



Silver Eagles Newsletter

July 2016

Silver Eagles,

We have no new members and we lost a dear colleague—Bill Woody--this month. Bill had 35 years of service at NTSB and about 60 years of government service. He was the IIC for the Exxon Valdez grounding and also received the Chairman's Award. He will be missed by many of us.

[Click here for Bill's obituary.](#)

I'm rushing this out because my wife, sister and I are leaving for Scotland shortly. I know that many of you probably expected to have a few more days to send me news, but don't worry; I'll just use it next month!

New Members:

Karen Bury

Tom Roth-Roffy

Jeff Kennedy

(Home emails are on the contact list.)

Board News:

We learned yesterday (6/6/16) that **Joe Kolly** (Director of RE) is leaving the Board to become the Chief Scientist at NHTSA.

Rick Narvell (RPH human performance investigator) is retiring sometime in July. Not yet officially announced, so this is just a heads up.

After 24 years at the Board, **Karen Bury's** last day was Thursday June 9.

Karen later emailed that **Tom Roth-Roffy** (OMS investigator) is leaving next week.

Lorenda Ward's "internship" is over and she is now officially our inside contact person!

Lorenda added a note to Karen and about Joe, “I hate to see you go. Wish you could stay and continue providing sage advice to those who need it. Surprised it took so long for NHTSA to grab Kolly.”

Member News:

Karen Bury - This is my last day at the NTSB. After more than 30 years as a federal employee, 23 and a half of which have been with the NTSB, I guess my work here is done.

AS – my 9 years in the Office of Aviation Safety (1995-2004) were probably the most exciting and intense years of my career. I will never forget the stress and excitement of working on major reports like TWA 800, ValuJet flight 592, USAir flight 427, and Alaska Airlines flight 261. But the biggest highlight of those years was the creation of AS-70 and helping to assemble its original staff, some of whom are still going strong! (I’m looking at you Kristen Sears, Karen Stein, Noel Coleman, Amy Penwell, and Darrin Broadwater. And you too Georgia Struhsaker - although you were still officially an ASI in those days, I believe you wrote some of the earliest reports during AS-70’s “test phase.”) Jennifer Bishop – I could not have hoped for a better successor. You took a good thing and made it better! Among other things, you made the wise move of bringing in Cathy Gagne. In one of my first post-retirement trips I’ll be heading to Chicago to visit Jodi Reeves, another original member of AS-70.

RPH –over the past 5 years I have probably spent more time working with you than any other office, including writing three major reports. Even though I’ve never technically been part of RPH, I have felt like an honorary member. Having my office located on your hallway made it even easier to feel like part of the family. I have enjoyed working with you all! Rob and Barb, thank you for your friendship and support. And a giant shout-out to Ted Turpin, IIC-extraordinaire, and the entire Philly Amtrak team who made it fun and rewarding to write that report. What a perfect experience to end my NTSB career with.

Writers and Editors – Of all the groups at the board I have always felt the greatest kinship with you. You are so often the unsung heroes of the NTSB. In this era of information overload, anything that is confusing, irrelevant, or overly-long is probably not going to be read or heeded. And because we have no regulatory authority our words are one of the only ways we can make an impact! Your skills and attention to detail are needed now more than ever. So please don’t give up the fight for clear, concise, and credible documents. I admire you all!

So this is the end of a significant and satisfying chapter of my life. I’m excited to start the next chapter by going back to school and earning a Master’s degree in clinical Social Work, and hopefully putting that degree to good use.

Goodbye and good luck to all of you!

Thomas K. Roth-Roffy - Immediately after retirement I will be taking a job in Bronx, NY, with the State University of New York (SUNY) Maritime College (Ft Schuyler). I will become the permanent chief engineer aboard the school’s training ship, the Empire State VI.

Jeff Kennedy- Please add my name and email to the Silver Eagle list. I retired on June 3, 2026 after 33 years and 3 months at NTSB. [Back to the Future! Don’t worry Jeff, I started to correct that to 2006.]

Misc:

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

Have a sparkling and popping Fourth of July! Ah, the wonders of pyrotechnics!

Jim Henderson