

Silver Eagles Newsletter

October 2012

A banner month, five new members, including two former Members who hold fond memories for me! Susan and I... well, we had a train wreck in Superior, Wisconsin, my first time as IIC, and John's logic in the Board room was fun to watch, provided it wasn't aimed at me! And the others, Nora, Corky and Jim aren't chopped liver! I think that Jim launched me to Superior and halfway there changed my mission from group chair to IIC. YIKES! Nora and I were both on ValuJet and Corky, um... Occupational Safety committee? My memory isn't as good as it used to be.

Please email old friends! As I've pointed out many times, that is the real reason for this group. I'm not here on an ego trip. While working at NTSB I lost track of several friends as they retired and really regretted that.

No one responded to my request for life-events this month? I'll keep trying!

New Members:

Nora Marshall

Corky Smith

John Lauber

Susan Coughlin

Jim Arena

Board News:

News from **Sonia Lott**: "**Annie Barr** moved to Florida last November & had a beautiful new home of her dreams built. Unfortunately, last week her husband died of pancreatic cancer. I will let you know her address later in case anyone wants to send her a card." (No address, yet.)

Nora Marshall - Today is my last day at NTSB and I want to say goodbye and thanks to everyone. When I was hired 28 years ago, I could not have imagined such a rewarding career. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to work with such talented and dedicated people. The Board is a very special place and I send my thanks to all of you for the opportunity to be on the NTSB team. Thanks for the memories!

Debbie Taylor's retirement note: When I became a Government employee over 30 years ago, I looked upon retirees as iconic, far-away figures, much like the stone faces on Mount Rushmore. Well, I'm there now, ready or not! (Truth be known, I am pretty damned ready!)

Although I can't say I'll miss my day job, I will miss my coworkers. When the surface editors group disbanded in 2000 and I had to pick a modal home, highway was my first choice. I have not regretted my decision. My HS colleagues are among the smartest and most resourceful folks

at the NTSB. Our little office stands toe-to-toe with much larger offices in what we accomplish.

Thanks for the memories, and the chance to be part of such a worthwhile mission. Speaking of which, before the CIO shuts me down for good, here are a few of my own NTSB memories... (The message I received didn't have the memories - or they shut her down before she got it out. I emailed Debbie, but didn't get a response.)

Go Nats! (DC's new baseball team. Their predecessor was the Senators.)

Member News:

Bob Barlett: Several of you asked for information about my recent medical issue, so here is the rest of the story.

While on vacation in Ocean City, MD, I had a heart attack, was violently ill and ruptured my esophagus (Boerhaave Syndrome.) Five hours of emergency surgery by Dr. Ogburn's team at the Peninsula Regional Medical Center, Salisbury, MD, saved my life. Spent 16 days in ICU and six in step down ICU.

Surgery involved incisions on my side and stomach to clean-out infectious material. I feel like I was beaten with a ball bat.

We are currently staying at our condo in Ocean City, MD, where we are near the doctors in Salisbury for follow-up work. Carolyn administers antibiotics every six-hours. A temporary stent must be removed and a leak test must be performed but dates are not set for those procedures.

We saw the thoracic surgeon today and he approved a trip to Fairfax for a week. We will periodically return to OC for additional medical appointments. When cleared by the Salisbury doctors, we will permanently return to Fairfax.

I appreciate all of the concerns and prayers from my family and friends. Bob

John Lauber and **Susan Coughlin** are both retired and living in the Pacific Northwest. After leaving the Board, John joined Delta Airlines in Atlanta, and several years later moved to Airbus North America. In 2004 he was promoted to Senior Vice President and Chief Product Safety Officer stationed in Toulouse. When Susan left the Board, she joined BDM International (now a wholly owned subsidiary of TRW, Inc.) as President, BDM Air Safety Management Systems. Following that she was President, American Transportation Research Institute and President of the Aviation Safety Alliance. When we moved to Toulouse, Susan became Chef d'Maison Coughlin/Lauber.

Now, retired, both are still doing some occasional aviation and marine safety consulting. John is building drones; Susan is oil painting and we both enjoy sailing, cooking and hanging around. Life has been good to both of us, and we especially value the times we spent at the Board.

Happy Halloween! Oh, everyone get out and VOTE! Thanks!

Jim Henderson