

Silver Eagles Newsletter

May 2012

Thanks, in part, to Bridget Serchak we found several new members this month! Also several people offered assistance to the Canadian TV interviewer on the United 173, DC-8 that ran out of fuel while the pilots were assessing a problem with the landing gear indicators and then crashed into a wooded area near the Portland, OR in December of 1978. Thanks everyone!

New Members:

Jeff Guzzetti

Sue Berry

Rod Dyck

Sylvia Livingston

Jim LeBerte

Lauren Peduzzi

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

Board News: None

Member News:

Jeff Guzzetti - It's been nearly two years now since I left the Board to become the Assistant Inspector General for Aviation and Special Programs for Dept. of Transportation. (The "special programs" means my I am in charge of audits of PHMSA pipeline & hazmat stuff, as well as all FAA programs). Great place to work, and different from NTSB (not "better" per se, but "different"). For the first time, I will be testifying before Congress (House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee - Aviation Subcommittee) this Wednesday (April 35th) at 9 am to discuss "The State of Aviation Safety " along with FAA's Peggy Gilligan. My wife Kathy Silbaugh (another NTSB alum who worked for Ron Battochi and Bill Love) is doing great as the Deputy Director of the Dept. of Justice's Office of Ethics. In fact, she was one of four winners of the DOJ's New Employee of the year award! Our two sons, Jason (6) and Matthew (4- 1/2) are doing really well. By the way, we live in Jim Henderson's neighborhood in Burke, VA. One more thing, with Kathy working, and with me at age 51 and 25 years of service, I will take an "early out", if offered as expected in our agency, to spend more time with my kids and work part time for one of you! Any tips for me? [*Jeff – keep my email address – biking around Burke Lake? – Kayaking at Fountainhead Park? – or are you talking next career?*]

Bob Benzon - Regarding the B-747/Space Shuttle arrival, I was stuck on I-95 northbound just short of the 14th Street bridge, for about an hour, because you people (Bob Trainor et al) parked your cars in the middle of the freeway, or perhaps on the edges, to watch the thing fly around for

waaaay to long. Ok... we saw the arrival from a distance south of the bridge, while fuming in the car, so the delay was worth it.

For those who are interested:

Yup, I knew it would happen. My wife Susan, is trying her best to boot me out of the house after a mere four months into retirement. And, thank you Bridget, for getting me into this DoD IG.....new adventure. Or maybe not. Ha!

I still hope to teach out at the NTSB Training Center, as an independent contractor. DoD IG says, no problem. Go figure. But the Board has not shown me a draft contract, so that thing may fall by the wayside.

Silver Eagles Forever!

Bob Pyle – Wow, I am so happy that these (NTSB Annual) awards are still around after we developed them during my time as HR Head...I wasn't sure they would keep them after I left...I always believed that this was a formal way to recognize all the great achievements of the outstanding employees of the NTSB...

I incorporated some concepts of DOJ where I came from (they had a terrific awards program at DOJ to recognize significant contributions each year), and added the monetary amounts based on some new rules by OPM; this I felt was the best way to ensure that all employees knew what others in the awesome NTSB were doing as many times they do not hear/see some of the outstanding efforts; and for those special contributors to the NTSB each year to be recognized and feel that what they had done was worth it and all would strive to work harder for the Board and their unit...

Do they still give any monetary awards too??? And I hated the little pins we got for length of service...Do they still give length of service awards...never will forget the TV ad back many years ago about the guy who worked his whole life for an organization and got a cheap watch and that was the thanks for his devotion to his workplace for his entire work life...so sad...

I think the NTSB is a special agency with a very important Federal mission, and those who leave should leave proudly having done so much to improve the safety of this Nation...

Jim Henderson – I agreed with Bob's comments on the Board and the Awards Ceremony and added, "Aside from the investigations, the Awards Ceremony was the high point of the year for me. I'd come from DOT which gave 'awards' to the Secretary's or administrator's 'golden-haired boys' - not my quote - and few others - AND many of the recipients were not doing anything significant for Transportation. The Board's Awards Ceremony picked people for actual work product and excellence in their field. I was amazed and vowed from my first ceremony that I'd be up there one day! Thanks! Oh, and yes, they still give significant money - unless they changed since I retired." I added later that, "I put in my two cents, too! The 'permanent' plaques with the honorees' names got lost in the move to the new Board Room in the theatre below L'Enfant Plaza. When I realized this I started bugging everyone until they were found, updated and rehung." (Hey, I like to toot my horn occasionally; just not often enough to turn you all off. ;-)

Bob Pyle – Also offered his son's help on **Chris Voeglie**'s move to Punta Gorda. We put the two of them together. Here is another bene to the Silver Eagles!

Chris Voeglie – I'm looking forward to getting back into fishing again and spending more time with my RC boats, planes and rotorwings!!! [His new Punta Gorda, FL address info is in the attached contact list.]

Please, it's time for the rest of you to **toot your horns!** Oh, and sorry I don't know where or when the Boeing vs Airbus event occurred, nor did Kay.

Jim Henderson