



# THE BUZZARD



U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey Heritage Society Newsletter

November 2011

## Annual Meeting and Luncheon – December 6, 2011

The Annual Meeting and Luncheon will be held on **Tuesday, December 6, 2011**, at the Rosensteel Knights of Columbus in Silver Spring, Maryland.

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 a.m. There is an open bar for beer and wine, and cash bar for mixed drinks. A lunch buffet will be served at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$20.00 per person.

Following the luncheon, the Society's Annual Meeting will be convened for a short business session. The Board of Directors is comprised of eleven members including nine elected Directors, an appointed Treasurer of the Society, and the President of the Northwest Chapter. Each elected Director serves a 3-year term, and terms are so arranged that normally one-third of the Directors are elected, or re-elected annually. Because of Roger Parson's untimely passing, this year we have a 1-year slot to fill. Plus we have the three 3-year slots to fill.

Our Nominating Committee has put forward the following nominees: For the 1-year term: Philip Kenul. For the 3-year terms: George Leigh, Dave Peterson, and Craig McLean.

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.

A Ballot and a return envelope are enclosed. Please return by November 22, 2011.

The Rosensteel Knights of Columbus facility is located in Silver Spring, Maryland just off the Beltway at Georgia Avenue, easy to reach by auto or Metro. If you are driving, take 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 handicapped accessible. There is

plenty of free parking. If you elect to use the Metro, it is a short walk from the Forest Glen Metro Station on the Red Line.

Please sign up by completing the reservation form on the back page of this newsletter and mailing it in the same envelope with your Ballot.

## President's Message

It has been a pleasure and a responsibility to serve again as President of the Society this past year. The pleasure part is meeting with other Board members as we conduct the business of the Society, and also communicating with our Society members on many different subjects. The responsibility part is somewhat of a challenge for me as other activities in retired life distract me from working on The Buzzard and moving ahead with the social and service opportunities for our Society. Board members have been supportive by connecting with sources of information to share in The Buzzard, and we are exploring a committee effort to compile The Buzzard, coordinated by a lead Editor. This year, we added a Financial Review Committee to expand awareness of our Society finances and the fine work of our Treasurer, Don Spillman. We look forward to the Annual Meeting and Luncheon where we will also announce the two scholarship recipients funded from the generous contributions of our members and their families. Charlie C.

## Society Scholarships

Applications for the Clem Arens and Gerald Short Scholarship Awards are due November 15, 2011. Scholarships are open to all members and their families, and two \$1,000.00 awards are made each year. Application forms and instructions for the Scholarships are on the Society's webpage: <http://home.comcast.net/~CGS.Heritage.Society/>

Completed applications must be mailed to: Charlie Kears, 16643 Killdeer Dr, Rockville, MD 20855-1955. For questions or additional info, please contact Charlie K. at 301-948-5872 or email to: [ckears@verizon.net](mailto:ckears@verizon.net)

## 2011 Officers & Board of Directors

President	Charlie Challstrom
Vice President	Cheryl Oliver
Secretary	(vacant)
Treasurer	Don Spillman
Director	Charlie Kears
Director	George Leigh
Director	Diana Lewis
Director	Donnie Marth
Director	Larry Mordock
Director	Harley Nygren
Director	Dave Peterson
Director	Phil Kenul

### Northwest Chapter – Seattle

President	Larry Mordock
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## 2011 Committee Chairs

ACO Liaison	Don Spillman
Awards	Donnie Marth
By-Laws	Charlie Challstrom
Financial Review	Dave Peterson
History	George Leigh
Membership	Diana Lewis
Nominating	Charlie Kears
Scholarship	Charlie Kears
Merchandise Sales	George Leigh
Special Events	Donnie Marth
Sunshine	Diana Lewis

## Seafloor Surveys off Long Island

NOAA Ship Thomas Jefferson is conducting a hydrographic survey of the seafloor off the coast of New York and Connecticut as part of a multi-year effort to update nautical charts for Block Island Sound. In addition to supporting marine navigation, data acquired by the 208-foot hydrographic survey vessel will also support a seafloor mapping initiative by the states of Connecticut and New York. NOAA's recent survey effort in the area began in 2009, when Thomas Jefferson surveyed 174 square nautical miles in Block Island Sound. This year's effort, from August through November, will survey 228 square nautical miles. With bigger ships, crowded sea lanes, and more uses of ocean areas, shipping today is increasingly a task of precision and accuracy. This area is seeing an increase in the numbers of deep-draft vessels requiring depths of over 60 feet, and the pilots need NOAA's precise and up-to-date depth measurements as they navigate.

## Imagery for Mobile Web Access

NOAA's National Geodetic Survey recently released a prototype website making it possible for emergency responders to access emergency response imagery while in the field. This website uses imagery acquired by NOAA aircraft following Hurricane Irene:

<http://storms.ngs.noaa.gov/storms/irene/mobile/>

NOAA collected more than 1,500 images the first day of the storm to assist with assessing storm damage. The devastation caused by Hurricane Irene was clearly evident to those in its path, but the extent of the damage may be easier to appreciate when seen from the air. NOAA's remote sensing aircraft acquires and rapidly disseminates a variety of spatially referenced remote-sensing datasets to support homeland security and emergency response requirements.

The website can be accessed using iOS, Android, and Blackberry smartphones and tablets. The website may be viewed using Google Chrome, Apple Safari, and other WebKit-based browsers. It is not viewable with Microsoft Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox.

## National Ocean Service Podcasts

Check out the podcasts featuring in-depth talks with NOS scientists on this website:

<http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/podcast.html>

Building a Better Geoid – Using measurements of gravity to refine a model of the Earth's shape to enable use of GPS to get elevation in most U.S. places within an accuracy of 2 centimeters or less.

Navigation Response Teams – Learn about the support NOAA's navigation response teams provide following emergencies like hurricanes.

Arctic Sea Floor Inventory – NOAA scientists collect data off the coast of Alaska in the Chukchi Sea to get a clear picture of underwater ecosystem before any offshore development begins.

Preparing for the Arctic Future – Within the next 2 decades, the Arctic Ocean is expected to be free of ice in the summer. That means lots of ship traffic and the potential for accidents and oil spills.

Positioning Activities Worth \$2.4 Billion – A study finds economic value of services provided by NOS's National Geodetic Service is in the range of billions of dollars annually.

Where exactly is Four Corners? Hear about the controversy surrounding the position of the monument located where the states of Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona meet up.

## Annual Arizona Gathering



Back Row: Jack & Denise Guth, Phil Johnson, Bill Barbee, Don & Leslie Dreves, Carol & Charles Townsend, George Poor, Sam Baker. Seated: Marjie Barbee, Dee Poor, Carole & Glenn Cannon, Janet Baker  
Not pictured: John Albright and Diane Canafax

The Annual C&GS/NOAA gathering was held March 16-18, 2011, in Phoenix, Arizona. On Wednesday, March 16, eighteen gathered for lunch at The Bluewater Grill and enjoyed catching up on everyone's life experiences since last year. What a surprise to have Sam and Janet Baker from nearby Scottsdale join the group and Leslie and Don Dreves had driven over from Tucson for the day as did Jack and Denise Guth from Jerome. Another surprise was Phil Johnson who had flown in from New Mexico with his writer friend, Alan Webber--they were doing research for one of Alan's books. Bill and Margi Barbee, John Albright and Diane Canafax, Glenn and Carole Cannon and Charles and Carol Townsend were there from Washington State as was George and Dee Poor, hosts for the activities.

Wednesday evening Barbees, Poores, Guths, and Cannons met with the Townsends at their newly purchased "pad" in El Mirage for dinner. Everyone enjoyed the conversations, libations, & food. Then Thursday morning several couples gathered at Chase Field for a tour of Jack Guth's large collages depicting Great Moments in Baseball that are displayed at the ball park. In the evening five couples attended the Arizona Broadway Theater for dinner and the show, "The Drowsy Chaperone", a play filled with laughs and song. We can't thank George and Dee Poor enough for all they do to plan these activities each year--no easy feat!

We have a great time reminiscing at these events and encourage you to consider joining us next year!

**Invitation for 2012** -- The 17th Annual Southwestern Lunch & Social Hour -- for all Coast Survey/ESSA/NOAA retirees. Interested future retirees are welcome! Wednesday, March 21, 2012 -- our classic Lunch at The Bluewater Grill, remodeled and renamed Fishmarket. Social Hour at 11:30 in the large private room on the Main Floor. Lunch at 12:30. At 1720 E Camelback Rd, Phoenix, Arizona.

Watch for more info in the next issue of The Buzzard, your email or the NOFA Bulletin Board. RSVP by February 1, 2012 to: George Poor, 13705 W Aleppo Dr., Sun City West, AZ 85375 tel: 623-584-2986 e-mail: poordee@aol.com Looking forward to seeing you in Arizona next March!

## SEASTORIES 101-83

One forgotten aspect of World War II was the total commitment of the country to the effort. The logistic organization that provided all that was necessary to the sixteen million people in the Armed Services was huge, and effective. One small contributor to this was a small Army warehouse that was part of the Army's Seattle Port of Embarkation. This group was responsible for providing clothing and equipment to the forces fighting in Alaska. It was formally called "The Cold Climate Warehouse. The building itself was an old nondescript warehouse inland from the Army's huge port. There a small crew filled requisitions for skis, clothing, sleeping bags, etc. needed to operate in wintry environments.

Often overlooked by history is the fact that in 1942 Japan occupied both Attu and Kiska in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska, the only State to be so invaded, although it was not yet a State. Efforts began immediately to retake this real estate. The Naval Base at Dutch Harbor was also attacked at the time of the battle of Midway, but no occupation was attempted. Sporadic skirmishes occurred, including the naval battle of the Komondorski, where two fleets fought it out without any airpower being available to either side. The reinvasion of Attu occurred in May of 1943, with large losses being incurred by both sides. In fact the Japanese occupiers were totally wiped out, but American casualties were large.

The day after I graduated from High School in June 1942, I went to work in this warehouse. Box cars would deliver supplies to the rear of the building, which were distributed to various staging areas. Small crews would service requisitions by repacking, labeling and shipping whatever was being ordered, Army trucks would deliver the material to the docks of the port. At first this was a reasonably leisurely process, with one shift reporting at 0800, and the second at 1200. The

second shift would finish up the orders, then clean up and reorganize the building.

Very soon the situation became more serious, and both shifts worked seven days a week. Then the days lengthened. The turnover in the workforce became extensive as the base pay was eighty cents an hour, with a dollar fifty in overtime pay. But the work was physically hard, conditions were not ideal, and the shipyards were paying much more. Some respite was available if one was lucky enough to be detailed to the trucks. Then it was possible to catch a nap while the trucks were waiting to unload. Twelve hour days became common.

The last week I worked there the second shift worked a fifteen hour day, then several eighteen hour days, and finally a 21-hour day. At the end of this shift the foreman ordered us back to work at the regular time, forgetting that the second shift had indeed worked twenty one hours. I went home, packed a lunch and came back, the only one on my watch to do so. I was put to work unloading a boxcar, and promptly fell asleep behind the cargo. When they unloaded back to me, the supervisor broke me out, and took me to the top of the warehouse. This place was an organizing area for sleeping bags. He told me to layout the bags in neat piles, and said that he would come back with additional orders.

I finished the job, and went to sleep for the rest of the shift on top of one pile. He came back at quitting time, and took me to the office, where I told the timekeeper I could not claim a day's pay for what I had done. He told me that as I had punched in I had to punch out! So I received an undeserved day's pay. That was supposed to be my last day, anyhow, so I left with good feelings all around for this great group of hardworking elves, who contributed greatly to the ensuing battles on Attu and Kiska. Harley Nygren

## In Memoriam

During 2011 we received word from family members that the following Society members have passed. This list includes those noted earlier this year in The Buzzard:

Bessie Cumming, Saratoga Springs, New York, December 2006  
Georgia Porter, Bronx, New York, February 2010  
Millard Cutler, St. Petersburg, Florida, May 2010  
John Gergen, Chevy Chase, Maryland, February 2011  
Roger Parsons, Williamsburg, Virginia, April 2011

You Are Invited!

**COAST & GEODETIC SURVEY HERITAGE  
SOCIETY'S**

**ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCHEON**

Tuesday – December 6, 2011  
Rosensteel Knights of Columbus  
9707 Rosensteel Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland



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,  
Dessert, Coffee and Tea

Cost -- \$20.00

RSVP by November 22, 2011

Complete the form below making checks payable to the  
C&GS Heritage Society and mail (with your ballot) to:

Donnie Marth  
15744 Buena Vista Dr  
Derwood, MD 20855-2656  
Telephone 301-948-3903 -- e-mail: Dmarth47@yahoo.com



**Luncheon Reservation Form**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

# of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = Total Amount \_\_\_\_\_



**U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey Heritage Society  
Annual Meeting – December 6, 2011  
Member Absentee Ballot**



Each member, in good standing, is requested to cast his or her vote on one item of business that will be brought before the membership for a vote at the 2011 Annual Meeting. This item is the election of Board Members.

In keeping with Article III, Section 3 of the By-Laws, a quorum at the Annual Meeting is defined as 10 percent of all members. A quorum requirement can be met by a combination of members present and those casting absentee ballots. Issues brought before the membership will be approved by a simple majority of those voting.

Please return your ballot in the enclosed envelope by no later than November 22, 2011.

**Board Member Election**

Members are requested to vote for the nominees listed below to serve on the Board of Directors for the terms so indicated commencing January 1, 2012. The nominees have agreed to accept and serve in these positions if elected.

Any member in good standing is eligible to serve as a Board Director. Write-in nominations are acceptable.

All elected Board Members must be in a position to attend regularly scheduled meetings in the Washington Metro Area at their own expense.

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>
George Leigh	3-year	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dave Peterson	3-year	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Craig McLean	3-year	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Philip Kenul	1-year	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Write in Nominations(s)**  
(please print)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Member Name** (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Member Email**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Member Signature**

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Please return using the pre-addressed envelope to: Donnie Marth, 15744 Buena Vista Dr., Derwood, MD 20855-2656. Thank you!