

Silver Eagles Newsletter

July 2012

One new member that I'm excited about – a former HazMat investigator! Not that I wasn't excited about finding and getting all of you together. GO Silver Eagles! I followed up on my plan from the last newsletter and sent a very short message to a half dozen of our members asking them to share life-events with us . One person got back. (*see who responded below*) I note that nearby storm knocked out my internet for over a week, sooo some responses may have been lost in the storm! I'll keep trying!

New Members:

Rich York, formerly with HazMat.

[His contact info should be on the attached contact list.]

Board News: None

Member News:

Rich York: “After leaving NTSB I worked in the Olympia office of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) for two years before accomplishing my goal of working my way back to my home town of Boise, ID. My wife Volyn and I have now lived in Boise for 10 years and have a daughter, Georgia (9 years old), and a son, Clint (5 years old). Currently, I hold the position of FMCSA Idaho Division Administrator.”

[Those of you who remember Rich, please give him a shout!]

Bob Benzon – (*response to my request!*) Well, I am six months into retirement from the Safety Board now, and do have a few observations for potential retirees, or those that just recently pulled the plug.

I retired in the winter, which has an effect...inside a bit, looking forward to warmer weather, etc. Took a short trip to Florida to visit a sister, and that helped.

With some difficulty with the ol' NTSB, I worked through a teaching contract with them (some of the same stuff I taught while an NTSBer) and will start that in August.

I am still a government employee, as a rehired annuitant. Quite part-time, working at home for the most part, for the DoD IG. This would be on a 2010 F-22 Raptor accident that has created some controversy. No big deal. It seems they had no aviation investigators on staff and all that. This short-term thing will run out a couple of months from now, I hope. I would not advise retirees to become rehired annuitants. Way too many hoops to jump through just to temporarily earn a few bucks.

Got a few more irons in the fire too.

Here's a hoot for you all...everybody knows that you should save up your leave to tide you over while OPM figures out your exact retirement payments...which are supposed to be 70% or so of your final check. Not true in my case, I was overpaid since retirement and just cut a check back to the US government for over \$600. Go figure. [*Thanks Bob!*]

Please, I'll be contacting six more members for next month's newsletter in a separate email. Let's get a little better showing next month. Thanking you in advance!

Jim Henderson