



The Buzzard

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Don't forget!

The 2014 annual meeting and holiday luncheon is on December 11, at the Manor Country Club in Rockville.

RSVP by November 30. The cost is \$25. Make check payable to the C&GS Heritage Society, and send to Cheryl Oliver, 11012 Hemingway Court, Silver Spring, MD 20902. For more info, you can email Cheryl at Cheryl.Oliver@noaa.gov.

Getting together in West Virginia

Family, friends and colleagues gathered at the 25th Annual Pig Roast at the home of Bonnie and RADM Bill Stubblefield in October. The event featured the "parade of the pig" and more food than one can imagine! It was a great time to catch up and tell old stories!



Top picture, from the left: CAPT Craig McLean, RADM Bill Stubblefield, CAPT Dave Peterson, RADM Harley Nygren, RADM Evelyn Fields, Charlie Kears, RDML John Albright. The (very) young handsome man is John Albright's grandson, Jason.



Congratulations, Bill Owens!

In the category of "OMG, I hope I'm half as good at his age!..." we extend a hearty congratulations to member Bill Owens, for running races at the age of 90. Owens entered the 800- and 400-meter races in the Huntsman World Senior Games in St. George, Utah, and Desert News reported on it [here](#).

Get to know your board members

For those of you who don't know our board members personally, we thought we should highlight a couple with each newsletter. Hopefully, you can get at least a sense of how lucky we are to have people of such high caliber volunteering their time to sustain and share our heritage.



Photo by LCDR Mark Van Waes

David Hall, the Society's secretary, is currently the public affairs officer for the NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, where he oversees the organization's media relations and social media efforts. Prior to joining OMAO, David provided media relations support to the offices and programs of the National Ocean Service as a public affairs specialist with the NOAA Office of Communications. He has also served as the national communications coordinator for the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

David has provided communications support for a number of high-profile NOAA projects, including the recovery of the USS *Monitor's* revolving gun turret, a survey of the wreck of the steamship *Portland*, and the hunt for the USS *Alligator* – the U.S. Navy's first submarine. Passionate about history and NOAA's heritage, David is a founding member of the NOAA Heritage Week planning team.

David's favorite hobby is photography. The number one item on his bucket list is a visit to Antarctica. His favorite quote (at the moment) is by retired UCLA basketball coach John Wooden, who said, "Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are."

CDR Matthew J. Wingate, one of our new board members, assumed the duties of the Department of Defense/Department of Homeland Security Liaison Officer, a new billet within the Office of Coast Survey, on June 4, 2012. In this position he fosters collaboration with defense and government agencies that have a charting or maritime mission. He previously served as the commanding officer of NOAA Ship *Ka'imimoana*, a deep-ocean oceanographic research vessel stationed out of Pearl Harbor, whose sole mission was climate research in support of NOAA's Tropical Atmosphere-Ocean project. Wingate has also served aboard *Whiting* and *Hi'ialakai*, as well as augmenting aboard *Nancy Foster*, *Gloria Michelle*, *Thomas Jefferson*, *Ferdinand Hassler*, *Oscar Dyson* and *Rainier*.

CDR Wingate received his NOAA Corps commission in July 1988, after graduating with a bachelor's degree from the University of Maine at Orono in mechanical engineering technology. He has been recognized with several NOAA Special Achievement Awards, Unit Citations, and an Administrator's Award. In addition, from his time working as a civilian design engineer, he holds three U.S. design patents: 6,513,428; 6,761,676; and 7,278,634.



Wingate is renowned for his woodworking. He says designing, cutting, forming, and building from scratch is absolutely the best, and it shows in his beautiful work. (He made the wooden stand for the ship's bell used in NOAA's 2012 tribute to the lost crew of the *Robert J. Walker*.) The number one item on his bucket list is to experience extended weightlessness — and "not on the vomit comet!" he says. His favorite quote is by Thomas Jefferson: "Timid men prefer the calm of despotism to the tempestuous sea of liberty."

Scholarship applications available soon



It's never too early to prepare for the Executive Committee of National ACO Scholarships' annual call to high school seniors and college undergrads for scholarship applications for the 2015/2016 academic year. The application will soon be posted on the [NOAA Officer Family Association website](http://www.nofaweb.org) (www.nofaweb.org). Application forms may also be obtained by contacting CAPT Dave Peterson (Ret.) at 301-921-6357 or kmpdhp@comcast.net. Send complete application packages directly to the corporation (address on the application), no later than April 15.

NOAA Hurricane Hunters tackle three oceans in October

by Ian Sears, Meteorologist and Flight Director at NOAA's Aircraft Operations Center in MacDill AFB, Florida

The NOAA Hurricane Hunters, based in MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, simultaneously supported customers in three oceans in October 2014. Though known for their work in hurricanes, that is not their only mission. When it is not hurricane season, the aircraft, crews, and support staff take on many other projects supporting all of NOAA. They routinely support winter missions, air chemistry missions, and special projects for other customers such as NASA.

On 1 October, N42RF – a NOAA WP3D known as Kermit – deployed to Fairbanks, Alaska, and flew three missions over the Arctic Ocean supporting an OAR project known as Arctic Flux. Meanwhile, N43RF – a NOAA WP3D known as Ms. Piggy – deployed to La Paz, Mexico, on 3 October, to support the National Hurricane Center's forecast and analysis of a rapidly intensifying Hurricane Simon in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. Later in the month, on 14 October, N49RF – a NOAA G-IV known as Gonzo – deployed to Hawaii supporting the Central Pacific Hurricane Center's analyses and forecasts for Hurricane Ana. N43RF wrapped up a busy October by deploying to St. Croix on 15 October. There, Ms. Piggy flew three missions supporting both NESDIS and the National Hurricane Center for Atlantic Hurricane Gonzalo.



NOAA N49RF (NOAA G-IV Gonzo) prepares for its mission in to Hurricane Ana, Honolulu, Hawaii. Photo by Joe Greene.

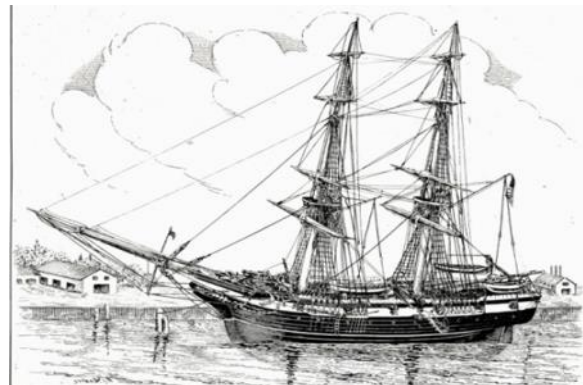
Needless to say, the crews, maintenance personnel, and support staff were very busy during the month of October.



N42RF (NOAA WP-3D Kermit) and crew pose during the Arctic Flux project, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Coast Survey's little known role in the case of the *Amistad*

Lt. Thomas R. Gedney, a U.S. Navy officer commanding the U.S. Coast Survey Brig *Washington* on August 20, 1839, was surveying the area between New York's Montauk Point and Gardiner's Island. He "discovered a strange and suspicious looking vessel off Culloden Point, near said Montauk Point," according to his statement to Connecticut District Court Judge Andrew T. Judson. Gedney and his officers took possession of the vessel. The ship captured by the *Washington* proved to be the Spanish schooner called *L'Amistad* – the ship carrying Africans who revolted against their captors and tried to sail back to Africa... Thus began a little known piece of U.S. Coast Survey history. (It is so little known, in fact, that Steven Spielberg's 1997 movie "Amistad" did not mention Coast Survey.)



U.S. Coast Survey Brig
Washington

Read more on the [NOAA Coast Survey blog](#).

Uniform buttons of the U. S. Coast & Geodetic Survey

by George Leigh, CDR, NOAA Corps (retired)

Recently, an unusual uniform button was listed on an online auction site. This motivated me into researching uniform buttons of the U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey.

After many online searches, I found images and information about four different buttons. One button description, found online, listed a reference: *Record of American Uniform and Historical Buttons, 1775-1976*, by Alphaeus H. Albert. A kind researcher at the Library of Congress sent me two pages from the book, listing the three earliest C&GS uniform buttons. Here are all four buttons and their approximate dates of usage.



CS w/Eagle atop globe

Dates of Usage:

Unk to c1878



USC&GS w/Globe

c1878 to c1917



Eagle atop Globe

c1917 to 1943/44



Modern

1943/44 to present

Notes:

- 1878 date from *Record of American Uniform and Historical Buttons, 1775-1976*, by Alphaeus H. Albert. (1878 is the year the agency's name was changed to add " and Geodetic.")
- 1917 date from *Uniform regulations for the Field Corps of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, 1920*. These regulations contain a graphic showing an eagle atop a globe. I found references to "Serial No 102, Uniform Regulations for the Field Corps of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey," 1918, but I have not been able to locate a copy.
- 1943/44 date from:
 - Military and Naval Recognition Book*, by J. W. Bunkley, Sept. 1943, which has a graphic showing the insignia as an "Eagle atop Globe"
 - NOAA Photo Library photo dated 1943 showing the "Eagle atop Globe" insignia
 - NOAA Photo Library photo dated 1944 showing the modern insignia
 - NOAA Photo Library photo dated 1944 showing the modern insignia

If anyone has additional information, please email the author at gleigh9@gmail.com