoided.**
- 4. Avoid clichés like the plague. They're old hat.**
- 5. It is wrong to ever split an infinitive.**
- 6. Writers should never generalize.**
- Seven. Be consistent**
- 8. Don't use more words than necessary. It's highly superfluous.**
- 9. Be more or less specific.**
- 10. Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.**