



PTEROGRAM

The Official Publication of the Ancient Order of The Pterodactyl (AOP)
AN ASSOCIATION OF COAST GUARD AVIATION PERSONNEL

Sitrep 3-05 Fall 2005 AOP is a non profit association of active & retired US Coast Guard aviation personnel & associates

C O N T E N T S

Prez Notes.....2	Misc.....3	Roost report..... 4 - 9
Photos.....10,11	Hurricanes..... ..12 - 15	New Aviators.....15
Mail.....6 - 18	Multi-mission Application Form.....19	

'Grams come and go, but this one is surely full of stuff that I hope is of interest to every member. The roost report is, as usual, reasonably comprehensive and, I hope, accurate. As mentioned before, this document is our journal, and the essence of a roost ought to be documented. Hopefully, members who were not present will be served by the commentary.

Ptero Ping Hsu once again brought his talent, energy and equipment to the gathering and submitted nearly a hundred and fifty really good photographs of the activities and people. You will find a few in these pages and ultimately all of them on the AOP website. We are indebted to Ping for his labor of love. We invested in a bit of color for this issue which we could do more of if we grow in membership AND if every member would keep up with their annual dues.

You won't find here any photographs of the Katrina and Rita operations. Lots have been published and many more will be circulated in many media. We concentrated in this 'gram on some writings by a few of today's red, white and blue, blue suited senior coasties who in their admirable professional competence and persona and deft writing captured some of the spectacular response by Coast Guard aviation to the U.S. Gulf coast havoc this summer. If you saw some of this earlier, read it again. Pages 12 through 15.

You'll find in here testimonials to the worth of our association and also a few requests for help. Please don't gloss over either. We are performing good work, but a small number of even the most talented and committed volunteers can't do it all. A lot of us are talking about such things as where should this association go, how do we further assist active duty CG men, women and commands, how do we recognize and make more visible the people and achievements of the air crews who maintain, train and fly the birds of today? And how do we keep from dying off? Think about these and other questions and give your Executive Board your thoughts. And also think about lending a hand.

Read on...

Your Scribe,
RJC



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Notes From Ye Prez



[He/they didn't suggest this pic of George and Barbara. I did. We in CG aviation are a family, pilots, aircrews, maintenance support people who drive our safety and much more. And we all know it takes support at home not only to carry out today's missions but to support our undertakings to preserve and support the rich, rich history of CG aviation, so this is, admittedly, a transparent symbol of our family-ness. May God bless George and Barb and our family. Ed.]

So, another GREAT roost goes in the history books. Over 320 Pteros and their guests attended a star-studded banquet making it one of our largest gatherings ever. The CGAS Savannah team did an outstanding job setting up and executing events in near perfect weather conditions. Special Kudos to CDR Todd Sokalzuk and Lt's Ryan Allen and Matt Walker — the guys on the point. Many others were important in planning, and Ptero Art Wagner was the perfect "godfather". Thanks also to former Commandant Ptero Admiral Owen Siler, Aviator 515, honorary host and his wife Bette. BRAVO ZULU to all. It is a BIG job and you all did it with terrific style and class!!

Progress is slow but steady on many of our Ptero projects:

- Three HH-52's will arrive in Elizabeth City after Thanksgiving. Somehow these "pumpkins" will turn into "museum quality aircraft" and eventually be put on display in prestigious museums around the country. See page 7.
- Four large aircraft models (RD-4, HO-4S, HH-52, and HU-16) will make their way from Mexico to New London via Tucson, AZ. These models will go on display at the CG Museum and the new CG Academy Alumni Association building next year. See page 8.
- The Naval Aviation Museum Foundation will feature a Coast Guard panel titled "Remarkable Rescues: Courtesy of USCG" at its annual Symposium on 10-13 May, 2006. See page 8.
- Our efforts to support active duty forces who lost their personal effects during KATRINA has brought in many dollars to date. More is needed. See page 8.

Finally-I want to add my personal thanks to all of you who conspired – behind my back – to present me with the outstanding original artwork depicting an HH-52 teamed up with an HU-16 on a rescue case. It sure brought back a lot of memories. It is hanging with great pride in my "I love me room" in Mobile, AL. Stop by and check it out the next time you are in town. Special thanks to Ptero Billy Richardson for his fine work.

The transition to new leadership is slowly underway. You will see a new VP (Mont Smith) and a new Secretary (Cathie Zimmerman) on our mast head. Other changes will take place over the next few months. Spread the word — the Pterodactyls are alive and well. Find new members for us and help us grow this great organization.

Till next time — Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Remember, 2006 is the 90th birthday of CG Aviation. Semper Paratus.

George



HELP! A PTERO AIR UNIT SUPPORT UPDATE

from a report by Ptero Art Wagner, Av 769

Sitrep 4-04, a year ago, contained a proposal by Ptero Wagner basically to lift from a Navy League of the U.S. model of active duty unit adoptions and have Pteros near a CG air facility step up and volunteer to fill two important voids. One, to assist the unit in reporting historical events and documentation to our history committee for preservation and to help the command in other ways as the command might find appropriate. We are a knowledgeable resource, and God knows today's active duty folk can use all the help WE are able to provide.

So, where are we in this endeavor today after a year since Ptero Art pitched the program at the Sacramento roost? Typically, one might suppose, pluses and minuses.

Let's take a look. We believe thirteen of our air stations have begun an association with Pteros and/or Navy Leaguers to provide support. Some links are as follows. Ecity (Sperry Storm and Matt Ahearn, Savannah (Art Wagner and Jim Perry), Hitron Jacksonville (Broward Council of the NLUS), Clearwater (bob Whitley), Mobile (Ptero Board and local NLUS), New Orleans (Don McIntyre), Detroit (Brian Blanchard), San Diego (San Diego Women's Council), Sacramento (Jerry Mohlenbrok, Kirk Colvin and Doug Bogle), Astoria (Pete Hoffman), Port Angeles (Tom Beard) and Sitka (Juneau NLUS Council). Several other air units have active Navy League councils close by as well as Pterodactyls. The objective, we believe, ought to be to muster our resources for the benefits this initiative envisioned at the outset. The concept of active duty support from retired or near retired Pteros and Navy Leaguers is clearly viable. If volunteers did nothing but send a disc containing a unit personnel an aircraft roster each six months, we'd make progress and have something we don't have today. Contact Ptero Art Wagner with any questions as to how to proceed (awagner50@comcast.net).



WANTED ASSOCIATE SCRIBE

Ok, here we go. The service to the organization as scribe has grown some as the association has grown. Now, it seems, there's more than just Pterogram. Occasional executive assistance to the Prez or Board is an example. As the job, with all of its satisfactions has expanded, so has your scribe's years. I'd like help and will welcome the chance to introduce, not an assistant, but an associate to join me in mutual contributions to the Order.

Not only that, I'll help someone(s) (more than one associate will also be welcome), with more help in learning about desk top publishing and other administrative ways to easily serve the objectives of the Order with, really, minimum sweat, strain and time.

I'll like to 'hear' from you if you're interested in sampling this volunteer fare. Call me at (425) 641-689, fax me at (425)401-9265 or email me at rjcopin@aol.com.

This could even enhance your resume!



This painting, in color on page 10 and mentioned on other pages, shows Pteros, but the Ptero artist and the Ptero recipient will each, given a chance, signal their satisfaction of knowing hundreds of bucks were sent to the air, surface and land coasties who lost a lot, in some cases everything, in Katrina and Rita. If you are interested in obtaining a print of this original piece of this art, although Aviator 745 is not soliciting, contact Ptero Billy Richardson at ljber@adelphia.net...that's the way it goes, these days, folks, on line internet stuff...if another contact is needed, let us know...we can help.



REPORT ON THE 2005 ROOST AT SAVANNAH

November 6 - 9

As phlocking elements one by one closed out their phlight plans on the banks of the Savannah River, the weather Gods were smiling and continued so throughout the several days of one of the largest roosts ever. Steady moonshine, sunshine, warm temps and zip precip helped make a great venue even greater. Some drove or flew in several days early. Most arrived on Sunday, 6 November to pick up their name-tags and event tickets and begin their reunion highs. One smiling Ptero, following a series of encounters with friends he hadn't seen since last year's roost, was heard to remark that the exultation of the first few moments with so many former shipmates was enough in itself to make the trip worth every penny and minute. Registration in the Hyatt hospitality suite was manned capably and amiably by LTs Ryan Allen and Matt Walker of CGAS Savannah.

Monday featured a round of golf across the river (as far as we know all participants and their clubs survived); a city historic tour (lots of history in the low country); a Paula Dean tour (for those who might not know, she is Savannah's TV cooking program celebrity...Paula was not seen but son Bobby did greet our touristas). Monday closed with the evening social cocktail gathering (which was, in short, crowded).

While there was no planned program for the Monday evening social, a surprise presentation was executed in which ye Prez George Krietemeyer received a fine painting as an expression of appreciation from the membership for his leadership and work for the Order for the past fourteen years. The idea for something different and special surfaced many months ago in conver-

sations among several Pteros. When an original painting was suggested, Ptero artist Billy Richardson, Aviator 745, volunteered to do the brushing. The result of Billy's work is an impressive nautical-aeronautical depiction of an HU-16 and HH-52 engaged in SAR. To fund the expense and permit a large representation of members to participate, a "Cone of Silence" email sans the address of ye Prez was circulated opening the door to cash donations with any excess of green to be donated to the CG Mutual Assistance Katrina Fund. Not surprisingly, within a week, more than enough cash accumulated. After expenses, nearly eight hundred dollars was sent to the Katrina fund as coming from Pteros. Ye Prez, totally surprised, was clearly moved and somewhat bewildered since he had no idea of the project or process. The painting spent the rest of Monday night in George and Barbara's hotel room and then was displayed the following night at the banquet. See the painting on page 10.

The previously scheduled Tuesday tours went down without a hitch except for the cancellation of the Beaufort/Hilton Head excursion for which there were too few signups.

Promptly at 1800 the doors to the banquet hall opened and the nicely dressed crowd of three hundred and thirty moved in, dinner seats were claimed and the cash bars began doing business. It was great to see lots of blue suits in the assemblage. We were honored by the presence of four active duty flag officers, all aviators, the Vice Commandant, Atlantic Area Commander, the Seventeenth District Commander (Ancient Albatross) and the Chief, Office of Operations Capability. Several active duty Captains and

retired flag officers, including former Commandant, Admiral Owen Siler, Aviator 515, were also in attendance.

When time came to transition from the social adjustment to the dinner, host Commander Todd Solkalkzuk, CGAS Savannah commanding officer, Aviator 2764 summoned the throng to their seats, a sharp USCG color detail brought forth the colors, the national anthem was played (and sung by many in the audience), the pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited, and the awards banquet was underway. Commander Solkalkzuk articulated a warm welcome, and, following an invocation by ye ancient scribe, pronounced it time to partake of the sustenance which had been prepared (chow down).

When the plates were more or less clean, ye Prez George Krietemeyer mounted the platform and introduced the keynote speaker, Ptero Vice Admiral Vivian Crea, USCG, Commander, Atlantic Area, Aviator 1820. VADM Crea proceeded to share important data and interesting stories about service successes and challenges in a host of mission areas. She spoke about drug interdiction, maritime safety and law enforcement, homeland security, and search and rescue. She touched on personnel, training, organization, equipment and budgetary issues. While she pointed out a few areas where the service is particularly challenged to meet mission performance goals, her remarks were inspiring and upbeat and, not surprisingly, reflected *Semper Paratus* throughout. She told some Katrina and Rita hurricane stories, praising the performance of all the Coast Guard air, surface and land resources in coping with those storms.



The Admiral's presentation kept everyone's attention and at the end prompted enthusiastic and warm applause.

Then ye Vice Prez/Scribe briefly explained to the assembly the significance of the painting on display which had been presented the night before to Prez George (see pages 3, 4 and 10.

Next came the Hall of Fame inductions introduced by ye Ancient Vice Prez/Scribe, Aviator 744 and Ptero Bear Moseley, Aviator 743 and presented by The Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard, Ptero Vice Admiral Terry Cross, Aviator 1584.

The Coast Guard Aviation Hall of Fame consists physically of a series of bronze plaques on display in Erickson Hall, ATC Mobile, which recognizes and honors individuals who have made significant contributions to CG aviation. The Hall of Fame was created by and is sponsored by the Ancient Order. Induction is not an annual event but occurs when nominations are received and acted upon by the Order's Executive Board. Prior to 2005, only 13 individuals or groups have been so honored. They are:

CAPT W.J. Kossler
RADM B.M. Chiswell
CDR E.F. Stone
CAPT F.A. Erickson
CAPT D.B. MacDiarmid
CAPT C.C. Von Paulsen
CDR S.R. Graham
LT J.C. Rittichier
RADM Norman B. Hall
LT J.A. Pritchard, Jr. and
RM1 B.A. Bottoms
WWII USCG Aviation
Maintenance Personnel
CDR B.E. Melnick
CDR G.E. Brown

Inducted at this Savannah roost were eleven CG aviators who volunteered for combat rescue duty in the Southeast Asian Theater of Operations from 1967-1972. The saga of the heroism of these aviators and

the volunteer exchange program with the U.S. Air Force was chronicled in Sitrep 2-04, a special edition Pterogram researched and authored by Ptero Bear Moseley. The following combat rescue aviators were inducted at this banquet:

CAPT R.V. Butcka, USCG (Ret.), Aviator 1238, the late CAPT J.L. Crowe, USCG (Ret.), Aviator 1065, the late CAPT L.A. Eagan, USCG (Ret.), Aviator 1060, CDR R.E. Long, USCG (Ret.), Aviator 1452, LCDR J.M. Loomis, USCG (Ret.), Aviator 1179, LCDR R. Martin, USCG (Ret.), Aviator 1080, CDR L.L. Mixon, USCG (Ret.), Aviator 878, LCDR J.C. Quinn, USCG (Ret.), Aviator 1091, CAPT R.T. Ritchie, USCG (Ret.), Aviator 1216, the late LT J.C. Rittichier, USCG, Aviator 997 and CDR J.K. Stice, USCG (Ret.), Aviator 1234.

Able to be present for the induction were Captain Butchka; Captain Jay Crowe's widow Anne and daughter Julie Shields; Captain Eagan's widow Patricia; Commander Long; Lieutenant Commander Loomis; Commander Mixon; Lieutenant Commander Quinn; and Commander Stice.

Unable to be present were Lieutenant Commander Martin, Captain Ritchie and the family of LT Rittichier. Their mementos and photos will be sent or presented to them as soon as practicable.

The induction to the Hall of Fame began with a description of the Hall of Fame, a reading of a letter from the Order's President and a letter from the Commandant of the Coast Guard, display of the large bronze plaque to be installed at ATC Mobile and individual photographed presentations by VADM Cross. See page 11. Needless to write, each recipient received extended applause.

Seated at the table with Captain Butchka was a surprise (to Captain Butchka) guest, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Langham, USAF (Ret.) and

his wife Anne. Lt. Col. Langham, himself a Jolly Green pilot, was forced down in Vietnam nearly forty years ago and picked up by Capt. Butchka in another Jolly Green! Before reading further, now would be a good time for you, the reader, to pause for a moment of reflection in honor of those who failed to return from that war.



As hard an 'act' as the heroism of these combat veterans was to follow, inspiration kept flowing forth in the form of current awards for flight safety, aviation maintenance and rescue created and sponsored by the Ancient Order.

CDR Tom Farris, Aviator 2581, was on hand from the safety office at CG Headquarters to present the Captain Marion "Gus" Shrode flight safety award to LT Sean O'Brien, Aviator 3501, from CG Air Station Houston. This annual award was first presented in 1998. Recipients are selected by members of the Commandant's staff. LT O'Brien received a commemorative folder containing a description of the Shrode award and, for the Commandant a flag officer's congratulatory letter. The letter cited LT O'Brien's "astute management" of the safety program of CG air station Houston and described examples of his outstanding performance which included detailed planning and briefings of many transient personnel and helicopter relocations incident to the CG response to hurricane Ivan. LT O'Brien's name will be placed on the Shrode Award plaque in Erickson Hall, ATC Mobile.

CAPT Mark Butt, Aviator 2397, from the Commandant's staff, came forward next to present the third aviation maintenance award first



first presented in 2003. This year's recipient, selected by Captain Butt and his staff, was AMT1 Randy Losada from CG air station Miami. Petty Officer Losada received a commemorative folder containing a description of the award and, for the Commandant a flag officer's letter of congratulations. Petty Officer Losada's exceptional performance as his unit's HU-25 ATF-3 engine shop supervisor was cited along with praise and recognition for his outstanding leadership skills as well as highly respected technical capability. He served as a valued mentor, helping to develop the skills of mechanics while motivating aircrews to earn qualifications. He demonstrated superior engineering maintenance competence and leadership contributing to the successful accomplishment of Coast Guard missions. *[See the mail pages for this coastie's roost sentiments... meanwhile a committee of active duty and retired members will be researching, consulting and generally red tagging to come up with a suggestion for the naming of the maintenance award...Ed.]*

Come now, ye rescue awards.

The EADS North America Commander Elmer Stone Fixed Wing Rescue Award was first presented by the Ancient Order in 2000 and has been presented annually since then with the recipient crew selected by the Commandant's staff. The selected honorees this year was the crew of HC-130 1708 from Kodiak air station, Alaska, namely LCDR Schmidt, LT McKechnie, AMT1 Kearns, AET1 Martin, AMT2 Noriega, AMT2 Auito, and AET2 Maret. Of the crew, LT McKechnie and AET1 Martin were able to be present to receive their award and memento in person. The others will receive theirs by mail. This crew launched in response to an emergency signal emanating from about 1,000 miles south of Kodiak. Fighting 100 knot winds at

altitude, the aircraft descended below a 500 foot overcast in heavy rain to sight flares, marked the position, dropped a radio and raft, and in darkness and heavy rain ultimately diverted a merchant vessel which successfully recovered the distressed mariner. The award was presented, with remarks, by Mr. Josian Morales, President and CEO of EADS CASA-NA and Rear Admiral David Kunkel, Aviator 1726.

The Rotary Wing Rescue Award was next. The Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Captain Frank Erickson Rotary Wing Rescue Award was first presented in 2000 so this was the sixth crew to be so recognized. Captain Michael Moore, Aviator 2039 and Ptero David Spracklen, Aviator 2387, a Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation manager, did the honors. The honored crew of HH-65 6513, CG air station Kodiak, consisted of LT Eason, LT Kornexl and AMT3 Gibbons. LT Eason and AMT3 Gibbons were present in Savannah to receive the award. They launched from the deck of CG Cutter *ALEX HAILEY* in extreme weather conditions to assist in the rescue of crewmembers from a commercial vessel hard aground on Unalaska Island. They witnessed, while hovering near the stricken vessel, the sudden and tragic mishap of an HH-60 which resulted in the HH-60 crew and hoisted ship's personnel to be dashed into the sea. HH-65 6513 quickly rescued by hoist the HH-60 crew and a ship's crew member from the icy waters and then, navigating through darkness, decreasing visibility and treacherous terrain, delivered their survivors to Dutch Harbor. Having refueled their helicopter, this crew returned to the scene through driving snow to successfully recover the HH-60 rescue swimmer and the ship's Captain.

Each of the awardees were greeted, as one might suspect, with admiring, grateful and loud ap-

plause.

Reflective closing remarks were delivered by our Ancient Albatross Ptero RADM Jim Olson, Aviator 1563, Commander 17th CG District. Present also was the Enlisted Ancient Albatross, MCPO Bill Beardsley.

Thus, on schedule, refreshed and very much inspired, the assembly retired to await the activities of next day.

Savannah awoke once again to a blue sky signalling temps in the 40's (that's celsius...do the math, it was nice). Anyway, the elevators worked well to bring more than 120 or so to the business meeting of the gathering.

The business agenda proceeded with Prez George gaveling order, asking Ancient Al Olson to deliver the traditional airman's prayer, Ye scribe read the list of missing members which you will find on page 19.

Prez George then recognized and brought to the fore CDR Solkalsuz, and LT's Ryan Allen and Matt Walker to receive accolades for a great roost. Ptero C.O. Solkazuk was applauded for his leadership in bringing us a fine gathering. LT's Allen and Walker were given life memberships in the Ancient Order and CG aviation history books.

Ye Ancient Secretary, Ptero Gary Grow, Aviator 1205, reported on membership, indicating that we currently have 1,134 dues paying members and honorary members. The mailing list includes an additional 129 associate members and others. In the past year, we have gained 92 regular and associate members and 9 new lifers. 25 regular members converted to life. Unfortunately, 183 members are late in paying dues, 65 retired, 88 active duty. We average about 140 delinquents each year which not only dents our budget but requires extra and undesirable volunteer effort



to track people down. Gary reported that he is in the process of transitioning the data base to Cathie Zimmerman who will henceforth assume the duties of Ancient Secretary. Reflecting on the transition of said duties over the years, he remarked favorably on others who have picked up various pieces of what once came under the secretary's main rotor, specifically: the establishment of the email list by Ptero Bob Watterson and now managed by Ptero Tom Rich; the expansion of the AOP website managed by Ptero Gary Gamble; and the editing of Sitreps by ye scribe. Prez George then described his long, personal friendship and professional association with Gary and presented Gary with a mounted upper end of an HH-52 cyclic for his many years of skillful and diligent control of many aspects of the Order's business as Ancient Secretary.

Turning now to money, Ancient Ptreasurer Ptero Ptom McLaughlin took the mike to entertain the assembly with his annual report. Ptom stated that as of 11/1/05, the checking account balance was \$8,795.67, and the USAA account where life member dues are collected stood at \$87,192.20. He indicated that as a matter of policy, only interest is drawn from the latter account for operating purposes. 240 eyes then fixed on Ptom, and 120 smiles were visible as Ptom removed his representative petty cash jar from the purple crown royal pouch and recited the petty cash list from the 25 centavo coin through all the other coins, tokens and ducats remaining in the fund, concluding with the proverbial lock washer. With that fun offering, we might have closed the meeting but, lo, there was much more business ahead.

The Prez opened the subject of officer elections by presenting only a partial slate in that Cathie Zimmerman, a resident of Virginia who

serves aviation safety on the staff of the Commandant, has agreed to serve as Ancient Secretary and Ptero McLaughlin has agreed to continue as Ptreasurer. The president and vice president slots were yet to be filled. Only one nomination from the floor was made, that by the Ancient Scribe placing in nomination as Vice President Ptero Mont Smith, Aviator 1520. Noting that Ptero Mont was not present because his day job took him away just before the meeting, the scribe announced that, indeed, Ptero Mont had accepted the role if elected. A second and affirming vote quickly followed. With no other nominations forthcoming, Cathie and Ptom were elected as Secretary and Ptreasurer, respectively, and ye Prez stated that he would continue in office but only until July next. He asked members with aviator numbers under 1,000 to stand, indicating that the substantial volunteer labor to fly and maintain the Ancient Order to date came largely from that group. He then asked those with numbers between 1,000 and 2,000 to stand, and he challenged that group to pick up the load. The first challenge will be to identify a new Prez before mid 2006.

In lieu of an annual report on the state of CG aviation, all present were then treated to a riveting presentation by three blue suiters who together took the crowd behind the scenes of the awesome Katrina and Rita hurricane responses. Captain Dave Callahan, ATC Mobile commanding officer, Aviator 2408, Commander Norm Schweizer, CGAS Houston commanding officer, Aviator 3131, and Lieutenant Commander Tim Tobias, CGAS New Orleans Operations Officer, Aviator 3037A, stood together before the group and passed the mike back and forth, holding rapt attention as they described, conversationally, with stills and video clips,

stories of this historic undertaking. Many of the stories and images went far beyond the favorable mass media coverage of Coast Guard performance. Space and format here does not allow much of a taste of this outstanding 80 minutes of service history. The scribe will try to give just a hint of that inspiring time. Several short but illuminating video clips depicted up close and personal debriefs by pilots and crews. One such clip related an experience by a woman rescue swimmer who described her rescue of a four month old baby who was thrust into her arms from a building as she hung suspended over water on the hoist cable some hundred feet below the helicopter. There was no option but to be hoisted while clutching the baby in her arms, terrified [*her word*] that either the baby would slip from her grasp or the baby would suffer harm from being hugged too tightly. Both swimmer and baby survived the ordeal. This rescue swimmer was AST3 Sara Faulkner, United States Coast Guard, currently assigned to ATC Mobile. She performed this rescue suspended 'neath a CGAS Clearwater HH-60J piloted by LCDR J.W. McGinnis, Aviator 3191. Semper Paratus!

A series of brief reports started with Ptero Bob Johanson, Aviator 869 who indicated that arrangements are being made to take custody of and relocate to AR&SC Elizabeth City three HH-52A's from the Army's Aberdeen Research Laboratory for ultimate museum exhibit purposes, hopefully someday including the Smythsonian. The airframes are 1382, 1392 and 1425 for those of you who have touched them personally. Ye Prez then put his signature on one of the documents wherein the Order shares with the CG certain responsibilities with regard to this project. For his diligent work in this effort,



this effort, ye Prez presented Ptero Bob with the AOP President's award in the form of a plaque of appreciation.

Ptero Paul Busick, Aviator 1341, Chairman of the CG Academy Alumni Association Board, reported that more than \$200,000 has been donated by Pteros to the fund which helped make possible the new Alumni Center facility at the Academy. He also mentioned the named brick project for that building and praised the Order's support of the Cadet Aviation Club.

Next was Ptero Al Tingley, Aviator 720, to give what he quipped was a non progress report on the large models being constructed with the previously reported grant from the family of the late RADM Frank A. Leamy, Aviator 40. Early this year, Al accepted an invitation to be the Order's OSC since his residence is close (but not exactly within shouting distance) of the Arizona contractor. Al was asked to check on the progress of model construction during a partial payment process with a view to quality of the end products. To recap, the four models are to be of an HU-16E, HO4S, HH52 and RD-4. Al shared some of his frustration with the modeler who, Al has learned, is actually having the work done in Mexico. The project will continue to be monitored, but Al has advised the keeper of the funds to withhold further payments until more acceptable progress is noted.

Ptero Al's report brought suggestions from the floor regarding other large models of CG aircraft which have been constructed or are under construction, some of which fly. Frequent supported and contributor Ptero Mitch Perry, Aviator 500, stood to ask for more focus on the PB5A stating that at one time, the CG operated more Catalinas than any other aircraft.

Ptero Deese Thompson, Aviator 683, was called on to say some

things about the Naval Aviation Museum at Pensacola whereupon he did. Next May 10-12 during the annual symposium at the museum staged by the museum Foundation, there will be a SAR panel discussion featuring several remarkable SAR cases performed by CG aviation. The panel will consist of four HH-60 pilots, two rescue swimmers, and a flight mechanic. If you're a member of the Foundation, you will receive the usual advance mailing. If not, you can link to the Foundation website from our own (www.AOPtero.org).

Ptero Howie Thorsen, Aviator 776, showed some current pictures of the Century of Flight monument at Kittyhawk, including shots of some of the named bricks. One hundred dollar bricks are still available the funds from which will help provide maintenance support over the years to come. The monument is providing excellent public visibility of CG aviation history. Ptero Howie also reiterated his banquet announcement that more than a hundred Pteros had so far contributed more than \$35,000 to the CG Mutual Assistance Katrina Fund. *[Contributions to that fund which directly supports CG families suffering losses from Katrina may be send on line to CGMA.org or by postal mail to Coast Guard Assistance, 4200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 610, Arlington, VA 22203-1804...in either case let CGMA know your donation comes from a Pterodactyl member.]*

Approaching the business meeting outer marker, Ptero Bob Workman, Aviator 914, furnished an update on the project to provide an award posthumously to the U.S. Army MD, a Captain Martin, who performed life saving services in Newfoundland following the crash of the Sabina airliner. That was the case involving the disassembly and transport of two helicopters to the scene which made the rescues pos-

sible. *[See Sitrep 2-05 for Ptero Art Ladley's summation of that case which is on the Order's history website in even more detail.]* Ptero Bob reported that efforts are underway to gather senior officials with Captain Martin's family for a high level and hopefully well covered award ceremony. He also indicated that this case served to give rebirth to the development of the helicopter for SAR which at that time was at risk of being shelved.

Ptero Art Wagner, Aviator 769, briefly mentioned the status of the project to support air stations with volunteer Ptero help. See page 3 herein for the essence of his report.

On short final, Ancient Albatross Ptero Jim Olson, Aviator 1563, CCGD17, in leather, recognized the presence of the reigning Enlisted Ancient Albatross, MCPO Bill Beardsley, returned a 'substitute' scarf to former Ancient Albatross Ptero Ed Barrett, Aviator 1344 *[That's enough on that]*, and closed with good words about the roost and CG aviation.

Taxiing in, the scribe opened the subject of the location of the 2006 roost by recognizing the presence of an emissary of CG air station Traverse City, LT Jeremy Anderson, Aviator 3530. Ptero Jeremy came here to learn the drill and to pitch his command's enthusiastic invitation to celebrate the 90th year of CG aviation at that northern location. Hearing no other competition, a resounding yea to accept this invitation was then heard. Sometimes the biggest decisions take the least time. As we go to press, the phlocking dates for next year are planned to be Monday, 18 September through Wednesday 20 September with early arrivals on the 17th with a program schedule similar to this year's. Initial planning details on the headquarters will be published in Sitrep 1-06 with activity details and registration data following in 2-06. Any change in dates, of course,

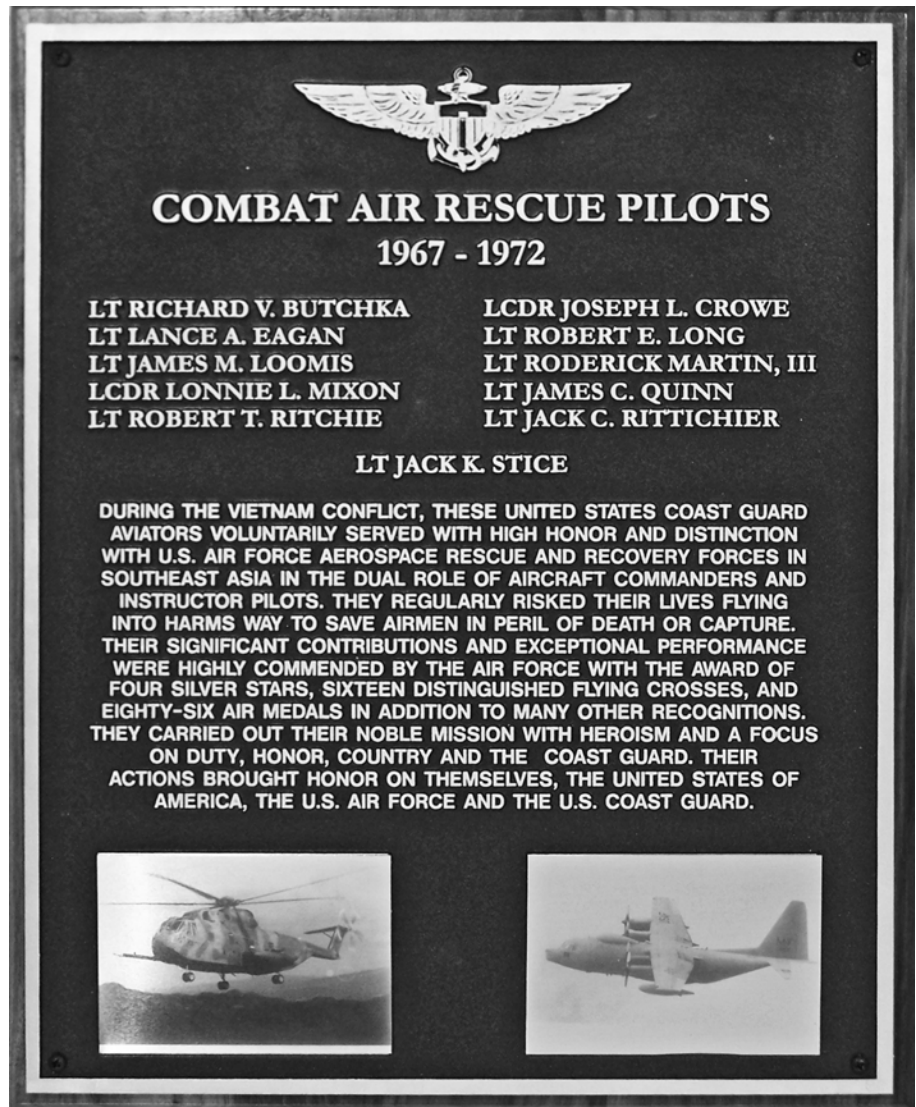


will be published but no changes are on the radar at this time. It was also mentioned that in the spirit of looking over the horizon, we have begun preliminary discussions with CGAS Houston about the possibility of roosting there in 2007.

With all that accomplished, the Ancient Prez brought the gavel down on the business meeting for presumably his final time in the chair, and all adjourned to prepare to for the low country boil at CGAS Savannah.

Practically as quick as that, there we were, again in glorious Georgia sunshine, lining up in the chow line near the hangar and offices of the air station. Awaiting to be devoured was the touted boil of sausage, shrimp and veggies together with salads, beverages and dessert. Great food, continuing reuniting conversations and tours of air station helicopters and facilities were the features of this final activity of a superdooper roost. Already looking forward to next year's gathering, we are grateful for the hard work of our Savannah roost ground crew.

Semper Paratus all the way!



This image pictures the large bronze plaque displayed in the U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Hall of Fame at the Coast Guard Aviation Training Center, Mobile, Alabama. Induction of this group of Coast Guard aviators into the Hall of Fame took place in ceremonies at Savannah, Georgia on November 8, 2005 during a gathering of the Ancient Order of the Pterodactyl (an association of Coast Guard

Here's a black and white smattering of a couple of Ping's roost pics...

