



# WATERLOG

*Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the Friends<sup>SM</sup>*

**SAFE! SMART! FUN!**



Atlanta Sail & Power Squ  
A Division of the United States Power Squ

"Atlanta's Boating Cl

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## Commander's Corner



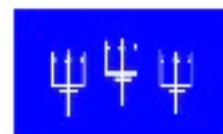
Cdr Elwood "Woody"  
Williams, JN

Recently I saw a very funny boating cartoon. A devoted boater had planned a wonderful day on the water, so he got an early start to drive the one and one-half hours to get to his beloved boat. When he arrived, he remembered all the little chores left undone previously, the nagging doubts about some old pieces of equipment, and all the preparations necessary for getting under way. Thinking the situation over, the boater decided on a course of action. He went to the bank, returned to the boat, threw great fistfuls of money onto the boat, called his trusty repairman, and drove one and one-half hours back home. It was much funnier in cartoon form, but, I'll bet we have all had similar experiences.

How is it that these holes in the water into which we pour cash can so magically draw together such a diverse group of people? Surely, each of us enjoys our private watery trips and weekends aboard our floating hideaways, but it's the sharing of common interests and experiences that draws us together. Learning how to navigate then talking about those tricky channel markers on a squadron cruise, or remembering the special sunset we all saw at a raft-up, or helping one another with some mechanical issue – these are some of the links that tie us to together. And it all started with a boat. We have colleagues at work, chums at the tavern, a friend or two in the neighborhood, fellow worshipers at church, but somehow these floating pieces of wood or plastic have some kind of magic that attracts our diverse group and provides the medium in which good friendships grow. Very few of us are physical neighbors, but we don't mind (too much) long drives through Atlanta traffic in order to learn together, share together, do good things like the Calvary Children's Cruise, and to simply have an unencumbered good time together. I think it's not entirely the physical boats, but the contributing to common goals and sharing common experiences that comprise the mental and emotional boats that attract us. What a beautiful thing!

At this happy time of year, do remember to extend a comforting hand to our friends who are having difficulties and help brighten their days. Give thanks for and revel in the love of family and friends. Best wishes for safe and very Happy Holidays. The 2016 boating season is just 13 weeks away!

Woody



### The Waterlog

The *Waterlog* is published at least eight times each year. It is published for the Squadron members by the staff of the Squadron Secretary and is provided to all members and advertisers, and is available to the public.

All members in good standing and approved non-members may submit articles and items for publication. They receive no gratuity.

The editor reserves the right to revise, change, or reject any materials submitted to the *Waterlog*, consistent with standards of accuracy, fairness, good taste, and available space, subject to the approval of the Squadron Commander.



*Waterlog Editor-in-Chief  
D/FI/Lt Tim Tyson, P, and  
Proof Editor Lt/C Margaret  
Sherrod, SN*

This photograph was taken on the Lake Jocassee trip earlier this year. It's beauty reflect the feeling that I have inside myself for all of the wonderful friends in our Squadron. Sorry to be so "mushy". You folks just seem to bring it out in me. Thanks to Eric Ringwall for thinking of the *Waterlog* and sending it in.



# FOREThoughts

## Meet...The Shireys

This may be the hardest "Meet the..." column I have ever written. Truth is, I don't know where to start. I guess this might be the best starting point: prior to the year 2014 I had made passing suggestions that we include the kids from the Calvary Children's Home on a raft up. In 2014 the idea took hold. The executive committee suggested we have a special day for them rather than a raft up. I was having a little trouble lining up enough boats and people who were all available on the same weekend. I mentioned this at a general meeting. When I returned to the table Tom Shirey said to me, I think I can solve your problem. Just take the kids out on our houseboat." Well, there are houseboats and there are houseboats. "How many people can it hold," I asked. The answer? "About 125. It's 95 feet long." During the course of the first Calvary Kids Day I went down to the (spacious) living room where Tom was talking with Randy Tahsler. "Tom has an idea," Randy began. "Let's make this an annual event."



I could probably end this article right here and now. That pretty much sums up the Shireys in a nutshell. But I know our readers pretty well, and know they want more. So let's begin.

Born in Kassel, Germany, Tom's father, was a career Army NCO who had married his mother, a German woman who he met while stationed there. Tom spent a total of 14 years in Germany. "There was a point in my life when I didn't speak any English at all."

Tom's family moved to Carlisle, Pennsylvania when Tom was entering the 10<sup>th</sup> grade (his father was the Sergeant Major at the Army War College) and, after high school Tom joined the Navy. "They offered computer training that appealed to me." So he became a data systems technician on a submarine. Stationed on Mare Island in California he enjoyed sailing on the Napa River and San Francisco Bay.

In 1981 he went back to Carlisle to visit. He looked up an old girlfriend who happened to have a room-

mate, Susan Leaycraft. Susan was invited to go out with them and, "Every time I would visit, the three of us would go out together. Then it just became Susan and me."

Susan was born in Norwalk, Connecticut and, when she was 6 months old, the family moved to Pelham, New York. "Back then it was a small town. Denzel Washington lived there."

Between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades her family moved to Rochester. "This is where Tom's and my first parallel begins. Fate starts here. I learned what it was like to be an outsider and to this day I have always taught my children to root for the under-dog."

Susan attended Dickinson College in Carlisle, majoring in Economics and Spanish (she was Phi Beta Kappa) and that is where she was when she met Tom. She went through a time - just as she was about to graduate - when she wondered what she would do for the rest of her life. "I know," said Tom. "Marry me."

Susan laughed.

She went to graduate school at the American School of International Management in Glendale, Arizona, planning to work for a multinational company in Latin America. She was going to spend her life there. But prior to graduation the Leaycraft family had a big Thanksgiving reunion and Tom was invited. "He had ingratiated himself into the family". An interesting story goes like this: Susan's parents had moved to Dunwoody when she went to college. "I never saw my high school friends after I left for college. Tom, now stationed in Virginia Beach, would ride his motorcycle down to Georgia to see Susan whose father, 6'6" with a booming voice and somewhat of an intimidating manner, did not care in the least for motorcycles. In fact he took great pleasure in striking fear into the hearts of her dates. In fact some dates wanted her to come out to the car rather than they ring the doorbell. Her father would have none of that.

*(continued on page 8)*



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T.J. CONVERY



## Nominations For Elected Offices Of The Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron, 2016-2017

In accordance with our bylaws, the Annual Meeting and election of officers and elected committees will take place on Thursday, January 21, 2016 at the 57th Fighter Group restaurant located at 3829 Clairmont Road, Atlanta, GA 30341.

The Change of Watch will take place Sunday, February 7, 2016, at the Dunwoody Country Club, 1600 Dunwoody Club Drive, Atlanta, GA.

The Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron Nominating Committee, consisting of P/C Douglas Townes (chair), P/C Glenn LaBoda, and P/C Edward Troncalli has submitted the following slate of officers for 2016-2017.

<b>Bridge</b>		
<b>Office</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Exec. Com. Members-at-Large</b>
Commander*	John Holland	Elwood Williams (as Past Commander)
Executive Officer*	Mary Larsen	Kevin Schoonover
Squadron Education Officer*	Meredith Randall	Cary Holland
Assist. Squadron Education Officer	Keith Blanton	Jack Oliaro
Administrative Officer*	Eric Ringwall	Jade Williams
Secretary*	Terry Schoonover	Scot Randall
Assistant Secretary	Kevin Schoonover	Cindy Ringwall
Treasurer*	<b>Vacant</b> (see page 5)	<b>Vacant</b>
<b>General Committees</b>		
	<b>Nominees</b>	
Nominating	P/C Elwood Williams (Chair)	
	P/C Douglas Townes	
	P/C Glenn LaBoda	
Rules	P/C Elwood Williams (Chair)	
	P/C Douglas Townes	
	P/C Glenn LaBoda	
Audit	Lt Jonathan Blackwood (Chair)	
	P/C Elwood Williams	
	P/C Douglas Townes	
* Bridge Officers also serve on the Executive Committee.		

If any member, who has not been nominated, desires to run for any of the positions, he or she may be nominated by petition in writing signed by at least five active members in good standing. Such petition must be in the hands of the Squadron Secretary, Lt/C Beth Guler, no later than **Wednesday, 31 December 2014**. If vacancies exist in the properly formulated slate of nominees at the time of the election, they shall be filled by nominations from the floor duly made by active members.

# Squadron News



## We Need a Treasurer

*As we enter 2016 our Squadron is in desperate need of a Treasurer. Lt/C, P/C, (and half of the alphabet) Margaret Sherrod will have her hands full as District 17 Commander. She has said that she will do her best until someone steps forward, but we can only ask so much of any one person. Don't forget, last week Mother Theresa was sainted. You could be next! In the space below Margaret describes the Treasurer's responsibilities.*

Each Treasurer has or develops their own techniques for handling an organization's finances and financial records. In ASPS the Audit Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee can provide guidance on any and all aspects of the Treasurer's duties and responsibilities as can all past Treasurers.

On an on-going basis the Treasurer receives, deposits and records monies from member activities like class fees, new member dues, social event fees, etc. and from other sources; disburses and records funds based on invoices and requests for reimbursements; reconciles bank statements to ASPS' records; and provides monthly financial reports from these records to the ExComm. The Treasurer is a member of the Bridge and is expected to attend Executive Committee Meetings, General Membership Meetings and to represent the squadron at District conferences.

Quarterly and annually there are several standard tasks like making quarterly dues payments to the District, making an annual payment to the USPS Educational Fund and annually filing the simple summary financial (one-page) reports to the Internal Revenue Service (to maintain our non-profit status) and to National. Annually the Treasurer works with and provides current and historical information to the Budget Committee for the development of the subsequent year's budget.

The Treasurer oversees the Property Manager who maintains our storage facility housing support materials used at boat shows, marina days, special vessel safety days, and other infrequent activities. The Treasurer also oversees the Ship's Store Committee that procures ASPS identity items like our ASPS burgees and polo shirts.

The Treasurer meets with the Audit Committee at least twice a year for a mid-year mini-audit and the year-end annual audit.

Currently we use QuickBooks Pro to store our financial records and to produce our financial reports and use Excel spreadsheets to track project related activities and related incomes and expenses. It is helpful to be familiar with QuickBooks (or an accounting software), Word and Excel or equivalent software and to have access to a PC-based computer platform.

\*\*\*\*\*

## And While We're At It, A Word From the Secretary's Representative (Me)

If you are making your New Year's Resolutions, here is one that you can add. Whenever your address, email, telephone, boat name...anything that is roster-worthy changes, please be proactive and let the Secretary, Waterlog Editor, or someone who can get the word to them about the change.

It is a huge help to all of us when you do (not to mention the money we save not having to resend rosters, Waterlogs, etc.).

Thanks in advance for your kind consideration to this matter.

## Gordon Biersch

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# Squadron News

## Scenes From the District-17 Fall Conference

The D-17 fall conference in Columbus was indeed a terrific weekend. Friday saw a tour of the Armor and Cavalry Restoration Center and the Army Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning which was arranged specifically for us. Ft. Benning, set on over 182,000 acres is the largest Army base in the world. The Cavalry and Armor restoration center includes vehicles from World Wars I and II (including a 98 year old Mark IV tank that saw action in the first World War), and through Operation Desert Storm. The National Infantry Museum takes the visitor through our military history, beginning with the Revolutionary War. Hours could be spent there without seeing everything. It was very interesting indeed and worth you time to visit.

That night we had a costume dinner party and it was, to say the very least, over the top! Members went all out for the Halloween night event, and the winners were...P/D/C Jeff Wise and his lovely bride Pat. Nice job, you two. Day One was an overwhelming success.



The slate of elective officers for the District was announced and it included three ASPS members: Margaret Sherrod, Commander, Hector Colon, Executive Officer, and Barbara Tyson, Secretary.

Saturday officer meetings and the Conference business meeting were held, followed by a town hall-type meeting featuring V/C Louie Ojeda, with V/C Bob Brandenstein (NEO) and V/C Bob Miller (National Treasurer) on closed circuit television.

Breakout sessions followed the afternoon lunch, and some visited local museums, including the Confederate Naval Museum in Columbus.

National Executive Officer, V/C Louie Ojeda, who will be installed as the Chief Commander in Orlando, delivered a very upbeat, positive speech, outlining one of his major goals for 2016: let's have some fun!!!

*(continued on page 7)*

# Squadron News



The always enjoyable hospitality room provided the socializing we all love. The virtual trainer was set up there and members had a chance to test out the "drunk goggles", showing just how dangerous BUI really is.

As these pictures above show, this was a great conference. If you haven't attended one, you might want to. You won't be sorry.



# Squadron News

*(Meet...the Shireys, continued)*

But Tom, being Tom, walked right up to Mr. Leaycraft, stuck out his hand and said, "It's nice to meet you, sir." "It's kind of intimidating to look down at a size 14 shoe but Tom was the only guy who had the guts to say that, smiled Susan. "And my dad appreciated it."

He proposed on the beach at the family reunion. Deciding that her life plans had unalterably changed to include Tom and not Latin America, Susan left graduate school. With Tom getting ready to ship out they decided on a wedding date. They were married on a Saturday and he shipped out on Monday.

He was deployed for 7½ months. What with the loneliness and boredom the submarine service had a high divorce rate. "Tom did the smartest thing he could have ever done," Susan recalled. "He bought me a puppy." When he returned they went down to Georgia where the Leaycrafts had purchased a 26' Sea Ray. They spent a week on the lake. "We finally had a honeymoon."

After another deployment Tom left the Navy. They moved to the Groton-New London area. "I was a techie and Susan worked in the mortgage industry. She started in Virginia Beach and stuck with it."

At first they realized that they really hadn't had a chance to know each other. They bought a 23' Formula cutty cabin and would take it out from Connecticut to Block Island to Newport to Martha's Vineyard and to Shelter Harbor. "We would go out with nothing but a chart and a compass. That's where my dead reckoning skills came into play."

Five years later and with "a rock-solid relationship" Rachel was born (and they sold the boat). Tom was going to night school at the University of New Haven and, 2½ years later, along came Calvin. After Tom had started graduate school at the University of Connecticut Susan received a telephone call from a friend in Atlanta about a job opening there. Susan's mother was sick, Tom was unhappy with his job, Georgia Tech was there..."The stars were aligned."

Susan moved to Georgia first. "The hardest thing I ever did in my life was to get into my car on our anniversary and say goodbye to my one year old, four year old, and Tom. I think I stopped crying somewhere outside Washington, D.C.," she said. That summer, with Tom and the kids in Georgia, "Tom was Mr. Mom. Tom and the kids were having a ball doing fun things."

One day Susan asked Tom, "Don't you think you should be applying to Georgia Tech?" Tom had assumed that he would simply send in the paperwork and start school. Well a Yellowjacket he became, completing a two-year masters program (in electrical engi-

neering) in one year. He also had a graduate research assistantship which gave him in-state tuition. Upon graduation he landed a job and has been with the same company ever since.

In the late 1980's Susan's parents bought a Lazy Days houseboat and joined the University Yacht Club. Then Tom and Susan purchased a 36' Cruisers, followed by a 40' Carver, followed by *Carpe Diem*, the magnificent houseboat that has been been volunteered for the last two Calvary Kid's Days. When they heard about our Squadron's ICW trip in Florida where people chartered boats they decided that they wanted to participate and joined us. Soon after that Donna Odum (who else?) drafted Tom as our Webmaster.

Rachel graduated from Auburn University with a degree in journalism and, after a stint with a small newspaper, now works for a law firm downtown. Calvin - "His friends call him Cal but to us he will always be Calvin" - received his degree in electrical engineering from Georgia Tech last year. As Tom related to me, "He told me I always made it sound interesting."

This past summer the Shireys, the Odums, along with Scott and Cathy Warden, spent two weeks in Italy on a chartered boat, cruising the Italian rivers and canals. Tom was able to translate the menu for them in two languages, Italian and German.

So what about the picture on this page, you might be asking yourselves. Easy one to answer. But a question must first be asked. How do you thank someone for making the day for the Calvary Kids? I mean, if you have a 95' houseboat you have all the toys you want.

On the first Calvary Kid's Day, Tom and I were talking. I had begun the pop-top project for the Ronald McDonald Houses in Atlanta and it was just beginning to become a full blown recycling project to benefit that most wonderful of charities. Tom told me that Susan's mother, who was very close to Susan, was so involved with the Ronald McDonald House through her connections with the Dunwoody Woman's Club. "They named a garden after her," he said. It was then and there that the Jane Vallentyne Leaycraft Project, benefiting the Atlanta Ronald McDonald House Charities, was born. Our first donation, made in Mrs. Leaycraft's name, brought tears to Susan's eyes.

A few weeks ago I was asked by ARMHC if I might be able to arrange to have a window seat made (see AFTerthoughts) for the new Ronald McDonald House.

Pictured above is the seat, financed by 3 ASPs families, and built by Mike Guler in the name of Susan's mom.





# Squadron News

## The 2015 Chili Cookoff - Two Great Presentations, One Great Evening

On November 14<sup>th</sup> Eric and Cindy Ringwall opened their lovely home to yet another fabulous Chili Cookoff. Members drove from all corners of the world state er city to indulge in the sensual pleasure of dining on some of the most fabulous chili dishes on the face of the earth. Even with the top three winners (Jade Williams, Cindy Ringwall, and Beth Guler) all agreed that it



was really a tough contest to judge.

Prior to eating a new member's orientation was held for new members (how fitting) Matt Horvath, Darryl and Gena Mitchell, and Bob Poole.

After dinner, Brian



Busby, Youth Director of the Calvary Children's Home, delivered a wonderful presentation, describing more of the wonderful stories from that wonderful



place. Cdr Woody Williams obtained an incredible DVD about the Americas Cup race of a

few years ago. Played on the Ringwall's 8 foot high definition television it was nothing less than breathtaking.

Thanks go out to the Ringwalls, Barbara Tyson, Mary Larsen, Jade Williams, and everyone who helped to clean up. Your assistance was invaluable.



### Friends of the **Waterlog**



- Tim and Barbara Tyson
- P/D/C Bob, Nancy, and Robert Leathers
- Anonymous Donor
- Elwood "Woody" and Jade Williams
- P/D/C Norm Oien
- P/C Dave Herndon, N, F.o.W. Emeritus
- P/C Don and Judy Williams
- Sam Troncalli, AP, F.o.W. Emeritus
- P/Lt/C Sheryl and Lt/C Glenn LaBoda
- The Troncalli Family
- Consolidated Contracting Services (T.J. Convery)
- Gordon Biersch - Buckhead
- Martha Fowler
- Greene Classic Limousines (Bill Conn)
- Carefree Boat Club
- P/R/C Louis Hohenstein
- P/D/C Bob Ginsberg
- P/C Lisa Herndon
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- Fred and Sara Morris
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To learn more about becoming a "Friend of the **Waterlog**", please contact your editor, Tim Tyson

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# Squadron News

## 2015 Seafarer's Ball...A Grand Ball Indeed

This year's Seafarer's Ball is very hard to describe. I mean, what word can top "PERFECT"? Probably the best way to describe it would be through these wonderful photographs provided to us by P/C Lisa Wilson. This year's venue at the University Yacht Club provided us with a beautiful location, delicious food, fantastic dancing music, and most of all a chance to socialize with some of the most wonderful people to grace the earth.

Many, many thanks go out to Mary Larsen, Doug and Patti Watson, and Ed and Genie Troncalli for their tireless work in making this party such a huge success. XXOOOXXXOO







# Squadron News

## And...God Bless Our Squadron

Once again our Atlanta Sail and Power Squadron showed exactly who and what we are. This year, as in years past, two boxes were placed on a table at the party, and members were invited to contribute to either the Calvary Children's Home (general or scholarship funds), Christmas presents for the kids, or both.

Through the generosity of you, our membership, \$2100 was collected for the Calvary Children's home and \$1450 was collected for presents for the kids.

My eyes are beginning to sting a bit as I write this, but it's a sting I wouldn't trade for anything in the world. May God bless each and every one of you and give you a safe, happy, and prosperous New Year,





# ASPS Cares

## "It's Humbling To Work Here"

We here at Waterlog Central suggest you read AF-Terthoughts on the back page before reading this article.

It all began as an idea: let's collect pop-tops for the Ronald McDonald House. It then became (thanks, James Dennison, for a great idea) why not make it a full blown recycling project. Next stop - Tom Shirey aboard Carpe Diem on the first "Calvary Kids Day-On-The Lake. He mentioned that Susan's mother was very involved in the Ronald McDonald Houses ("They even named a garden after her," he said).



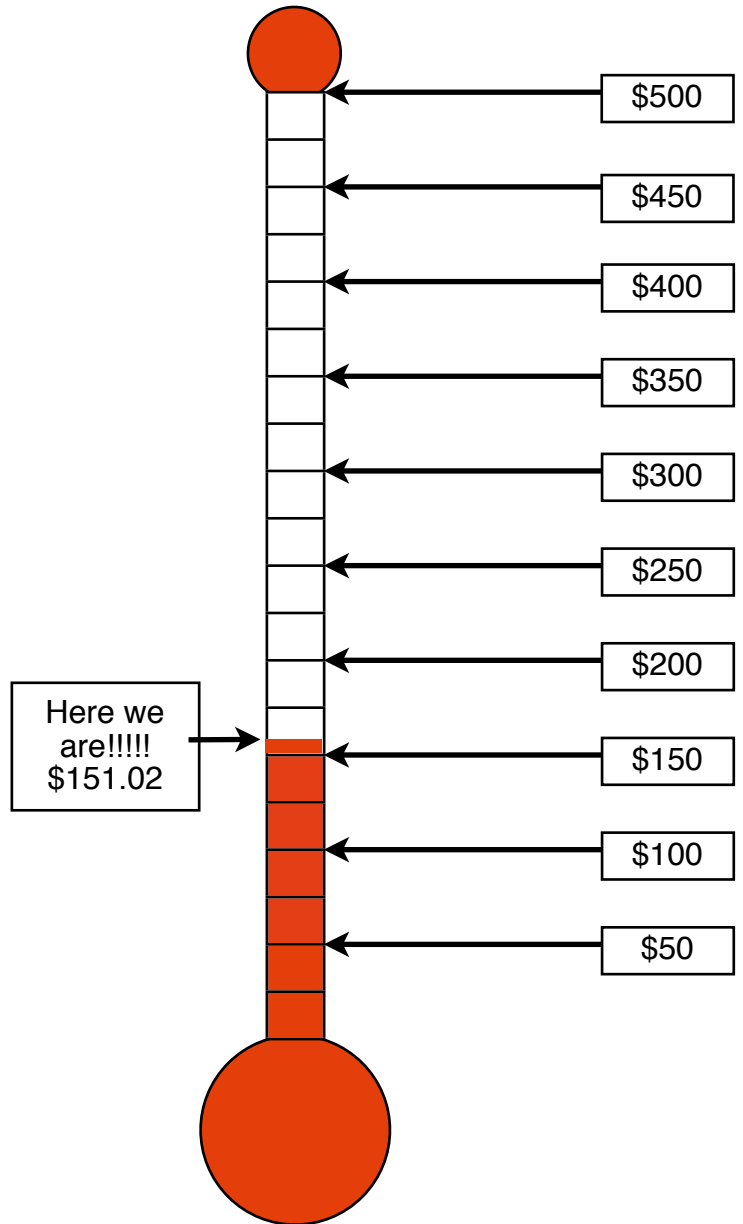
Well how do you thank someone who has a 95 foot houseboat for making that day so perfect? I mean, they already have enough toys! Easy. Let's do the recycling program in the name of Susan's

mother. We'll call it "The Jane Vallentyne Leaycraft Project". Last year we collected \$150. This year we have already surpassed that number. Let's look at 2016 as the year we forced the Waterlog editor to change the thermometer on the right to reflect a higher goal.

In the process of donating the money your editor was transformed into a volunteer at ARMHC (Atlanta Ronald McDonald House Charities), and what a wonderful experience that has been. Please ask me about volunteer - and group volunteer - opportunities there. It is fulfilling in the extreme.

At the new Ronald McDonald House on Peachtree-Dunwoody Road (the old one was torn down to make way for the beautiful new House pictured above) House Manager Joe Camacho was asked, "When you look around at all of this are you constantly amazed?"

He just looked up and replied, "It's humbling to work here."




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# Lighten Your Day

## The Rest of the Story

In the 1930's a young man graduated from Yale University and began working at the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company. He worked hard, eventually rising to the office of president in 1947. He was an instrumental force within the company, leading them to purchase one of the first IBM 705 data computer systems, a \$1.6 million investment.

He came from a family with a long history of shipping related careers and, under his management, the company would purchase large ships for operation by other companies. One particular ship was to be operated by the Oglebay Norton Corporation. The ship was a "workhorse", often breaking the records she had set for tonnage carried and seasonal hauls. She also won a safety award in 1969 for 8 years of operating without a single time-off worker injury. With her size and impressive records she became a favorite of ship watchers.

When she was built the board of Northwestern Mutual thought that she should be named after their president, but he was too modest for that. The solution? They held a board meeting which they didn't tell him about and voted to name the ship after him. His wife christened the ship but had to strike the bow three times before the champagne bottle would break.



Oh, I almost forgot, the insurance company president was Edmund Fitzgerald

## Alright You Marines, Listen Up

Sometimes we call them Leathernecks. Sometimes Devil Dogs. Often they are affectionately called Jar Heads. But how did the Marines get these nicknames?

The origin of "Leathernecks" is pretty simple. Dating back to the late 1700's Marines in both the United States and Britain wore leather stocks around their necks as a part of their uniform. The thought was that this improved their bearing and appearance. Uncomfortable they were, but Marines would be punished for failing to wear them while on duty. Some would sew them into their coats, ensuring that they would always be worn. Although it was dropped from the uniform requirements in 1872, Marines today still wear a very stiff collar, bearing tribute to the leather stock.

According to [United States Marine Corps](#) legend, the moniker was used by German soldiers to describe U.S. Marines who fought in the [Battle of Belleau Wood](#) in 1918. The Marines fought with such ferocity that they were likened to "Dogs from Hell." These reports, never verified by actual German soldiers, made their way into American press nevertheless.

Now where in the world, you may be asking yourselves, does this fit in with boating? Simple. Jar Heads. Although there are several stories about the origin of this nickname, the one that we chose to believe is that, aboard the USS Constitution (Old Ironsides), the cabin beams were positioned at such a low height that sailors - who were 5'8" on average - could easily walk through the spaces, while the taller Marines would often **jar** their **heads** as they slammed into these beams.

And now you have the rest of the story.

## Did You Know...



*Jingle Bells* was originally written as a Thanksgiving song.



It takes roughly 15 years for a Christmas tree to grow from a sapling to a decoration in your living room.



Until the 12<sup>th</sup> century Christmas trees were hung upside down from the ceiling as a symbol of Christianity.



The first regularly scheduled passenger train in the United States began service on Christmas Day, 1830.



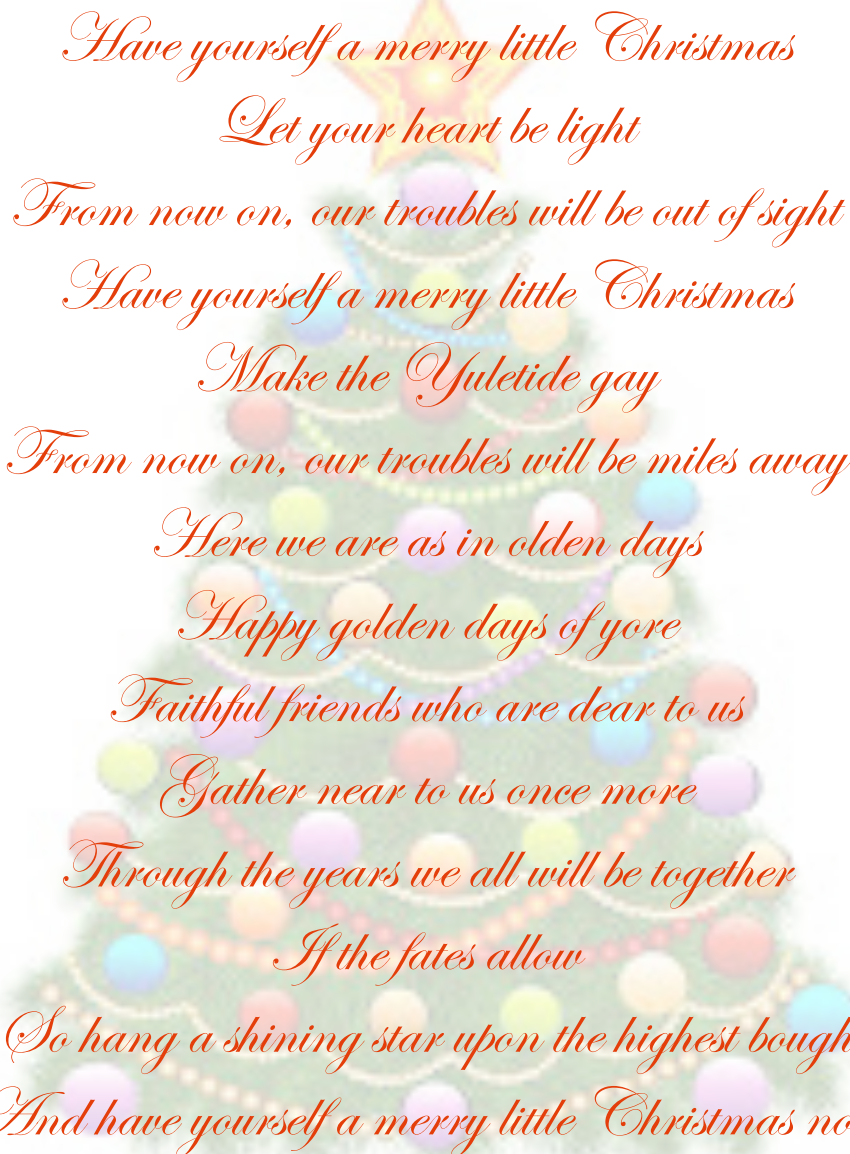
Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer was invented in 1939 by a Montgomery Ward copywriter who was trying to lure customers into the store.



Betsy Tyson (Tim's sister) was born 3 days after Christmas so the family got stuck buying extra presents.



# Bulletin Board



*Have yourself a merry little Christmas  
Let your heart be light  
From now on, our troubles will be out of sight  
Have yourself a merry little Christmas  
Make the Yuletide gay  
From now on, our troubles will be miles away  
Here we are as in olden days  
Happy golden days of yore  
Faithful friends who are dear to us  
Gather near to us once more  
Through the years we all will be together  
If the fates allow  
So hang a shining star upon the highest bough  
And have yourself a merry little Christmas now*

*Lyrics by Ralph Blaine  
Music composed by Hugh Martin*



# From the Bridge



Cdr Elwood "Woody" Williams, JN  
Commander



Lt/C John Holland,  
Executive Officer



Lt/C Eric Ringwall,  
Education Officer



Lt/C Mary Larsen,  
Administrative Officer



Lt/C Margaret Sherrod,  
Treasurer



Lt/C Beth Guler,  
Secretary



1st/Lt Meredith Randall,  
Assistant Education Officer



1st/Lt Scot Randall,  
Assistant Administrative Officer



1st/Lt Dennis Abell,  
Assistant Secretary

**Calendar**

December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas

January 14<sup>th</sup> - Executive Committee Meeting, Aldo 's

January 14<sup>th</sup> thru 17<sup>th</sup> - Atlanta Boat Show, World Congress Center

January 21<sup>st</sup> - Annual Meeting, 57<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group

February 6<sup>th</sup> - ABC Class, Lake Lanier. Details TBA

**Note:** Observant readers of our ASPS roster might have noted that Valentine 's Day was listed not once, not twice, but three times. Husbands take note!



# AFTerthoughts

Santa came early to my house this year. You see, I shot off my big mouth and told the wonderful folks at the Atlanta Ronald McDonald House Charities that of course I could get a window seat made for the indoor tree-house in their expanded location on Peachtree-Dunwoody Road. December 16<sup>th</sup> deadline? No sweat. So I turned to - who else - our Squadron. At the November executive committee meeting I talked about it. Four people/couples came to my rescue.

Mike Guler said that he would build it, and build it he did. Three dimensional plans, four dimensional talent.

He did a yeoman's job and I was in total awe. Then I was asked if we could get it by the 9<sup>th</sup>. Mike Guler said "I don't see why not".

How to fund it? Hmmm, not enough money in the recycling box. One couple raised their hands. "We'll cover it." Another raised his/her hand. "We want to help." A third person said, "We'll split it." I don't want to embarrass them by giving their names (Ringwall, Holland, Shirey). The cost came out to be a bit more than I had expected. I called each and asked them, "Did you have a particular figure in mind? It's a bit more than I had expected." Each said, "Let's just do it."

Next I was asked if I could get it in a week earlier, by the 8<sup>th</sup>. Enter Tom Gastio. Stain, sanding, polyurethane, more sanding, another two coats of polyurethane, more sanding, then the installation. But the window seat was built and installed, and these people made me look pretty good (and feel even better). I am so proud to be the elf for these Santa's.

Then came the Seafarer's Ball. \$2100 collected for the Calvary Children's Home and \$1400 to buy the kids some presents. We even raised \$70 for our Recycling-Jane Vallentyne Leaycraft Project to benefit the Ronald McDonald Houses.

What wonderful people we have chosen to hang with. Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah , everyone.

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