



ANA **GRAMPAW PETTIBONE**
SQUADRON INC.



1 SEPTEMBER 2015

www.gpsana.org

Editor Hal McDonnel

C.O. **Tim Brown** - timb53@hotmail.com

X.O. **Bob Anctil** - md11sim@adelphia.net

OPS **Cynthia Macha** - cm@wmof.com

Asst, OPS **George Del Gaudio** - georgenavybuff@aol.com

Membership **Fran Pieri** - graeagle@cox.net

Asst. Membership **Sel Ramsay** - ramsayengineerco@cs.com

Treasurer **Dolores Hardy** - 562-936-0287

Asst, Treasurer **Carol Fields** - t6pilot@dslextreme.com

PAO **Dick Fields** - t6pilot@dslextreme.com

Admin. **Hal McDonnel** - hmcddonnelz@yahoo.com

Flt. Surgeon **Dr Bob Helton** - bobby726921@gmail.com

Chaplain **Bill Thompson** - chapbillt@aol.com

Trips Officer **Vincent van den Brink** - vincentvdb1@yahoo.com

OP-Plan Editor **Hal McDonnel** - hmcddonnelz@yahoo.com

Web Editor **Ray LeCompte** - raylecompte34@gmail.com

The Grampaw Pettibone Squadron is a non-profit organization (IRS Sect. 501(C)(4) which, through meetings, discussions, speaker programs, and periodic field trips, serves to educate squadron members and the general public on the requirements of an adequate national defense, especially maritime aviation, which is essential to a free society, and to support the military professionals (active and reserve) responsible for many aspects of national defense. GPS also seeks to foster the strong pride, esprit, and fraternal bonds which exist among those associated with Naval Aviation

THE GPS LUNCHEON MEETING

WILL BE HELD ON

THURSDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2015

AT THE

GARDEN GROVE ELKS LODGE

LOCATED AT 11551 TRASK Ave., GARDEN GROVE

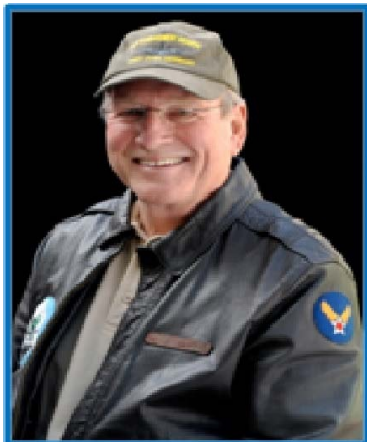
Hangar doors open at 1130, Luncheon is at 1200, secure at 1330.

Please make reservations before 9 PM on Monday 7 September 2015

COST IS \$15.00. FOR RESERVATIONS Please E-mail

RayLeCompte34@Gmail.com or by Phone: 562-287-4846

About our speaker's topic:



THE TRUE STORY OF PILOT HOWARD SNYDER AND THE CREW OF THE B-17 *SUSAN RUTH*

About our speaker:

STEVE SNYDER AUTHOR OF "*SHOT DOWN*"

Steve Snyder graduated from UCLA with a B.A. degree in Economics and has lived in Seal Beach, California since 1972. After 36 years in national sales and sales management, he retired from Vision Service Plan (VSP) in 2009. Steve and his wife, Glenda, have three grown sons. They attend Redeemer Lutheran Church in Huntington Beach. They also have a second home in Sedona, Arizona where they spend a considerable amount of time. Soon after retirement, Steve began his quest to learn about the World War



His experiences of his father, pilot Howard Snyder, and his crew of the B-17, Susan Ruth, named after his older sister. It became his passion and has resulted after several years of dedicated research in his book,

Shot Down. One result of his new

career as a World War II historian is that he is a member of numerous World War II associations and is Vice President of the 306th Bomb Group Historical Association.

In 1994, he traveled to Belgium for the 50th Anniversary of the Liberation of Belgium with his parents and then again in 2004 for the 60th. His attendance at the 70th Anniversary Celebrations in 2014 marked the official European launch of **"Shot Down."**

"SHOT DOWN:" The true story of pilot Howard Snyder and the crew of the B-17 Susan Ruth has won four awards:

2014 Southern California Book Festival - Honorable Mention General Non-Fiction

2014 USA Best Book Awards - Finalist History: General

2014 USA Best Book Awards - Finalist History: Military

Foreword Reviews' 2014 INDIEFAB Book of the Year Award

Finalist War & Military



About our August Luncheon:

State of

1ST MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Article by Dick Fields

GPS PAO

Gramps was honored to have Lieutenant General David Berger as our speaker for the August meeting. He gave us a great deal of insight into the status of our military and especially the Marines and Navy. He started with the high level condition of the Corps and discussed budget, money, numbers of deployed troops and how his team at Camp Pendleton must be always prepared for rapid deployment as needed for problems that may arise.

When it comes to aviation, there is a significant need for better fixed wing and helicopter readiness in the presence of the downsizing of the USMC in these days in a war-like world. This issue is being taken care of. There is the longstanding issue of the integration of women into the military, an issue that the Secretary of Defense is expected to resolve in the future. There will be a change of commandants of the USMC and USN coming soon.

His unit, the First Marine Expeditionary Force, has 51,000 members some of whom are on three carriers in the Middle East flying missions into Iraq, Yemen and Syria in partnership with the USN. The Australians have invited 2500 American troops to be based there by next year for missions to Kuwait, Jordan for the purpose of flying strike missions and for rescue missions as needed. There are to be advisor teams in Iraq who are to advise only with no combat duty, leaving the fighting to the Iraqis.

In the aviation field there are major changes in progress that

are needed to progress further. They include the F-35 with its sensors and resistance to radar identification. He described it as an advanced reconnaissance vehicle that also has terrific attack capabilities as a bomber and fighter aircraft. The other major aircraft change is the increasing use of the MV-22 Osprey that is the replacement for the older helicopters like the CH-53. Its advantages are markedly higher cruise speed and range, midair refueling and the ability to land in very difficult places as well as on shipboard. It will replace the current carry on board aircraft now supplying carriers at sea. Their use will require the availability of more tankers for inflight refueling than are now available.

Another issue is the increasing maintenance requirement for the current F-18 and CH-53 aircraft that are being utilized at over 50% of their planned life expectancy. The maintenance requirements are increasing greatly due to their age. This problem is being addressed.

People are an increasingly important value, especially NCO's. More are needed due to the increasing duty requirements and the increasing responsibility for making critical decisions on their own. Increased educational requirements are now being required for promotion. Additionally, aircraft are now much more complex than in the past, requiring a much higher level of training and experience in those who service them. This is further complicated by competition of the USMC and USN with civilian airlines and other flight maintenance businesses that can afford to pay significantly more to mechanics than they earn in the service. The same is true for aircrew.

Both the USMC and USN are viewed as healthy, although facing a new kind of threat resulting in lower ranking members making more important decisions. As these members gain training and talent, a major worry is can they be retained in the military? Cyber warfare is a new and constant threat but this is being dealt with constantly and aggressively.

The use of drones is very advanced in the Corps. They are using small as well as large drones that can be refueled in flight. These are considered critical to the operation of the Corps. Another issue is the availability of refueling tankers. The older fleet is very costly to keep in action as the aircraft age and require more and more maintenance. This is being addressed.



Gramps' C.O. Tim Brown thanks Gen David Berger for a very informative talk.

The General discussed the Wounded Warrior facility at Pendleton. It is currently caring for many veterans in ways that far exceed mere wound treatment. This is available because combat casualties are now few in number. This includes assisting in the conversion back to civilian life and dealing with psychological problems. He also mentioned the Naval Hospital on base that is available to all members of our military.

We are grateful to General Berger for his optimistic report on our forces and their improving equipment, training and command ability. This was an excellent presentation for our membership's interests.



From the C.O.

Tim Brown

At our monthly meeting on 13 August we had as our speaker, LtGen David H. Berger, USMC, Commanding General of 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. We received an excellent brief with a period following to ask questions of the CG regarding various facets of the operations of I MEF. General Berger touched on various challenges that face his command and the Marine Corps in general including aging aviation platforms and retention of NCOs who are so important to the modern Marine Corps fighting ethic. Another facet of the brief was the fact that MAJ Bruce Bender, USMC (Ret), who fought in most of the major battles in the Pacific during WWII was a guest of one of our members, Henry Phillips.



Henry Phillips(L), LtGen David Berger, Maj Bruce Bender(R).



Sel Ramsay, MAC Armando Deleon, GMC(sel) Lindsey Troy, MA2 Dominique Segura, MA1 Christopher B. Smith, GM2 Leland Larson, George DelGaudio, CMDCM Jeff Reeder

Also we had the opportunity to honor the Sailors of the Quarter from Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach and Navy Munitions Command CONUS West Division. The SOQs were individually introduced by CMDCM(AW) Jeff Reeder, Command Master Chief, NWSSB and NWC. The Junior SOQs were GM2(SW) Leland Larsen and MA2 Dominique Segura. The Senior SOQs were MN1(SCW) Mark Yancy and MA1 Christopher Smith. A special thanks to the local restaurants who support this program through contributions of gift certificates that were given to the SOQs: Crab Cooker in Tustin, CA, and Seal Beach Restaurants: Beachwood BBQ, O'Malley's,

Hennessey's on Main, The Hangout, Athens West, and Yucatan Grill. Congratulations to the Sailors of the Quarter for their excellent work ethic.

Grampaw Pettibone Squadron remains active and vibrant. We are challenged to grow our membership but those who do attend our monthly meeting enjoy the camaraderie of old shipmates and squadron mates, good food and excellent briefings by active duty military personnel, authors, industry test pilots, and just plain folks who have interesting stories to tell relative to Naval Aviation and related subjects.

The GREAT GUYS

Here are some of the Great Guys who have made contributions to Gramps in August. These guys and the members who attend the monthly luncheons are the ones who make possible Gramps' Sailor of the Quarter program and the Mailing of the OP-Plan. Members who do not attend the monthly luncheons should consider a contribution to cover the OP-Plan costs. Gramps and his staff thank them all and hope to see your name here.

Bruce Bender, Vince van den Brink, Tim Brown, Arnie Ehlers, Marv Garrison, Ray LeCompte, James McMath, Bob Olds & Bill Thompson



MEMBERSHIP

By Fran Pieri

I'll start out by introducing the recent new members. They are; Ken and Chris Jones, Maj. Charles Jones and Mr. David Franzen. Welcome Aboard to all of you. Welcome back to Mrs. Peri Tooker for renewing her membership for another year. There are still some members who still attend the luncheons, but have not renewed their annual membership. Please check with Hal McDonnell. He has the list of those who have not renewed. If you are 90 plus years young and above, you can get a free membership for life. You can get a membership application on line and send it to ANA headquarters. That freebie was dropped a few years ago but it's back, so grab it before it goes away again. Please call in your reservations early. Ask a friend to come along. We need new members. Carpooling is a must for some of us who cannot drive. Fran

PLANES OF FAME

By Fran Pieri

The next event at the museum will be the first Saturday in October, 3 October. The theme will be "Pioneering Experimental Aircraft", featuring The Northrop N9MB Flying Wing. Hanger doors open at 0900, seminar at 1000. Come early to visit with friends and take photos. Last month we featured The Vought F4U Corsair. Our former Gramps Squadron. C.O, Mel Locke, was one of the primary speakers at the event. He told of all the different models of the Corsair that he flew. Mel

gave such a good speech that they called him back to tell more of his flying as a Marine Aviator. I'm there every Saturday and so are some of you. There is always a raffle to get a ride in one of the vintage aircraft. When possible, there will be a flight demonstration of the Wing, barring bad weather or mechanical problems. Fran



From The **CHAPLAIN**

Bill Thompson

ARE YOU A VIETNAM VETERAN? In the July/August of the VVA VETERAN magazine there was a comment of the VVA President, John Rowan, that caught my eye. He stated: "While there was a lot of

emphasis on the fortieth anniversary of the fall of Saigon, I would prefer to remember an event that took place thirty-seven years ago, when Maude DeVictor, a VA employee concerned about her Vietnam veteran clients, first made the connection between Agent Orange exposure and the illnesses affecting her clients. Many Vietnam veterans don't know about DeVictor or the sacrifices she made for them. Because of her outspoken support for veterans, the VA fired her. Since then she has become a hero of the veterans movement. DeVictor is still active in her community in Richmond, VA."

The VA maintains a list of Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange. Should you be on that list? Chaplain Bill Thompson



From the **FLIGHT SURGEON**

Bob Helton MD

**MOTRIN AND ADVIL,
AND ALEVE**

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs(NSAIDs)

The FDA is strengthening its warning about NSAIDs. They can increase the chance of a heart attack or stroke. These serious side effects can occur as early as the first few weeks of using an NSAID and the risk may rise with use. The warning doesn't apply to aspirin. Prescription NSAIDs are an important treatment for the symptoms of many debilitating conditions, including osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, and OTC NSAIDs are used to temporarily reduce fever and to treat minor aches and pains such as headaches, toothaches, backaches, muscular aches, tendonitis, strains, Common OTC NSAIDs include Motrin and Advil, and Aleve. Be careful not to take more than one product at a time containing NSAIDs. If you have heart disease or high blood pressure consult your doctor before using NSAIDs. If you take low-dose aspirin for

protection against heart attack and stroke, you should know that some NSAIDs, including Ibuprofen and Naproxen, can interfere with that protective effect. Stop taking NSAIDs and seek medical help if you experience symptoms that might signal heart problems or stroke, such as chest pain, trouble breathing, sudden weakness in one part or side of your body, or sudden slurred speech. Reduce your risk factors to heart disease and stroke. Smoking, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes are significant risk factors for these conditions! Read the labels on your OTC and prescription medications .People who have cardiovascular disease, especially those who have already had a heart attack or cardiac bypass surgery are at the greatest risk. But the risk is also present in people without cardiovascular disease .Consumers can still take NSAIDs but be aware of the risk of heart attack or stroke, particularly at higher doses. Take the lowest effective dose for the shortest time possible. Read the label on your prescription.

PICTURES FROM THE LUNCHEON



**Senior Sailor of the Quarter
MA1 Christopher B. Smith and wife, Jessica**



**THE
WINNER
BRUCE
BENDER
WITH
TREASURER
DOROLESS
HARDY**