



# THE BUZZARD



U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey Heritage Society Newsletter

November 2009

## Holiday Luncheon and Annual Meeting - December 8, 2009

The Holiday Luncheon and Annual Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 8, 2009**, at the Rosensteel Knights of Columbus in Silver Spring, Maryland. As we did last year we are holding the Luncheon and Annual Meeting a little earlier than usual to avoid conflicts with other events that are always scheduled later in December.

Everyone is invited to attend. Members, guests, friends and prospective members are all welcome. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served starting at 11:30 AM. There is an open bar for beer and wine and cash bar for mixed drinks. A lunch buffet will be served at 12:30 PM. Cost is only \$18.00 per person. See the flyer on the back page for more details and the registration form.

Following the luncheon the Society's Annual Meeting will be convened for a short business session. Only one item of business will be brought before the members for approval this year and that is the election of Board Members

The Board of Directors is comprised of eleven members that include nine elected Directors, an appointed Treasurer that is a voting member, and the President of the Northwest Chapter. Each elected Director serves a three-year term and terms are so arranged that normally one-third of the Directors are elected, or reelected annually. This year the nominees for three-year terms are: **Donnie Marth, Cheryl Oliver, and Roger Parsons**. In addition, **David Peterson**, is

nominated to serve the remaining two-year term of the position recently vacated by **Steve Barnum** due to his retirement and relocation out of the area.

These positions are open to all members of the Society in good standing. Write-in nominations for candidates are also acceptable. Elected Board Members must be in a position to attend regularly scheduled meetings in the Washington Metro Area at their own expense.

An Absentee Ballot and return envelope is enclosed. **Please return your ballot by December 1, 2009.**

The Rosensteel Knights of Columbus facility is located in Silver Spring, Maryland just off the Beltway at Georgia Avenue. It is easy to reach by auto or Metro. If you are driving take the Georgia Avenue Exit (Exit 31) off the Beltway and proceed North on Georgia Avenue. At the first intersection turn left on Forest Glen Road. Proceed west on Forest Glen Road approximately 3 blocks to Rosensteel Avenue and turn right. The Knights of Columbus building and parking will be on your right. The building is handicap accessible. There is plenty of free parking and if you elect to use the Metro it is just a short walk from the Forest Glen Metro Station on the Red Line.

Sign up by completing the reservation form on the back page of this newsletter and mailing it to Diana Lewis.

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## 2009 Officers and Board of Directors

President	Charlie Kears
Vice President	Charlie Challstrom
Secretary	Roger Parsons
Treasurer	Don Spillman
Director	Cheryl Oliver
Director	George Leigh
Director	Diana Lewis
Director	Donnie Marth
Director	Larry Mordock
Director	Harley Nygren
Director	Vacant

### Northwest Chapter – Seattle

President	Larry Mordock
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## 2009 Committee Chairs

ACO Liaison	Don Spillman
Audit	Charlie Challstrom
Awards	Donnie Marth
By-Laws	Charlie Challstrom
History	George Leigh
Marketing	Vacant
Membership	Diana Lewis
Nominating	Charlie Challstrom
Scholarship	Charlie Kears
Merchandise Sales	George Leigh
Special Event	Donnie Marth
Sunshine	Diana Lewis

## President's Message

As I look back and reflect on the past year for the Society there is one thing that stands out in my mind and that is the dedicated Board members that keep the Society on track and running. As a member of many other organizations and many other Boards I truly appreciate their dedication and service. Everyone contributes and shares in the work. This is not to say that they all agree on every issue, but once a decision is reached they fully support that decision. As one good Board member leaves another good candidate steps forward to fill the void. Earlier this year Cheryl Oliver accepted an appointment to the Board and she brings her many talents to help the Society grow. I'm sure that many of you remember Cheryl from the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Steve Barnum recently resigned from the Board due to his retirement from the Corps and relocation out of the area. He is returning to his home in Suffolk, Virginia. Our appreciation and thanks to Steve for your many years of service. Dave Peterson is stepping forward to serve as Steve's replacement. Dave is retired from the NOAA Corps and is currently active in the ACO Scholarship Foundation. These are truly talented people and we are fortunate that they are willing to contribute their time and energy to our Society. Let me not fail to recognize all the other Board members who have served over the years.

I am happy to report that the Society is on a firm financial foundation. We greatly appreciate the many contributions to the scholarship fund this past year.

If you have an e-mail address and are willing to share it please let us know. We would like to establish a regular e-mail newsletter to provide more timely information.

Once again, it has been my honor to serve as the president of the Society for the past year. I wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving and best wishes for the Holiday Season.

# Happy Thanksgiving



# Seasons Greetings



And

## 2009 Officers and Board Members C&GS Heritage Society

## Washington Area Annual Picnic June 2009

On a bright sunny Saturday afternoon in June thirty-one members and guests assembled for the Washington DC Metro Area Annual Picnic. An abundance of food, drink and excellent weather led to an afternoon of renewed friendships and sea stories. It was nice to see many of our long standing members as well as some of the newest members in attendance. Our thanks to Fred Sergio for the great photographs.



**Standing left to right:** Fred Sergio, Diana Lewis, Don Schmidt, Donnie Marth, Dave Peterson, Kathy Peterson, Don Spillman, Evelyn Fields, John Oliver, Cheryl Oliver, Harley Nygren, Charlie Challstrom, Mary Challstrom, Moe Ringenbach, Dan Bella, Bill Wall, Archie Patrick, Bernie Polanin, Angie Ferrara, and Bob Bosley (guest and chief chef).

**Seated Left to Right:** Rita Schmidt, Natalie Ferrara, Teedy Blackwell, Evelyn Bosley (guest), Myrtle Ringenbach, Connie Wall, Judy Patrick, Romaine Polanin, and David Ferrara



Washington Metro Area Annual Picnic - continued



## NOAA Selects Newport, Oregon as New Home of Marine Operations Center-Pacific

NOAA has selected the Port of Newport, Oregon to be the new home of the agency's Marine Operations Center-Pacific beginning in 2011 pending the signing of a 20-year lease.

NOAA selected the site following a rigorous process involving an extensive review of proposals submitted by sites in Washington and Oregon, both of which are centrally located for all NOAA ship operations on the West Coast. The current lease expires on June 30, 2011.

"NOAA is committed to providing the highest level of science, service and value to the nation," said Rear Adm. Jonathan W. Bailey, director of the [NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations](#) and the [NOAA Corps](#). "We look forward to reuniting NOAA's West Coast research ships and support personnel at one facility and being an active part of the community."

Considerations in selecting the site included NOAA's infrastructure needs, proximity to maritime industry resources and NOAA labs, quality of life for civilian employees, officers and crew, the ability to meet the desired occupancy date of July 2011 in addition to lease cost.

NOAA's requirements for the new site include office and warehouse space, berthing for the four NOAA ships homeported at the NOAA Marine Operations Center-Pacific and up to two visiting

ships, and LEED-certified, environmentally sustainable main buildings. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating system, developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, provides a suite of standards for environmentally sustainable construction.

The NOAA Marine Operations Center-Pacific is comprised of approximately 175 employees, including more than 110 officers and crew assigned to the NOAA ships *McArthur II*, *Miller Freeman*, *Rainier* and *Bell M. Shimada*, a new fisheries survey vessels expected to join the NOAA fleet in 2010.

The NOAA fleet of vessels and aircraft is operated, managed and maintained by the NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, which includes civilians and officers of the NOAA Corps. The NOAA Corps is one of the nation's seven uniformed services. Its commissioned officers have degrees in engineering, science or mathematics and provide NOAA with an important blend of technical, operational and leadership skills at sea, in the air and in program offices throughout the nation.

*August 4, 2009 Reprinted from NOAA Website*

## 2010 Society Caribbean Cruise

The Board selected a 2010 cruise that departs and returns to Baltimore. The ship is the International Royal Caribbean, Enchantment of the Seas. Dates are November 4 to 13, 2010 (9 nights). Ports of call include San Juan (Puerto Rico), St. Thomas (Virgin Islands), Samana (Dominican Republic), and Labadee (Haiti) for a private beach day, then back to Baltimore.

We are pleased that Dick Knorpp, Cruise Vacations International, Inc. of Rockville is assisting us once again. Dick has provided the following information so we can book directly with Cruise Vacations International. Inside Staterooms, Category M, Decks 2, 3, or 4, \$899.00 per guest; Oceanview Staterooms with window Category I,

Deck 2, \$1049.00 per guest; Category H, Deck 3, \$1069.00 per guest; Category G, Deck 4, \$1089.00 per guest; Balcony Staterooms, Category D1, Decks 7 or 8, \$1579.00 per guest

The above rates include the cruise and port charges. Additional Government taxes and fees per guest of \$75.89. The deposit is \$250 per guest which is fully refundable until August 15, 2010. Final payment is due not later than August 16, 2010. These group rates are guaranteed until December 5, 2009. For additional information contact Charlie Challstrom

## Last Standing Bilby Tower

By George Leigh

In April 2009, National Geodetic Survey field surveyor (and USC&GS Heritage Society member) Steve Randall found a standing Bilby Tower on an island in Louisiana. The 64-foot Tower is built over station COUBA, PID = AU2876, and is located about 18 miles southwest of New Orleans. The NGS datasheet ([http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/ds\\_pid.pl/1](http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/ds_pid.pl/1)) states that the mark was set in 1972, and there are no later recoveries. This would seem to indicate that the Tower has been standing there since 1972.



**Louisiana Bilby Tower**

The photo shows that much of the galvanized steel has rust marks and that one of the three plywood sections of the Observer's Platform is missing. Otherwise, the tower looks to be complete. The Light Plate is atop the outer, "blue" tower and the Plate for the theodolite is still in place atop in inner, "red" tower. The steps also seem to still be in place, but the author is not volunteering to climb this old Tower. The guy

wires help explain how the Tower has survived 37 years of Louisiana heat, humidity, and hurricanes.

The Tower was evidently used as a stand for an antenna at some time; see the pole extending from the top, left side of the Tower and the wire running up the left side.

In the accompanying GoogleEarth image the shadow of the Tower is visible in the center of the photo between two buildings.



**GoogleEarth Image**

A USC&GS 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary article on Bilby Towers can be found at:

<http://celebrating200years.noaa.gov/magazine/bily/welcome.html>. An article on all types of survey towers used by USC&GS and NGS, see:

[http://celebrating200years.noaa.gov/survey\\_towers/welcome.html](http://celebrating200years.noaa.gov/survey_towers/welcome.html).

If anyone knows of any other standing Bilby Towers please let me know. The author has heard that one is still erected at Cape Canaveral, Florida.

## The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwestern Lunch & Social Hour Plus Added Attractions

**All Coast Survey/ ESSA/ NOAA retirees & interested future retirees are welcome!**

Dates: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, March 10, 11, & 12, 2010

On Wednesday, March 10: our classic Lunch at The Bluewater Grill, the remodeled, renamed Fishmarket. The Bluewater Grill is located at 1720 E Camelback Rd, Phoenix, Arizona. Social Hour at 11:30 in the large private room on the Main Floor. Lunch at 12:30, individual orders off the Menu.

### **Extra Added Attractions:**

On Thursday, March 11, we meet at an “undisclosed location” in the vicinity of Sun City West. We’ll board our Coach along with the West Valley Astronomy Club and head for Flagstaff and Lowell Observatory & US Naval Observatory West. (Elevation at Lowell is 7200 ft.) We will tour the whole thing, Public and Public Prohibited areas. Lunch will be no host at a location in Flagstaff. This tour is courtesy of Mr. Jim Crisman of W V Astronomy Club and a long time associate of Lowell and the Naval Observatory. Do a little web searching and look for the names of the bodies in the Asteroid Belt, look at Asteroid #127545, you will find it named “Crisman”. That’s our host! Return to Phoenix will be about 7 PM. If wheel chairs are needed, let me know. If you bring one, it will definitely fit in the bus luggage areas. A large variety of guide books, audio guides, etc are available in their Gift Shop, 10% discount to our group. The cost, including everything but lunch and Gift Shop purchases, is \$40 per person. Lowell’s website is: <http://www.lowell.edu/index.php>

On Friday, March 12, we meet at Challenger Space Center at 12:30 PM for a simulated voyage to Mars, possibly seeing Asteroid Crisman enroute! This will take two to three hours. Our price is \$15 per person with a minimum of 16, max of 32 participants. If we should oversubscribe our “Crew” requirements we may have a few “shared” responsibilities! Challenger website is: <http://www.azchallenger.org/index.htm>

RSVP by January 29, 2010. Please tell me of your event choices. You may participate in whichever events you choose. Remember, the Lowell Observatory event is a joint venture with the West Valley Astronomy Club. The bus holds 55 passengers. First come, first served! If, between our group and WV Astronomy Club, there are less than 40 persons, the Lowell Observatory event will be cancelled. The Challenger event requires a minimum of 16 persons. It too will be cancelled should we fail to have 16 by February 1<sup>st</sup>. **RSVP To: George Poor, 13705 W Aleppo Dr, Sun City West, AZ, 85375, Tel: 623-584-2986. E-mail: [poordee@aol.com](mailto:poordee@aol.com)**

By February 1<sup>st</sup> I need to receive your \$15 refundable payment per person in order to hold your spot on the Challenger flight. On that date I will owe Challenger 16 x \$15 = \$240 for the minimum 16 participants. By February 12<sup>th</sup> I need to receive your \$40 per person refundable payment for the Lowell event. No one has an assured place on the bus until their \$40 is handed by me to Jim Crisman.

Since two out of three events are in the West Valley, including one long day, I suggest participants obtain accommodations in Peoria near Peoria Stadium or in Surprise near Sun City West. This will minimize driving requirements at the end of the day! Possibilities include:

<http://hotel-guides.us/arizona/surprise-az-hotels.html>

<http://hotel-guides.us/arizona/peoria-az-stadium-hotels.html>

The Windmill Inn in Surprise is the “Classic” of the bunch. We have placed our personal “excess capacity” visitors here several times and they have enjoyed their stay. If you have a mind to go to Mariner Spring Training games, stick with the Peoria venues. Most are within walking distance of Peoria Stadium. All are about 40 minutes from the Fishmarket and an hour from the Scottsdale “haute couture” scene. Remember, this is Spring Training season and demand for space will be significant!

The Bluewater Grill web site is at [www.bluewatergrill.com/locations/phoenix](http://www.bluewatergrill.com/locations/phoenix). A sample menu, map, and driving directions are there. Near the Bluewater the best bet continues to be The Best Western InnSuites Hotel at 1615 E Northern Avenue, 3 miles north of the Bluewater Grill, Telephone - 602-997-6285 or 888-7 PHOENIX. Airport Transportation and Breakfast Buffet are provided

Looking forward to seeing you in Arizona next March. George Poor

## Alexander Dallas Bache Burial Site Congressional Cemetery

Professor Alexander Dallas Bache was the second Superintendent of the Geodetic and Hydrographic Survey of the Coasts of the United States and the Office of Weights and Measures. He was appointed to this position on December 12, 1843 following the death of Professor Ferdinand Hassler.

He served in this position until his death on February 17, 1867. Professor Bache, along with family members, is buried in the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, DC. His family also has a rich history of service to the Coast and Geodetic Survey. Unfortunately, the burial site and monuments are sadly in need of repair.

Tombstones are broken and one obelisk, dedicated to those who lost their lives on the US Brig Washington, is broken at the top and in danger of falling due to erosion of the foundation. The Brig Washington was surveying off the North Carolina coast in September 1846 when it was caught in a storm. Lieut. George M. Bache and 10 crewmembers lost their lives.

The Society is considering a project to undertake the repair and refurbishment of the site. Society members can accomplish some of the work but the repair of the monuments will require the service of a stonemason. Several photographs of the site are shown below.







## Information For Members

**Membership Status**—The October 2009 Report lists 375 members. The Society **welcomes** Edward L. Ward (Trish) as a new member.

**Roster Book and Organizational Directory.** – A new edition of the Roster Book and Organizational Directory was mailed in October 2009. If you did not receive a copy please notify the membership chair, Diana Lewis. Since the directory was mailed using USPS bulk mail service undelivered copies are not returned. A mailing address confirmation is done once a year usually with the first mailing of each year.

If your information in the Directory is not correct please provide correction as necessary. A number of changes have already been received and an errata sheet will be provided in the next edition of The Buzzard. If you wish to have your e-mail address included please forward that information as well.

**2009 Scholarships Applications** – Applications for the Clem Arens and Gerald Short Scholarship Awards are due November 30, 2009.

Scholarships are open to all members and their families. Remember that two \$1,000.00 awards are made each year. We have received a number of contributions this year for the scholarship fund. All funds received are placed in the scholarship account. We thank everyone who has contributed.

**Society Awards** – Society Awards are presented annually to individuals who have distinguished themselves. If you have a nomination for a Society Award please send it to the Awards Chair, Donna Marth. The criteria for the awards can be found in the Organizational Directory and Roster Book. Nominations must be received by December 1, 2009.

## In Memoriam

**William M. Annis** – William “Bill” Annis died peacefully Sunday, May 10, 2009 at his home in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains just east of Sacramento, California. His wife, Mary, preceded in

him in death in 2005. His son, Brian, wife Jayne and grandsons Jacob and Charlie survive him. Memorial services were held on May 18, 2009 at the Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church in Fair Oaks, California. Burial was to be held at a future date in Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, California.

**Roy Carl Brown** – Roy Brown, a resident of Rockville, Maryland died on June 2, 2009. He is survived by his wife Dottie, two children, five stepchildren, and 17 grandchildren and step grandchildren. Services were held on June 6, 2009 at the Rockville Presbyterian Church. A private burial followed the service.

**Frank V. Garca** – Frank Garca of Takoma Park, Maryland passed away on October 30, 2009. His wife, Mary Theresa, 4 children, 16 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren, survive him. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Takoma Park, Maryland on November 3, 2009. Interment was in the Gates of Heaven Cemetery in Silver Spring, Maryland

**Edith Rollins** – Edith Rollins, wife of the late Robert “Bob” Rollins, passed away on June 29, 2009. Three children, Robert, Michael and Sandra and 7 grandchildren survive her. Funeral services were held on July 3, 2009 at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Silver Spring, Maryland. Interment was in the Gates of Heaven Cemetery in Silver Spring, Maryland.

## You Are Invited!

# Coast & Geodetic Survey Heritage Society's

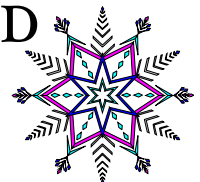
## Holiday Luncheon & Annual Meeting



Tuesday – December 8, 2009+

Rosensteel Knights of Columbus

9707 Rosensteel Avenue, Silver Spring, MD



Social Starts at 11:30 A.M.

Hors D'oeuvres, Beer, Wine & Soda

Cash Bar for Cocktails

Luncheon Buffet Served at 12:30 P.M.

Salad, Steamship Round of Beef, Stuffed Chicken Breast,  
Green Beans, Rotisserie Potatoes, Rolls and Butter,

