



Silver Eagles Newsletter

May 2013

Silver Eagles,

Sorry, I believe that I missed my April newsletter! I was finishing up my CERT training and getting ready for a central California trip: Squaw Valley, Lake Tahoe, Yosemite, Carmel and San Fran. We had a great time! I solidly recommend the jetsetter website. Not sure how we got qualified for it, but we stayed in exclusive hotels for less than half price. The Huntington on Nob Hill was so fancy that the doorman looked at us like peasants! LOL We have one new member these two months and a couple of our members actually gave me some news to share! Read Debbie's news and tell me how many of you can't relate – remodeling, homeowner's associations and baseball. Here in DC the cherry blossoms were fantastic, very late, but fantastic for about 3 days...

New Members:

Katherine Andrea Lemos

Board News: None

Member News:

Katherine Andrea Lemos - I was fortunate enough to reconnect with Bridget last year, and she told me about the "Silver Eagle" group. Believe it or not, I'm just now sifting through some old emails and am happy to have found this. Amazing group you've started! Superb idea - and I'm glad to be a part. (Thank you, Bridget!)

Bridget tells me that I am also now a Silver Eagle, though I am not sure if you have this information, as I didn't see my name of the subsequent "new member" listings, though I did notice a very old description of my departure in 2008!

As you can see, I still work for the FAA, but you can list my personal email for the purposes of the website. (See the attached contact list.)

Debbie Taylor - As for me, I am still trying to settle into my new community (Corolla, NC) and retirement life. About to begin the last of the major indoor work on our house--upgrading the laminate countertops in the bathrooms to granite. Then we'll turn our attention to the exterior--painting, screens, gutters, power washing, etc. It's been surprisingly hard to get work done down here--definitely a sign the economic recovery is underway. Contractors would much rather deal with new construction than homes with fussy owners inside of them. Also having issues

with our idiot HOA, an institution I never had to deal with before. The HOA's management company was upset because we didn't get permission to repaint our porch spindles the exact same color (white) that they have been. The fact they're getting 50 bucks a pop for each work application might have something to do with it....

How 'bout them Nats! Went to Washington Nationals spring training in Viera, Florida, for the first time this winter--chilly, but fun. Took a side trip to Kennedy Space Center; highlights were touring the launch control room and riding the rocket launch simulator. (NASA's administrator, Charles Bolden, who I believe was inaugural speaker in the NTSB Speakers Series, does the video briefing shtick for the simulator ride: "Are you sure you WANT to do this?") More recently, we traveled to DC Easter weekend for Nats Opening Day. We also have some house swaps with DC folks in the works for summer, so we can continue to indulge our baseball obsession (and get some decent ethnic food, while we're at it).

Ted Lopatkiewicz and his wife were quoted in the Washington Post about our cold spring:

"Every time this winter when they've predicted something, it's never occurred," said Drucie Andersen (Ted's wife) of McLean, recalling the warning of a major snowstorm a couple of weeks ago. "After that last one, they kind of lost their street cred."

On Monday morning, the "wintery mix" she expected instead dropped more than three inches of snow on her daffodils....

The snow should all be but a memory by Friday, when the Nationals take on the New York Yankees in an exhibition game that will shake the winter cobwebs out of Nationals Park.

Not so fast, say those with a long memory, who remember a snowy ballgame in April, 26 years ago. That was during baseball's very long winter in Washington, those years without a team when benevolent major league nines dropped in for guest appearances.

In 1987, it was the Phillies and the champion New York Mets, headed north from spring training, who stopped at RFK Stadium for a charity exhibition game.

Like Monday, the forecast that April 5 was for a cold, wet day.

The newspaper said, "Going on 16 years after it left for Texas, baseball is back. Unfortunately, winter is too, but organizers believe the two can coexist for a day at RFK Stadium."

The organizers proved wrong.

There were 38,437 people in the stands and snow flurries in the air as the two teams trudged from the relative warmth of their dugouts. The fans' show of support took on civic significance, for the previous autumn Washington had been the only city in the country that had higher television ratings for a Redskins "Monday Night Football" game than for the seventh game of the World Series.

Ted Lopatkiewicz of McLean, now 60, was one in the shivering throng.

“It snowed and it snowed,” he recalled Monday. “They made it to the fifth inning.”

Called after that, it went down in the preseason baseball books as a 1-0 win for the Mets. It went down in the weather books as one of those days when it snowed in Washington in April.