

White Oak Laboratory Alumni Association, Inc.



The Leaf



VOLUME XIII ISSUE I

PROUD MEMORIES

Winter 2011

- **Events** *
 - *NOL Lunch 2nd Mon
 - @Golden Bull in Adelphi
 - *WOLAA FL Reunion at Dade City, Fri. 11 March 2011 @1130
 - *WOLAA Dedication of Proud Memory Garden, May 2011
 - *Holiday Luncheon Dec, 2011. Details TBD
 - *WOLAA Night @ Strathmore. Details TBD

11 September 2001.....GOD BLESS AMERICA!

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News from WOLAA

***WOLAA Florida Reunion.** Time to mark your calendars for the Florida Reunion. The Florida Alumni who attended the 2010 reunion voted to return to Dade city, Florida for the 2011 reunion. Again, our hosts will be Ken and Jurel Caudle, and we will hold the reunion at the Club House of their development. The setting is beautiful, and the food and fellowship have been outstanding. Hope to see out Florida alum and any WOLers “snowbirds” there. Pat and I have our reservations for the auto-train and plan to be there. All Florida alum will get a flyer about the reunion in the mail during the third week of January. If anyone else wants a flyer, let WOLAA know by phone or email.

***WOLAA Holiday Luncheon.** Over 130 attended the Luncheon on 10 December at Argyle. The Club was decorated for Christmas, and the food was very good. It even snowed that morning to give us a white Christmas mood. Many attendees stayed long after the lunch was over to visit. It was the most attended Holiday Luncheon in several years. The only negative was the snow made roads slippery, especially North of Silver Spring.

***2011 Membership.** As of the first week in January, our 2011 membership stood at 327 WOL families, and when adding spouses who worked at WOL, the number grows to 438. We have a total of 78 Lifetime Members. Unfortunately, over the years, we now have 277 WOLers who have been members; but have not rejoined! We plan to send a reminder to them in early February 2011. If you see anyone at church, shopping, events, etc. who you know worked at WOL, ask them if they are members of WOLAA and encourage them to join/rejoin WOLAA.

***2010 Financial Report.** Thanks to the efforts of Bill Ryan we don’t have to worry about a debt ceiling like the Feds. Bill has submitted a detailed financial report. It will be summarized and “rounded” here. The conclusion is we are fiscally sound; and it shows why dues remain only \$15. We have been able to subsidize slightly the cost of our luncheons.

Income: Dues \$6,970; Sales 169; Interest 76; Misc 60; Luncheons 6,620

Total: \$13,894

News from WOLAA (Continued)

Expenses: Luncheons \$6,367; Holiday Gifts 404; Newsletter 2,370; Postage 1,083; Web 225

Total: \$10,449.

Total Income/Expense: \$3,320

Assets: CD's \$9,670; Checking 9,308; Savings 11,859; Inventory 684

Total: \$31,520

Liabilities: Funds for Dedication \$8,000; Lifetime Members Dues 1,700*

*Lifetime Dues of \$150 spread over 10 years; so liability is currently for Lifetime members joining from 2000-2009. We stopped Lifetime membership in 2010.

If any questions about financial status, please contact WOLAA by phone, mail or email; and we will be glad to answer your questions.

***Historical Preservation.** The multimedia display is now complete. Page S1 of the Supplement provides the current outline. You will notice sections were added for the Graduate School program at WOL, the NOL Library which covers books written by WOLers, and World Class Scientists who worked at the WOL. We thank Jim Proctor, Dave Sudduth, Ira Blatstein, George Hamlin, Dan Marran, and Diane Palermo for the work they did to complete the input for the display. The contractor is currently putting our input into display format and then there will be a review to assure the various windows/panels are consistent. The plaque design is complete. GSA is currently working to finalize placement of the plaques and finalizing the final design for the path. We are still anticipating a dedication in the Spring and no later than early May. We plan for the dedication to take the place of the Annual Luncheon for this year. Once we get a firm date, our dedication planning can begin. We will send a flyer to announce the dedication and will publicize it in Spring LEAF. We are getting close!

Ramblings of a Senior

***ICE.** Margaret Walton told me about ICE. It is a display of ice carvings done by many Japanese craftsmen. This year the theme was the Grinch who stole Christmas. It was sponsored by Gaylord Resort at the National Harbor on the Potomac. The carvings are so amazing and so real.



ICE (Continued). Of course, it has to be very cold so you are issued heavy, blue parkas to wear and you need them. While each display was special, the highlight is going down ice slide---like the water slides in the Summer. We took our daughter, Johnna, and her family. First, we had brunch with Santa at a restaurant in the Gaylord Resort and then hiked up to the huge tents where the ICE show was housed. They also had an art display of the original Grinch drawings and history. You could also rent skates and go ice skating after going through the Grinch display. Just like Disney, our Grandchildren could get pictures taken with the Grinch and Santa. What a great day we had. I strongly recommend it to you for next year. Margaret and her family went to see it at Florida and Maryland. So, check for your area to see if it appears locally to you.

By the way, the National Harbor is spectacular and the view across the Potomac and of the new Wilson Bridge are worth the drive. The decorations and festivities in the atrium of the Gaylord Resort are also worth the drive.

Book Review Johnny Gram

Mjt

***Fall and Winter Reading.** In the Fall LEAF, I noted I had bought a shopping bag of used books. I recently finished those and have now read books bought for me for my Birthday and Christmas:

-Dead or Alive by Tom Clancy with Grant Blackwood (2010). I have been a fan of Tom Clancy since his first book, "The Hunt for Red October." In that book, I was convinced Navy or CIA folks had leaked information about our submarines and weapons capabilities to send a message to the USSR. (By the way, most of weapons used in that book were developed by the WOL.) "Dead or Alive" is long---950 pages---and Pat had to help me hold it as I read it (Kidding); and is Clancy's first book in more than five years. It is about a terrorism plot to kill many Americans with a coordinated series of events and which our economy would be destroyed. It would also have significance consequences in the Mid-east. Like his first book and "my" conspiracy theory, I hope this book has much reality in it. Can't tell you more as will ruin it for you. I will say that it has an ending that I have fantasized about since 9/11. One final comment; Jack Ryan has been the hero in many of Clancy's books and now his son is the hero. Yea, maybe we are getting older.

-Decision Points by George W. Bush (2010). President Bush didn't write a "biography" of his life and presidency. He selected a series of key decisions he made leading up to running for President and then during his eight years. Clearly, not all agree with decisions he made. BUT, what I found fascinating were the processes, options, and discussions relating to each decision. He then gave his reasoning for a particular decision. It struck me that the American people would be much better off if a President, military leader, governor, or business leader would articulate the entire "story" when presenting their decision. I may not have changed my mind about some of President Bush's decisions but I do have a better perspective on why things were done.

Oral History.

This LEAF contains three oral histories and are provided in the Supplement. The first is from Thomas J Boyes and describes his memories as a fireman at NOL in the 1970's; it appears beginning on Page S2. The next continues the discussion we have had with Ed Straten, who is from the Neatherland, as he shares with us his visits to European museums concerning wind tunnels. I believe you will enjoy the pictures and description of the wind tunnel---note that page is marked Secret. This appears beginning on Page S4. The last is from the son of John Everhardt. John was a machinest and inspector at NOL. The son gives a history of his father at NOL and his own memories as a child visiting and hearing about NOL. These appear beginning on Page S7.

I hope you enjoy them and that they may trigger some oral history you would like to share. Send it to WOLAA and we will publish in the Next LEAF.

Features.

***Technical**

-Energetic Complex at Indian Head. NSWC/Indian Head announced this Summer the ground breaking of a new energetic systems and technology laboratory complex. It will provide laboratory and office space for scientist and engineers now working in ten buildings which were built during the 1940's. Each laboratory will have its own foundation to isolate vibration from one laboratory to another. The article didn't indicate all the groups to go into the complex; but I am assuming that the WOL explosive and warhead groups are included. If you know if the WOL people are included, please let WOLAA know.

-NSWC/Dahlgren Rail Gun. In a fascinating display of futuristic weaponry, the U.S. Navy broke world records today with a railgun, a device that sent projectiles hurtling around a range at speeds of up to Mach 7 and up to 33 megajoules of energy transferred to the projectile. This kind of weapon requires no explosion to get a projectile from point A to point B. Rather, a railgun uses an electromagnetic current to accomplish the task, and it does so at previously unimaginable velocities. The projectile, which is conductive, travels along a pair of metal rails as an electric current is passing through the projectile. The rails generate a magnetic field, which interacts with the current. In terms of military use, a railgun projectile is faster than a guided cruise missile, doesn't require on-board explosives, is much cheaper to use and can hit targets substantially farther away. In fact, the Navy hopes to increase the railgun's current 100-mile range to 200 miles in the future.

The Navy has been working on railgun technology since around 2005. In 2005, they tested an 8 megajoule firing; in 2008, a 10.64 megajoule firing was conducted. Today's test, which was conducted at the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division in Dahlgren, Virginia, broke all previous tests in a 33-megajoule firing. Still, railgun technology is definitely still in the testing phase; we probably won't see railgun aboard Navy ships for at least the next 10 to 15 years.

Read story on:

<http://www.buzzbox.com/preview/u-s-navy-s-record-breaking-electromagnetic-railgun-shoots-projec/?id=19355009>

-Finding BONHOMME RICHARD. George Hamlin sent an article to WOLAA noting that new technology has enabled researchers to restart searches for historical wrecks at sea. A major effort has started to find the BONHOMME RICHARD which sunk in 1779 in the North Sea off Yorkshire. The U/W Archeology Branch at Navy Yard is in charge and NSWC/? Is involved.

*Alumni Updates.

-Winter Helpful Hints.

Keep your headlights clear with **car wax**! Just wipe ordinary car wax on your headlights. It contains special water repellents that will prevent that messy mixture from accumulating on your lights - lasts 6 weeks

Squeak-proof your wipers with **rubbing alcohol**!. Wipe the wipers with a cloth saturated with rubbing alcohol or ammonia. This one trick can make badly streaking & squeaking wipers change to near perfect silence & clarity.

Ice-proof your windows with **vinegar**! Frost on it's way? Just fill a spray bottle with **three parts vinegar to one part water** & spritz it on all your windows at night. In the morning, they'll be clear of icy mess. Vinegar contains acetic acid, which raises the melting point of water---preventing water from freezing!

Prevent car doors from freezing shut with **cooking spray**! Spritz cooking oil on the rubber seals around car doors & rub it in with a paper towel. The cooking spray prevents water from melting into the rubber.

Fog-proof your windshield with **shaving cream**! Spray some shaving cream on the inside of your windshield & wipe it off with paper towels. Shaving cream has many of the same ingredients found in commercial defoggers.

De-ice your lock in seconds with **hand sanitizer**! Just put some hand sanitizer gel on both the key and the lock and presto ~ problem solved!

-Katie Sullivan. In the Fall LEAF, an article was included re a grand daughter looking for information concerning her grandfather who worked at NOL during/after WW II. I failed to list her name, which is Katie Sullivan, and she is the Community Editor for "The Star Democrat" in Easton, MD. Her grandfather was Lt. Brinton "B.E." Elliot Sullivan. We are still searching for information. Call or email WOLAA if you have any information.

-Tony Parrent. Tony and Mary Ann Parrent celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in July 2010. Sorry we are a little late; but our congratulations!

-Irv Henschen. Irv responded to the multimedia outline in the Fall LEAF. He noted, "The listing of Underwater Weapons Systems shown on page S5 (listing adjacent of picture of LULU) needs to be reviewed for accuracy. I am not sure those are in the Fleet, were in the Fleet, or developed but not produced. Listed below are several additional mines that should be considered for inclusion: Mine Mk 10, 27, 36,39,40, (Obstructor for use with Mk 6, 16?), 52, 56, CAPTOR, and SLMM. Also listed are Sensors A B and C; do they belong to this grouping? Thanks for your continued contributions to the history of the work at NOL/NSWC as provided especially in the LEAF!"

Editor Note. I reviewed the outline and made appropriate corrections when I submitted the Underwater pictures/text to the contractor. My thanks to Irv for pointing out the above information.

*Deceased Alumni.

Please inform Houston Cole of any information about deceased alumni. Phone (410) 489-2977. Or, please write or email WOLAA. The LEAF is pleased to print a tribute to our deceased alumni; prepare and mail/email to WOLAA.

-Robert W. Simmons. WOLAA was notified that Robert is deceased; no details were provided. He worked at NOL in the Aero and Hydro design and Facilities Branch in the Aero Department.

-Bonnie C. Wright. Her daughter, Diane Wright Green, notified WOLAA that Bonnie died on 1 October 2007. No other details were provided. She worked in E Department's Product Design Division.

-Rodney Boyer. WOLAA was notified by Rod's son that Rodney had died in August 2010. A tribute to Rodney is provided by his son and is shown in Supplement's page S10. Rod worked in the Environmental Laboratory in Building 20.

-Julius C. Scalise. Julius C. Scalise, 87, a packaging engineer at the Naval Surface Warfare Center from 1946 to 1979, died Sept. 13 at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda of cardiac arrest. Julius Caesar Scalise was a District Heights native and a 1940 graduate of Maryland Park High School in Seat Pleasant. He was a machinist at the Navy Yard during the early 1940s and served in the Marine Corps during World War II. He had been a Rockville resident since 1954. He was a member of the Shrine of St. Jude Catholic Church in Rockville. Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Mary Cardinale Scalise of Rockville; three daughters, Diane Dunville of Princeville, Hawaii, Linda Scalise of Rockville and Maria Scalise of Richmond; and a granddaughter.

-William Logan. WOLAA was notified that William died on 19 September 2010. No other information was provided. He worked in the Structures Branch of the Air and Surface ME Division

-Glenn Brown. WOLAA was notified that Glenn died in October 2010. No other information is available. Glenn was a technician in the Weapons and Mechanism Evaluation Branch (U43). He worked on most of the torpedo, mine and missile projects in U Department.

-Christel Augl. WOLAA was notified that Christel Died in October 2010. She was the wife of Dr. Joseph Augl, who worked at WOL in the Non Metallic Material Branch of R Department.

-George Allison. George died of colon cancer on 17 October 2010. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Susan. He graduated from Old Dominion University in 1976 and came to work at NSWC. He worked in U42 with Bob Ridgway and was the developer of a simulation system to laboratory test the Target Detection Device (TDD) 58 used by the Mk 65 QUICKSTRIKE mine. This was a very difficult task as three different type sensors and their signal processing had to be modeled/simulated. He also worked on the TDD 57, 70 and 71. He moved to Carderock when WOL closed and worked in Code 752 re Magnetic Silencing. George worked on ship measuring facilities and was on travel a lot. He was a 33 degree Mason and served his community in many activities. He enjoyed being a boat captain and there was a very interesting story of getting caught in a severe rain storm.

-Joseph A. Koenig. Joseph died on 11 November 2010. He was the husband of the late Deborah, Lillian, and Mary Koenig. He is survived by daughter, Martha Orletsky; two grandchildren; and two great grandchildren. He worked in the Aerophysics Branch of the Aero and Hydro Ballistic Directorate.

-Francis "Frank" W. Farley. Frank died in his sleep at his apartment in Riderwood at age 86. He is survived by his wife, Mary; sons, Francis W(Jr.), John F, Patrick R, and Michael J; and six grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother William and sister Ann Cleary. Bill Vogel, who also worked at WOL is his brother-in-law. A memorial service was held for Frank at Riderwood on 23 November 2010. Frank worked at NOL for his entire career. He worked in U43 as a System Assessment/T&E Engineer. Frank had the lead for T&E for SUBROC and the Mk 48 Mod 1 torpedo. Weekly meetings were held for both projects in the Chart Room and Frank gave the update on the latest field tests. He was an excellent field T&E engineer and had the ability to plan, implement, and report on tests. He volunteered to be the Project Manager for CAPTOR late in the development/production of CAPTOR. I asked him why he wanted the task and in typical Frank style he said because there was a need. He had an ability to meet with Submarine commanders and officers to explain what was needed on a given test. They had great respect for Frank. He rode submarines a lot during SUBROC; and he told me of being on a PERMIT class boat once when the skipper decided to go to maximum operating depth. Frank had an interesting description of this experience. His family has many stories about the family farm in Maryland and his driving, particularly a big old station wagon. Frank was highly intelligent and was well read. He didn't talk about it much but he was in the Army and was in Europe from D-day at Normandy and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He apparently frequently spoke his mind and this caused him to go up and down in rank. His service to his country sets a high standard for all of us.

-Margaret Emily Peterson. John Cheek notified WOLAA that Emily died on 29 November 2010 in Tucson, Arizona. No other information is available. She worked in the Structure Branch of the Air and Surface ME Division.

-William E. Gaines. Bill died on 4 December 2010. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Frieda; daughter Linda Scholer; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. His son Dr. Wayne Gaines is deceased. Art Johnson wrote, "Bill was a NAVSEA employee who was in charge of the swimmer weapons program - both R&D as well as production. We started working with him from Charlie Young's SWS term through Joe Allulis', mine, and Les Taylor's terms. Bill was a great guy, easy to work with, and because of failing eyesight and living across the street from the lab, spent more and more time at White Oak than downtown. He retired from NAVSEA in the mid-1980's."

-Thelma Veronical Simkins. Thelma died on 5 December 2010 at age 91. She was the wife of the late John W. Simkins. She is survived by children, Patricia Loomis, Nancy Runion, Susan Rose, and William Simkins; 19 grandchildren; and 25 great-grandchildren. Her son Robert Simkins is deceased. Houston Cole noted: "John Simkins died several years ago and was a draftsman supervisor at WOL. He was an excellent draftsman and a fine person."

-Oscar Payne. Oscar died at age 78 in Martinsburg, W. VA. He is survived by his wife Sara; children Julie Arrowood and Kevin Payne; step-children Toni Silver and Bonnie Hiers; three grandchildren; and five step-grandchildren. He was husband of the late Darlene Kingsbury Payne. Oscar worked at NOL after getting out of the Navy as a draftsman and supervisor draftsman. He was very active in the Beltsville Boys and Girls club and coached boys and girls sports. Oscar loved people and made friends with everyone. After he retired he worked with other NOL retirees at EPOCH Engineering on warhead and sonobuoy projects. He was an excellent design draftsman and had the ability to make a sketch better and offered many suggestions which lead to an improve design or enhanced the manufacturing of the device.

Charlie Lewis wrote the following: "Oscar was detailed from the central drafting area to provide drafting services for U10. Specifically he worked for Bob Schmiech and Charlie Lewis and the project engineers in their organizations. Oscar made concept layouts of devices under development and aided the project engineers in conducting dimension stack-ups before test samples were sent to the shop for fabrication. He was one of the truly good guys at the Lab and was always willing to do whatever was required to the job done."

Dave Grenier wrote the following: "I was in U11C having a problem with the drafting room when it was transitioning to Computer Aided Drafting. John Renzi was involved somehow and, as I remember, had a different agenda than mine and projected getting my drawings finished way too late while costing way too much. I was frustrated with the situation when Oscar showed up and sat down. He had a commiserating style that had me laughing in minutes, and convinced that everything would be just fine. I could count on him. I got my drawings on time. He never would tell me what he did.

Also, he was an accomplished designer. Several times he suggested changes to our piece-part designs and was always a member of the design team for the Mk 57 Explosive Destructor (the 100lb bomblet for the Mine Neutralization System) and its Mk 37 Acoustic Firing Device. I wish I could remember all the names of the other members of that team."

-Sarah Cali. John Greene wrote the following about Sarah who died in September 2010: "I noted with sadness the passing of Sara in the Fall newsletter. I was reminded of the time when President Carter ordered all classified documents be personally signed for. At the time I was in charge of the GenSer library in the STILO. Sara watched over me while I signed the cards. Sara and I spend more than three straight days signing the cards for each and every document we had. As I remember it was over 7,000. My hand and fingers were sore for days after. I believe the presidential order was rescinded with in a year. We only had a problem with one document out of that whole group."