



## Silver Eagles Newsletter

November 2012

This newsletter is chockablock! Which member/chairperson first used that term? Sometime in the past two months our membership exceeded the 100 mark! Quite a milestone! I'll take recommendations on what we should do to celebrate. This has caused a problem that resulted in having to divide our group into two for mailings. Now, if you respond to all it will only reach half of the members. I'll try to figure out which group you are in and forward info to the other half. I'm on both lists. One person responded to my request for life-events this month. Thanks, Elaine! I'll keep trying!

### New Members:

Bernie Moffett

Debbie Taylor (Debbie Curry)

Paul Voorhees

Jamie Finch

From **Michael Stockhill's** request about **Noel Lawson**; **Sue Berry** reported that he passed away several years ago.

**Ron Battocchi - John Reed** was the second Chairman of the NTSB, and he died on October 31. His [obituary](#) is at the end.

### Member News:

**Elaine Weinstein** - Since you asked - I have been happily retired for almost three years. My reading and "to do" lists are still pending since I seem to run out of time to do those things. I keep busy exercising, playing golf, visiting family, and hanging out with my significant other, Howard, who I met in a group for people who had lost their spouses. Life is good.

**Paul Voorhees**- I heard about the SE from Mike Levins..... great idea! I'd like to join as well, having been at the board from '80 through 82, and then again from '96 to 2000. (I retired in '03 from the Federal Courts). I've stayed in touch with Mike, and to some extent Battocchi, Foster and Pyle.

**Bob Gilson:** I just signed on to bargain another labor contract for a Federal Agency in DC, that's three over the last three years. I'm still training around the country. This year, for some reason, I'm doing a bunch of work for the National Guard – good folks.

My wife and I are traveling for fun each year. This year we were in New England in the Spring and Charleston, SC earlier this month. South Carolina was all over Boeing making 787s in the state. According to the paper, it's the first east coast build of commercial planes since WWII.

In my travels, the brand new USAir CRJs are as comfortable as the Embraer 195. Somebody else will have to tell me which is safer.

**Hector Casanova:** I have been trying to find a good round trip fare from Dallas to either Buenos Aires, Argentina or Santiago, Chile, for some time. There is a 14-day cruise that goes back and forth from Buenos Aires and Valparaiso, around the tip of South America. It is a great cruise and we would like to spend at least 5 days in both Buenos Aires and Santiago de Chile. Buenos Aires is a beautiful city that is often compared with Paris. Can you just imagine anything better? Paris without the French?

I am also traveling to Santa Cruz, Bolivia on the week prior to Thanksgiving. I am going solo on that one, as I am teaching another 5-day accident investigation course for a new regional airline in Bolivia. This is going to be my third trip there to teach a course since I retired.

My part-time business teaching accident investigation courses in Spanish has a tendency to grow out of control if I do not watch it. It is beginning to interfere with my traveling and cruises, which have a higher priority. I am currently turning down more courses than I teach. Most of my courses are in Central America and the Caribbean, which are often less than a 3-hour flight away from home.

There is a very high demand for a helicopter accident investigation course in Latin America. I have looked into the possibility of putting together a class, but I quickly get discouraged as I can't hardly translate the helicopter aerodynamics terms into the Spanish language.

Thank you again for all you do for our group. A day does not go by that I thank God for giving me the opportunity to work in our agency. We are not only the Premier accident investigation agency in the world, but we have always been able to attract and retain the cream of the crop of every mode of transportation. We have ALL a lot to be proud of!

Salud, Hector (I told Hector to contact me if he gets the flights and cruise around South America so I can try to talk my wife into joining.)

**Sandy Daugherty** - I've now been retired for eleven years; I'm starting to get used to it. I no longer set the clock radio for 7AM just to laugh at the traffic report. Even a part-time job at West Marine interfered with my sailing, so I took off for points south. With a superb crew from Singles on Sailboats, "Siesta" joined the Caribbean 1500 Rally and spent the winter in the Bahamas. We sailed back to the Bay for the Summer, then went south with the Rally again to spend last winter in the British Virgin Islands. Life is what you make of it, so I included two professional Chefs on that crew. Back in the Chesapeake now, there are a few chores around the house that have been blithely ignored for two years. That's another benefit of Mature Bachelordom.

**Mitch Garber** - I am now doing private consulting for a well-established large (100 full-time consultants) engineering consulting firm (Engineering Systems Inc. - 25 years old this Friday) that has been doing aviation work for almost all of that time, and does a great deal of transportation consultation in other modes. It has been a nice fit for me, and the Atlanta office is only 15 minutes from my house. I miss my friends at NTSB, but the work here is even more diverse, and the environment is professionally and personally very supportive.

From **Linda Jones** in response to my comment about emailing each other last newsletter:  
“Jim: Believe me, you make a lot of us happy when you "do" that. It makes us know we are not alone when WE "do". Have a great day.” (I hope that others feel the same!)

**Debbie Taylor** - Between attending Nats playoff games and getting ready for our move to Corolla, I've been too busy to feel truly retired. There are the little things, though, like not having to set the alarm and afternoon baseball without playing hooky.

This time next week, the moving van and Taylor family will be headed south to new adventures in Corolla, NC. (Debbie provided a list of her NTSB Top Ten or So Memories for additional pleasure. [See below.](#))

**Jamie Finch** - Wow, it is amazing how time flies. 2012 marks ten years since I left the Board but I still have happy memories of my eight years there (Jan. 1994 – Jan. 2002.). Since I left the Board, there have been many changes in my professional and personal life. I moved to New Jersey to work on a U.S. Senate campaign. Afterwards, I took a job in New York City at a boutique investor relations firm. I hated the job and hated living in NYC. At my dad's suggestion, I left my position in NY and came back to DC and went into real estate. Real estate was a perfect fit for me and I excelled in it, being named Rookie of the Year in 2005 by the Greater Capital Area Association of Realtors. While I loved my work in real estate it was not part of my longtime career goals. My first love had always been working with Congress and in government relations. So, when the opportunity presented itself, I took it. I am now Director of Government Affairs at the National, Stone, Sand & Gravel Association. I look forward to keeping in contact. I hope that all of you are healthy and happy.

(The photos are below. I hope I've kept the correct order. Still fussing with photos!)



**Picture 1** (A Golf Legend): Left, Arnold Palmer and Right, Jamie Finch (Aug. 2011) I took up golf four years ago and played in a fundraising tournament in Pennsylvania at Latrobe Country Club, which is owned by Arnold Palmer.



**Picture 2** (Mud Boy): Daw Moore (Daw is his nickname because when he was smaller he couldn't pronounce Dawson. He could only say "Daw" – so it stuck.





**Picture 3** (DNC Convention, Charlotte 2012): Left, David Dawson – Right Jamie Finch –  
NOTE: That is Bill Clinton giving his speech on the Convention floor.



**Picture 4** (on horse in front of the Great Pyramids of Giza, October 2012): Left, Jamie Finch – Right, David Dawson



**Picture 5** (holding Daw): Dawson Talbot Moore (my step-grandson) and me.

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***Debbie Taylor's Top Ten or So Memories at That Reality Show Known as the NTSB***[\[1\]](#)

1. Our first experiment in teleworking circa early 90s, when NTSB HQ lost its electricity for a few weeks. Editing mail controls at the Holiday Inn. Being led into our offices with flashlights. RE Director Bernie Loeb absolutely demanding to get into the lab.
2. 9/11—NTSB employees seeming oddly calmer than during the average notation.
3. TV satellite dishes clustered on the plaza during the Egypt Air investigation. E-mails from our security officer imploring employees not to “challenge” unauthorized personnel.
4. Working over a Labor Day weekend with a kid named Czech to meet Chairman Hall's back-to-school deadline for the Bus Crashworthiness SIR.
5. After being sent yet another batch of managerial improvements on the NYCTA report, a young human performance investigator named Magladry closing the office door, turning to me and the crotchety rail guy, and saying, “Excuse me while I scream.”
6. The curse of the 50 States rec letters. Because you haven't lived until you've schlepped a giant box of greensheets to the Exec Sec.
7. Zombie reports, aka the dreaded errata—call-ins from the public noting fake ejections and wrong-way bridges.
8. Report change pages and rec letters—RIP.
9. Feeling as if the circus had come to town on Board meeting days. Alternating between boredom and panic as the group chairs made their presentations. The glare from the row of heads at the front table, as helpfully pointed out by admin staff.
10. The whirl of investigative activity when our former MD abruptly left—some employees proved during that episode that they could get second careers at TMZ.

11. Old School Directors Reviews—they aren't what they used to be! Much like steel cage wrestling, no one left the room until someone was *unconscious*.
12. Once believing two major reports a year are manageable. (These days, by the time the Board meeting rolls around, I feel as if I'd spent several months wedding planning for multiple Bridezillas.)
13. The colorful characters we no longer have at HQ. The rail investigator who would routinely drop into marine pushups and dispense way too much information. The old crew in marine cheering me on as I tore around like a game show contestant during the QE II notation (suttee!). The Office Director who treated his employees to a slideshow after every exotic vacation. The coworker who worked everywhere but her desk (and once fell asleep in a booth at Gourmet Too while proofreading).
14. Calling the Comm Center regarding VPN trouble, and a Spock-like voice on the other end of the line noting, "I think you have it upside down."
15. Hiding in the mall during fire drills.
16. My shock at learning earlier this year that I was receiving a major NTSB award—maybe the Maya were right about 2012.
17. Almost fainting when I heard that Jim Arena was retiring ahead of me!

[1] Because we like writing long in highway, this list contains more than 10 items and an obligatory footnote.

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Here's **John Reed's** obituary from the Post:

John H. Reed, a Republican who served as Maine governor from 1959 to 1966 and later served as U.S. ambassador to Sri Lanka at the start of that country's protracted civil war, died Oct. 31 at George Washington University Hospital. He was 91.

He died of pneumonia, said his daughter Cheryl Reed.

While governor, Mr. Reed was instrumental in starting educational television in Maine and oversaw creation of a network of University of Maine colleges, now known as the University of Maine System.

After losing reelection as governor, he was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1967 to the National Transportation Safety Board and became its chairman. At the time, Mr. Reed declared himself a staunch supporter of Johnson's Vietnam War strategy.

Mr. Reed was U.S. ambassador to the Indian Ocean island republic of Sri Lanka and the Maldives in 1976-77 and again from 1981 to 1985, serving the first stint under President Gerald R. Ford and his second under President Ronald Reagan.

At the time, the Sri Lankan government reportedly was seeking U.S. military equipment to combat the Tamil rebels who were fighting for an independent state in the northern part of the country. The

bloody guerrilla war began in 1983 and lasted 26 years, until the government defeated the so-called Tamil Tigers. Tens of thousands of lives were lost on both sides in addition to environmental and economic destruction.

John Hathaway Reed was born Jan. 5, 1921, and grew up in a potato farming family in Fort Fairfield, Maine. He graduated in 1942 from the University of Maine and served in the Navy in the South Pacific during World War II.

He served in the Maine Legislature from 1955 to 1959, the first two terms in the House and final one in the Senate.

While he was state Senate president, Mr. Reed became governor in September 1959 upon the death of Clinton Clauson. The following year, Mr. Reed defeated Democrat Frank Coffin to serve out Clauson's term. He won Maine's first four-year term as governor in 1962, defeating Democrat Maynard Dolloff.

From 1978 to 1981, Mr. Reed was government relations director of the Associated Builders and Contractors, a trade group in Washington.

Mr. Reed settled in Washington in 1985. He was a past president of the Maine State Society of Washington and a past vice-chairman of the National Conference of State Societies. His memberships included Christ United Methodist Church in the District, the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Mr. Reed's wife of 60 years, the former Cora Davison, died in 2004. Survivors include two daughters, Cheryl Reed of Alexandria and Ruth Duford of Groveland, Mass.; and three grandchildren.

Jim Henderson