



## Silver Eagles Newsletter

February 2016

**Silver Eagles,**

We have two new members this month! One, while technically not a former NTSB employee was one of our close comrades! I can't tell you how many times I was in the Comm Ctr studying accident footage to determine if we wanted to investigate! Besides, until someone else volunteers to run this group – I make the rules! LOL!

Fair warning – this is a long one and a lot was delayed from last month. You may need to read it in small sections!

**New Members:**

**Amy Case Jacky**

**Roberto Albarracin**

**Board News:**

**Ron Battochi** sent - “Hi Jim, you probably remember Roberto. He contacted me to meet for lunch and I recruited **Dan Campbell** and **Dwight Foster** to join us. Attached is a photo taken on Roberto's phone and annotated by him. For those who worked with him, he provides the following update:

Shortly after leaving the NTSB Communications Center, Roberto was requested by the Federal Government to participate in the creation of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) for the Department of Homeland Security, at the time Department of Transportation. Roberto was involved in planning & developing studies for programs against terrorism on all 450 Federalized Airports in the United States. His oversight as a TSA employee included, the threat, vulnerability, consequence and intelligence for studies of substantive functions to improve the overall security mission of preventing and protecting the traveling public of the United States. In 2010, he started his own video production company out of Fairfax Virginia and currently utilizing his transportation background in order to achieve high-quality international level video production and working on investigative animation and video productions to assist multiple entities with their

video needs. For additional information regarding Roberto Albarracin's video production company, please visit. [www.bcproductionsdc.com](http://www.bcproductionsdc.com) “

Also attached from **Roberto Albarracin**- “Please accept this email as a token of my appreciation during the beginning of my career life. Each and everyone of you have mentored me whether your knew it or not. I have always honored and looked up to you. Believe it or not, this was a very important time in my life, as I had very little guidance on what to expect of the world. It was definitively the best 6 years of my life at the NTSB.

I hope you like the picture, my staff worked on it, this is why it took a little longer than usual.” (See attached picture NTSB Friends)



Roberto

**Amy Case Jacky** – “Thursday marks my last day with the NTSB, exactly 1 week shy of my 26th anniversary. I honestly can’t believe it has been 26 years since I began work as a student intern on the 8th floor of 800 Independence Ave. I have accepted a job at the FAA in the Office of Accident Investigation and Prevention. Ironically, I return once again to the 8th floor of 800 Independence Ave. for the next chapter of my career.

Throughout my career, the NTSB has been an agency that has challenged me and allowed me to grow as a person and as an employee. There have been great times and there have been rough patches, but through it all, the NTSB remains an agency I am proud to say I work for, and that I am truly sad to leave.

Best, Amy Jacky”

**Karen Bury** noted, “Amy has been the Administrative Officer in AS for as long as I can remember. It will be a huge loss for AS.”

## Member News:

My wife and I ran into **Rod Dyke** at a local Whole Foods grocery. Both of us looking for a healthier diet, I guess. Rod, a former Pipeline chief, said he has a top grade team (including **Cliff Zimmerman**) at DOT and is really enjoying his job.

**Bernie Moffett** - Under the heading of "It's a small world after all", I was in LA last month staying in the Embassy Suites Hotel near LAX. I go to the 5:30 Happy Hour at the bar and find **Keith McGuire** already in line just ahead of me. Keith told me that he regularly stays at that Embassy Suites while he is teaching a class in Aviation Safety for USC. We were amazed how we could both be in Southern California on the same day staying in the same hotel near the airport and waiting in the same line for the start of Happy Hour. I still can't figure how Keith got in line ahead of me. We now have plans to meet up again when Keith is back in the WDC area.

**Paul Voorhees** - First thanks to Jim for putting together the newsletter so we can hear about what our former colleagues have been up to. Having worked for many different Federal agencies, it's clear that the Board was more of a family than any other place I experienced. Although my time at the Board was limited (3 years in the early 80's and 4 more in the late 90's), it was a great experience, and I've often expounded to others on how the party process the Board employs should be used in other industries to improve safety. When I retired at the end of 2003, we moved back to Washington State to a map dot called Seabeck that sported an amazing view of Hood Canal and the Olympic mountains. There and in the Seattle area, I spent several years volunteering in health care as a consumer representative. I found that medical mistakes were usually swept under the rug in fear of legal action rather than trying to find a way to focus on preventing recurrence. Some progress has been made through improved reporting for things such as hospital acquired infections (which killed about 99,000 people in 2002 according to the CDC). Still lots of room for improvement.

Needless to say, retirement has been, and continues to be an amazing journey. We've especially enjoyed traveling to the South Pacific, Europe and South Africa; the latter really needs to be on everyone's bucket list. Kruger Park is truly amazing. If you go, be sure to read Mandela's Long Walk to Freedom, and Michener's The Covenant to get a real appreciation of the history and culture.

In 2011, after having spent some time in the Valley of the Sun (Phoenix), we decided to buy a second home there, and have been enjoying it immensely. We're in Sun City West, for most of the winter, at a retirement community that has all the recreation centers, golf courses and other stuff you'd expect, and most people drive golf carts to the grocery store. They have over 100 different clubs for every imaginable interest, and the people, about half of whom are snowbirds, are very friendly. I ride my bike about 75 miles each month I'm there to try to convince myself I'm not getting older.

In fairness, I must add that summers in Western Washington have been terrific also, so I don't see us leaving the area anytime soon. Four grandkids here and 3 on the East coast have kept us on the move as well. (See Paul Voorhees photo below.)

Last year (2014) we decided to downsize, and sold our Seabeck home, moving to Silverdale, which is sort of like moving from Lorton to Falls Church. Far more convenient and close to the big city. We'll miss the view, but not the upkeep, and long drives to anywhere.



Paul Voorhees family

**Bridget Serchak** - Holiday greetings for the first time in two years! My 2014 letter never made it to you because this time last year I was sailing around French Polynesia on the Paul Gauguin – a wonderful, last minute invite from a friend in the travel biz. Other travels in 2014 included three other international trips –a personal annual record not achieved since the days when the Serchaks were stationed in Sweden (1972-1976) and Switzerland (1984-1987). The same friend generously included me on a Viking River Cruise down the Danube last March with a side trip to Poland (Warsaw was wonderful but Krakow is one of the most beautiful cities I have ever visited!) where I finally met cousins on the Serchak side in our ancestral towns of Czarna Gora and Nowa Bialy. (See Bridget on Danube photo) It was incredible to see the church where my ancestors had been baptized and realize they had lived and worked on farms a short distance away for so many decades. I can't wait to go back! I joined a friend/former NTSB colleague (See Bridget Lauren photo with Lauren Peduzzi and Peter Knudson) and a few of his other close friends & family in Spain last July for his 50th birthday celebration in a villa a few hours from Barcelona – a city I had never visited but now recommend to everyone! A short visit to Haiti last fall to visit a college classmate stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince was by far the most exotic trip of the year. The country has begun to recover from the earthquake, but it is still a place with many challenges. We did manage to visit the one location included in the 1000 Places to See Before You Die book for the entire country – and we nearly didn't make it up the side of the incredibly steep mountain to La Citadelle!

2015 took me back to the Caribbean – in May to visit fellow Medill friend and her husband stationed in Puerto Rico (Old San Juan is magical – and wonderful National Park Service sites too!) and in November to join the growing number of Americans now able to visit Cuba legally – the art, the cars and the people all made it unforgettable. I hope to return to tour even more of the island! So much to see and do!

In January it will be four years as Chief, Public Affairs at the Department of Defense Inspector General – where I have had ten supervisors and ten employees (feds, interns and contractors) during my tenure. The work is interesting and challenging and many of my colleagues are among the most dedicated I have ever encountered, but it can be a very tough place to represent. As I often say, “a good news day for the IG usually means a very bad news day for someone else.” Media queries range from the New York Times and The Atlantic, to the The Wall Street Journal and Politico on any given day. I can’t retire until May 2024 – but I am ready today! I really can’t wait!

I did not do as much entertaining these past two years as I have done, so for those of you in the DC area, I hope to change that and see more of you. And for those of you further afield, the guest room is always (or nearly!) ready when you visit our nation’s capital. A blessed holiday season and a very happy 2016!

**Ludi Benner** - Jim, don’t know if this would be of interest to you for the Silver Eagles, but FYI, two of my recent papers were published in 2015 - one about problems with investigations that STAMP analysts should be aware of and address when they try to analyze accidents or do safety research, and another one proposing to purge from ”safety” investigations several legal constructs that result in adverse influences on investigations. The latter addresses and offers suggestions to implement the the aim of the "Joint Resolution Regarding Criminalization of Aviation Accidents” that has been widely adopted by numerous organizations. Both papers are accessible on line: the first at <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/18777058/128>, and the other at <http://www.safetydifferently.com/thinking-differently-about-safety-investigations/>

PS - I sent Marty Martinez at ISASI a photo of the first NTSB Accident Investigation School training class graduates; don’t know if he’ll publish it or not. Would that be of interest to you? [I said that it would be of interest to us.]

**Misc:**

**50<sup>th</sup> Celebration:** Nothing new this month.

**I know that was tooooo long! I may not have any news for a couple of months. PLEASE don’t let that happen!**

**Have a happy Saint Patty’s Day! I know that I will!**

**Don’t forget the Silver Eagle Website: [www.precisionwrite.com/SilverEagles.html](http://www.precisionwrite.com/SilverEagles.html)**

Jim Henderson