



Silver Eagles Newsletter

October 2014

Silver Eagles,

We have no new members this month, but my begging did some good! We have member news!!

New Member: None

Board News:

None

Member News:

Chris Voeglie has provided new info on the contact list.

Jean Bernstein - I guess we all came to the point in our lives when if there is no news it's a good news ☺. Being healthy and active, seeing our children to prosper and grandchildren to grow is very – very good news. I learned to enjoy my quiet life and am doing things that I always loved but never had enough time to do – going to the theaters, symphony, art galleries , spending time on the beach with my husband, going to Seattle where my son lives with his family. I still enjoy working out and taking bicycle trips. I took several courses on interior decorating at a local college, just for fun, I always wanted to do that. It felt a little strange to be the oldest person in the class. I hope everyone is doing well and is enjoying their well-deserved retirement. *(I'm not sure that I agree that no news is good news, because I love sharing with all of you.)*

Ron Schleede - I don't think I have ever contributed to your posts in the past? I was somewhat reluctant because, like Facebook, it might appear as bragging or some other bad trait?

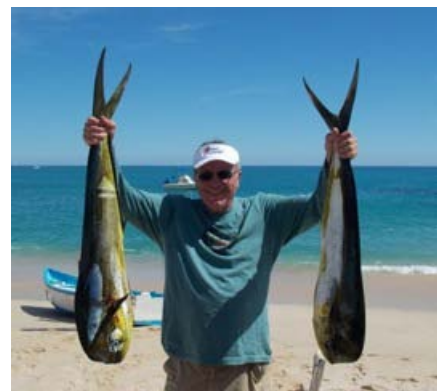
Anyway, here is a very brief summary of my activities since I retired in July 2000. After retiring in July 2000, I continued my work as a part-time consultant in International Aviation Safety. I also spent much of my spare time babysitting or taking care of my 4 grandkids, which was a pleasure. My wife, Kathie, and I contented to travel around the world in connection with my work and to our cottage in Canada.

My consulting took me to six continents on a variety of projects, some pro bono (teaching). Examples of my work included a safety survey of the entire Russian ATC system for a London insurance broker—spent two weeks flying all over Russia and evaluating ATC facilities safety programs. I was fortunate to be hired to assist other countries, like Taiwan, Korea, Greece,

Iceland, etc. for on scene investigations, so I got to “kick some tin.” I also assisted several countries with completing the final reports. I had several contracts with ICAO on a variety of projects, which had a special side effect of me traveling to Montreal, which is only two hours from my cottage in Canada. The one ICAO contract that was the most rewarding because I developed the template for a Major Investigation Policy and Procedures Manual to be used by all ICAO Member States—about 190. I was able to do it fairly easily because I had already developed a full Manual for Greece, Korea, Indonesia, and a few other countries that wanted the fact not to be known. My experience for the last 15 years at NTSB, plus my assignment as the Director of Air Investigations for the TSB of Canada helped me with all my consulting jobs. I did do several cases for law firms as an expert, but they were not personally rewarding, except the money! As I told any prospective client, when they asked for my fee schedule, “It depends on how much fun the job is.” So, I did some jobs for significant fees, and others for zero, as long as it was fun and I could get my wife’s travel costs covered and have her with me.

Unfortunately Kathie was diagnosed with colon cancer in 2008, had surgery, and chemo. But, it had spread, so I lost her 13 months later, June 2009, after 44 years of marriage, and 4 years as a couple in college. That changed my life. Kathie had taken our entire family of 10 on two Disney Cruises before she got sick. After her surgery in May 2008 and the diagnoses in the hospital, she said I want to go on that cruise one more time. She went off the chemo early so she would be strong enough to travel, and we did the cruise in January 2009.

Since 2009, I have continued to travel for work and pleasure, but I have decreased much of the consulting. I now spend virtually all of my time at my cottage in Canada from April to November, with occasional visits to Virginia to see the family. I have a much better social network in this small town in Canada than in Virginia. I might try to attach a few pictures to illustrate what goes on up here.





Last year, I got to fulfill a lifetime dream of transiting most of the length of Canada. Last August, a lady friend, Connie, from my village in Canada took the Canadian VIA train from Kingston, Ontario to Vancouver BC—5 days and 5 nights. It was fabulous!! The accommodations were first class and the food was gourmet. The sights were indescribable. We went to the ISASI International Seminar in Vancouver, and flew home. In October last year, Connie and I went to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico for a week with my brother and wife, two first cousins and wives and two other couples. We caught tuna and Dorado and had a blast. Connie and I also went to Florida in February and March, one time taking the Auto-Train one-way. Not sure I can keep up the pace this winter, but I hope to do a cruise.

Lastly, I am currently in Canada and plan to leave our village on 24 October for a week with three Canadian buddies for “moose-fishing.” It is a 500 mile drive straight north—and I am 500 miles north of DC. The three guys will hunt, while I fish and relax riding around on a 4-wheeler in the Canadian bush. This is my 4th trip with these guys—In 2005, one of the guys shot a 1200 pound bull moose. I got to help drag it out on a 4-wheeler. We are taking 2 vehicles, a pickup with a big trailer for the 4-wheelers and I will tow a boat with my SUV. There is no cell phone coverage in that area and very few people. The bear and moose outnumber the people.

Anyway, life is great—most of the time—and my health has held up despite my lifestyle. I miss the old days at the NTSB, but was very lucky make a decision to retire at age 57.

I won't bore you again for a long time. (*I don't know about you guys, but I wasn't bored! The business side of things was what I had hoped to achieve – and didn't! boo hoo!*)

I ran into **Cliff Zimmerman** at a farmer's market in Burke today. He has less hair than I remember, but looked to be in far better shape than when I last saw him! I wish that I took notes, but he said something about traveling with a close “friend” to Aruba, I think? He mentioned having plenty of time while working for Pipeline Safety at DOT to visit his daughters and to travel. We also talked about cruising. Ours to Alaska and his to New Zealand and Australia – a definite for our bucket list! Having plenty of time is not something that I remember from working at DOT – or NTSB for that matter!

Misc:

Don't forget the Silver Eagle Website: www.precisionwrite.com/SilverEagles.html

Thanks Guys! Do you know understand why I beg for some news from each of you? It isn't bragging – well, unless I do it! It is sharing our lives after NTSB with each other. Please don't make me beg!

The fall is wonderful here! Happy ghoulish Halloween!

Jim Henderson