

SILVER EAGLES

November 2019

Greetings, Silver Eagles!

Some new members this month, and updates from far and wide...



From **Tom Zoeller**: I can report that on August 1 I transitioned from 25 years in federal service to the private sector. My wife and I packed up our house of 23 years and moved to Norfolk, VA. I am general counsel for Norfolk Southern Corporation. My new work email is Thomas.zoeller@nscorp.com.



Bob Swaim and Howard Plagens are new Silver Eagles! Welcome!

Bella Dinh-Zarr checks in: I am very grateful you both, Scott and Jim, for organizing the Silver Eagles newsletter and contact list! I love hearing about old friends and colleagues and having their contact information to keep in touch - thank you! As for me, I've been traveling around the world with my family for the past few months (visiting friends and volunteering on projects such as the 05 Saves Lives Coalition to reduce drunk driving). We spent time in Colombia and Peru and are now in Australia, where we were fortunate to be able to visit Uluru (Ayers Rock), a sacred Aboriginal site, among other places. I hope everyone is well and that you all have a good Thanksgiving with your family and friends.



In September, **Ted Lopatkiewicz** and his wife **Drucie Andersen**, **Ron Battocchi** (all Silver Eagles) and his wife Mary Bell, traveled to Scotland. After spending 3 days in Edinburgh, they traveled to the Scottish Borders for a week of hiking.

Photos are of Ted and Drucie at Edinburgh Castle, a dormant volcano in the Borders, Ron and Ted enjoying some Scottish fare, and the hiking group.



Old Person Tries to Keep Up With Boy Scouts — Reports Moderate Success



Jeff Guzzetti (NTSB Aviation from 1992 -2010) enjoys retired life with Boy Scout Troop 1345 of Burke, Virginia. The troop recently hiked and camped at Antietam National Battlefield. Jeff is an adult leader for the troop and ensures that his two sons are active scouts! His son Jason (far right in lower picture) and Matthew (3rd from the right in the same green shirt) enjoyed learning about this incredible battle. Jeff and the boys also recently completed a Troop 1345 hike at “Old Rag” in the Shenandoah mountain range. It ain’t easy when you’re an old man trying to keep up with a couple of pre-teens.

Stan Smith reporting. I worked at NTSB from 1980 through 2002 (Safety Studies, RE-50 and RE-10), FAA and FHWA before that.

My wife Patty and I are enjoying life in Sanford, FL. We play a lot of golf and tennis and generally enjoy just being outdoors. We tolerate the summers but relish the six months of cooler weather. In August we traveled to Switzerland for some hiking and sightseeing. One of our day-hikes included the Charles Kuonen Suspension Bridge, claimed to be the longest (0.3 mile) pedestrian suspension bridge in the world.



We get back to the DC area a few times a year as we still have family there. After 13 years away I hardly recognize much of the area! Thanks for publishing the newsletter. It's nice to keep up a connection with my former colleagues.

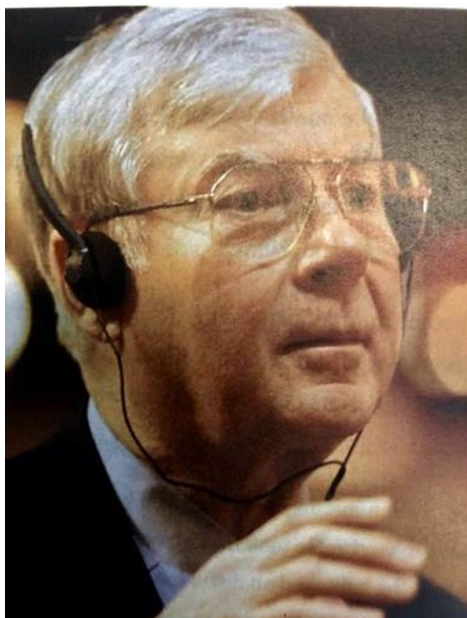
News tidbit: the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association recently featured the NTSB's drone operations on their website in an article describing documentation of a B-17 crash in Connecticut. The article is at <https://www.aopa.org/news-and-media/all-news/2019/october/28/ntsb-drone-documents-crash> .



Mike O'Neill says... YOU GOTTA ASK!

As you know, I've been buying and selling classic cars (sorry not aircraft) for a number of years. In my travels, I recently found a 1966 Pontiac Le Mans Hardtop that had been sitting on a dealers showroom, as a display piece, for 16 years. It is in mint condition with a ton of documentation. I had always admired the car because I love Pontiacs. I asked the dealer if he was interested in selling it. He said that after 16 years he and his wife had decided to let it go but he said it was a package deal. He had the matching convertible to the hardtop at home. He had plans to restore the convertible and paint it the same color as the coupe. Yellow with a black top with black interior. Even though the convertible was completely apart, (he was going to do a frame off restoration), I bought them both. I decided to sell the convertible but I didn't know where to start. As it turned out, I gave the car to a high school Vo-tech class so they could learn more about automobile mechanics. The teacher showed up with a bunch of students who all were very excited about getting started with the restoration. I felt so good about it going to a good home. With them, they brought several trailers, loaded up all the parts and made the journey back to school. I can't wait to see the car restored. WHO KNOWS: I may still end up with the car a second time.





James B. King

March 27, 1935 – June 9, 2019

Memorial Service for Former NTSB **Chairman Jim King** Set:

Tuesday, December 10, 2019 - (NEW DATE!)

Please join members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation and the Friends of Jim King for a reception and celebration of Jim's life, honoring his many contributions to American Politics, government service and friendship.

5:00 to 7:00 pm

Longworth House Office Building

Ways and Means Committee Hearing Room

Washington, DC

RSVP Link: <https://tinyurl.com/rybcwgj>

Bob MacIntosh reports: I had the good fortune to get my Letter to the Editor published in a recent edition of Aviation Week.

It is a memoriam to honor the passing of two great airmen, the heroes of UA232 in Sioux City, Iowa: **Captain Al Haines and Captain Denny Fitch**.

I was the IIC along with Bob Benzon, Frank Hildrup was the Structures Group Chair, Greg Phillips was Systems, Wisniak along with Jack Young were the Powerplants Chair and Jim Wildey was the lead in the Materials Lab. Nora Marshall was in for Survival Factors. She dealt with 186 survivors and 110 fatally injured. Lots of other staff made up a really great NTSB team for this one. We will all remember the two guys up there in the cockpit.

IN MEMORIAM

Thank you for the obituary of Alfred C. Haynes (Sept 2-15, p.9), the pilot who guided United Airlines (UAL) Flight 232 to a crash landing at Sioux City, Iowa, following an uncontained engine failure that destroyed all three hydraulic flight control systems.

Capt. Haynes was aided during that accident scenario by a remarkable DC-10 simulator instructor at the UAL Training Center in Denver, Capt. Denny Fitch, who was on the flight. Fitch came forward from the cabin and introduced Haynes to the concept of controlling the flightpath by way of the remaining wing-mounted engines. Haynes demonstrated the utmost in cockpit resource management, and Fitch manipulated the power levers to avoid a total loss of control during a descent and approach. Both pilots cooperated to maneuver the aircraft to a controlled crash landing at the airport. Although Fitch passed away earlier, he deserves equal mention with Haynes for their extraordinary airmanship that allowed 184 of the 296 passengers to survive. May both airmen now rest in peace.

Guess the NTSB Silver Eagles !

These folks made up the NTSB “go-team” for a fatal accident that occurred near Front Royal, Virginia, involving an FAA flight check airplane... in 1993. Check out the “brick phone”! Five of the six people worked at NTSB and are now either retired or have moved on. The sixth person (2nd from the left) is from FAA’s Office of Accident Investigation (AAI-100) and has since retired. Who are they ?



Answer:

From Left to Right:

Bob Macintosh – retired, currently consulting

Lyle Streeter (FAA) - retired

Jerome Frechette – just retired as a captain from Southwest Airlines

Jeff Guzzetti – retired from NTSB & FAA, currently consulting

Jeremy Akel – resigned, got an MBA, is now CEO of helicopter leasing company

Ron Price -- retired

Bob and Susan Trainor have been traveling to Greece via back-to-back cruises, and were spotted at Mykonos, Ephesus, Rhodes, Chania, Akrotiri, and Athens.



Sad news ...

Vivian Mittleman, lawyer

Vivian Mittleman, 66, a lawyer in Washington who served as an administrative law judge with the Social Security Administration from 2008 to 2016, died Sept. 25 at a hospice center in Columbia, Md. The cause was cancer, said her husband, Philip Mittleman.

Mrs. Mittleman, a resident of Fulton, Md., was born Vivian Wiesner in Brooklyn, N.Y. She settled in the Washington area in 1987 and was a lawyer with the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Transportation Safety Board and the U.S. Postal Service before joining the Social Security Administration.



From **Emily Carroll** via **Ron Battochi**:

Thelma Brown married after she retired and settled in North Carolina. She recently passed away:

Mrs. Thelma Jean O'Brien, age 71 of New Bern, NC, departed this earthly life on Monday, September 10, 2019.

Funeral service will be on Saturday, September 14, 2019 at 1:00 pm at William Toney's Funeral Home, Spring Hope, NC. A visitation will be held from 12-1PM, prior to the funeral service

Interment will follow at Strickland Family Cemetery.

That's all for this edition!

Send your updates and photos to SilverEaglesNews@gmail.com.