



ANA **GRAMPAW PETTIBONE**  
**SQUADRON** INC.

**1 SEPTEMBER 2016**

[www.gpsana.org](http://www.gpsana.org)



Editor Hal McDonnell

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, 8 SEPTEMBER 2016**

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 5 September 2016

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

[RayLeCompte34@Gmail.com](mailto:RayLeCompte34@Gmail.com) or by Phone: 562-287-4846

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About our speaker's topic:

## **THUNDERSTORM PENETRATIONS; HAZARDS, STALLS AND MANUEVERABILITY**

Our speaker:

### **CDR ROBERT JOHNSON, USN (RET)**



Numerous commercial aircraft accidents and incidents occurred in 2015 plus AF 447 in 2009 involving the penetration of severe thunderstorms. In researching those accidents and incidents, it is alarming that thunderstorms are not understood by flight crews and the aviation industry, nor are the dangers they pose to aircraft.

This presentation includes a review of Thunderstorm Penetration Tests by DZ Skalla (M) while a Navy test pilot flying the F-3H Demon 1960-61, the only real documented in depth testing

on planned thunderstorm penetrations (over 200 penetrations) plus CDR

Johnson's personal experience and the numerous commercial aircraft accidents and incidents in 2015.

In addition to the thunderstorm hazards; stalls, maneuverability, Airborne Weather Avoidance Radar and Pilot in Command aspects will be covered.





## LOMITA FLIGHT STRIP TO WWII P-38 TRAINING FIELD *A HISTORY*

Gramps was delighted to hear from Chuck Lobb, Aviation Historian and Author, Air Force Officer, engineer and pilot. His subject was Zamperini Field, also known as Torrance Airport and the Lomita Flight Strip. He got immediate audience participation by showing some very old aircraft and asking if any of us could identify them. The first was a



beautiful currently flying P-38 in flight which, of course, was immediately recognized. Several more pictures of P-38s from the WW-II era were shown. The next was an ancient biplane that our crew immediately identified as a JN-4D Jenny. Also shown

was the BT-13 Vultee Valiant that was quickly renamed by the Pilots as the "Vultee Vibrator".

He showed aerial views of the Torrance area before WW-II,



which was largely unoccupied with nearby oilfields in the area and Palos Verdes to the west. There was a good deal of agricultural land. As WW-II went on the need for another training base became very important and the military took over the area and constructed an airfield that was completed on March 31, 1943. It became an important training base for P-38 Lightning pilots many of whom helped in the conflict in the P-38. From 1942 to 1944 five squadrons of P-38s were based there, each having 40 officers, 200 enlisted men and 25 aircraft. There they trained to fine-tune their skills before being sent to bases in England for the European theater of war. In 1944, the Sixth Ferry Command took control and the activity grew to 2500 to 3500 operations per month. The duty was to check out new aircraft and then ferry them places of need around the world.

Brigadier General Robin Olds who was a famed ace of



WW-II trained there and later went on to fight in Korea and Vietnam. He subsequently went on to be the Commandant of the Air Force Academy Cadets. His training began at the Lomita

Flight Strip where he started as a fledgling P-38 Pilot. Colonel Art Jeffrey who was an Air Force Ace with 14 kills led "C" flight of the 434<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron. Louis Zamperini, for whom the airport was later named, was a Torrance native, a bombardier and an Olympic champion who also had spent terrible time in captivity. Iris Critchell was one of the early woman aviators and served as a WASP during WW-II. She also was an Olympic competitor and went on to train pilots for decades in the Los Angeles area. She was involved in the first Powder Puff Derby that flew from Torrance to Wilmington Delaware. In Chuck's excellent book, Iris has contributed many pictures of the earlier eras.

Since the war, there have been several aviation businesses at Torrance. Edmond Doak's Doak Aviation was one that designed a tilt engine VTO aircraft that was way ahead of its time. In addition, there was also Frank Robinson's helicopter business that currently sells more helicopters than any other producer does!

We are grateful to Chuck for his excellent presentation and references to so many aviators and aviatrixes that we all have heard of or even met as well as appreciation for the very important history that Torrance Airport has.

Article by Dick Fields, GPS PAO



## CO's COLUMN

By Tim Brown

Thanks to Vince van den Brink for running the show last month. He will be doing it again this month as Ray LeCompte and I will be at the annual Tailhook convention, starting the day of our luncheon meeting. I understand that Vince did a great job last month and that all went well, including the presentation of awards to the Sailors of the Quarter. Thank you to Bill Thompson and Sel Ramsay for making that happen. Also, thank you to George Del Gaudio for his work in the background on the SOQ program. I also received reports that our speaker was really interesting and that everybody in attendance enjoyed the presentation. Thanks to Cindy Macha, our Ops O for arranging for Mr. Lobb to be there. I wish that I could have attended.

As I said earlier, I will not attend the luncheon on 8 September. When Ray and I go up to Reno, we are busy



morning to night, meeting with industry and active-duty personnel. Mostly we are there to help ANA national remind the Navy that we are still around and active. The other part of our duties is to seek out new and interesting speakers, again, active-duty, industry and, in many cases, authors of Naval Aviation related books. It is a pleasure to represent you at TH but I can tell you truthfully, it is tiring. We attend most of the seminars too. Like years past, the seminars will be broadcast live on the Internet, so you can view what we have traveled hundreds of miles to see, from your office computer. By the way, Ray and I both give away our drink tickets to JO's when it comes time for the Bug Roach Mixer!

In closing, I remind everyone to try to attend our luncheons and to seek out and convince non-members to become members. We will always need new members to carry on the traditions of Naval Aviation and ANA. Also, please consider volunteering as a staff officer. We need the help! Don't forget about LA Navy Days, WWRE, and the air show over HB with the Thunderbirds, all of which are coming up in the near future.

Thanks again for being an active member of ANA and Gramps' Squadron. I thank you again for contributing to our success as an organization and for supporting our efforts to support the SOQ Awards Program through your donations of time and money.

## RECOGNITION OF SAILORS OF THE QUARTER



Gramps honors Seal Beach Weapons Station Sailors of the Quarter. 1<sup>st</sup> row(l to r): GMC(SW) Brad S. Stiner, YN2 (SW/AW) Joseph V. Williams, MA1 (EXW/IDW) Chance A. Beckford, MAC((SW/AW) Jay V. Knox. 2<sup>nd</sup> row(l to r): Chaplain Bill Thompson, Asst OPS Sel Ramsay, CMDCS Kieby C. Lee and XO Vince van den Brink.

At the last ANA meeting recognition was given to the Sailors of the Quarter from Seal Beach Weapons Station. Representing the Weapons Station were:  
Senior SOQ MA1 Chance A. Beckford  
Junior SOQ MA2 Anthony R. Burrow  
Blue Jacket OQ MASN Samira A. Brooks

The Navy Munitions Command, CONNUS West Division, also at Seal Beach Weapons Station, was represented by:

Senior SOQ MN1(SW) Tyler Schwartzbarra  
Junior SOQ YN2(SW/AW) Joseph V. Williams, Jr.

Each person honored received a certificate, financial awards from Grampaw Pettibone Squadron, and gift certificates from local restaurants. An attractive gift from USAA was also presented to each SOQ. We thank the following local restaurants for having donated gift certificates which we presented to our honorees: (in Seal Beach) Athens West, Beachwood BBQ, Hennessey's, O'Malley's, The Hangout, Yucatan, My Italian Kitchen, and (in Tustin) The Crab Cooker. We encourage our members to visit them sometime and thank them for being part of the awards we make to the Sailors of the Quarter. . Command Master Chief Kirby Lee, Seal Beach Weapons Station, introduced and presented the gifts to the SOQs

Article by By Bill Thompson Asst. OPS.

## 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. Gramps and his staff thank them all and hope to see your name here. Members who do not attend the monthly luncheons should consider a contribution to cover the monthly 61 cent cost for each OP-Plan mailed to you. You can save Gramps money by getting the OP-Plan via email. Just email me at [hmcddonnelz@yahoo.com](mailto:hmcddonnelz@yahoo.com) to change to email.

**Vince van den Brink, Ray LeCompte,  
and Bob Olds**



## MEMBERSHIP

By Fran Pieri

Our next luncheon will be Thursday, September 8th. That's the second Thursday of this month. Come early to get a good table and chair and to visit with friends. Speaking of that, carpooling is much appreciated for those of us who cannot drive. The speaker we had last month was very informative and interesting. The meal was very good and on time. We need new members. If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining the GRAMPS SQDN, bring them along with you. If your family lives in the area, ask them to come, even if it's to enjoy the meal. If we could get just one person per month to join ANA, this would make us stronger and lasting. Keep the blue side up. Fran

# PLANES OF FAME

By Fran Pieri

There are two events coming up in September. The first is Saturday, September 3rd and Saturday, September 17th. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, it will be featuring the Cessna L-19 Bird Dog. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, will be Junior Aviators Day. Kids 11yrs and under, admitted FREE. Hanger doors open at 0900am; seminar at 1000am. There is usually a flight demonstration of the featured aircraft (whenever possible). There is always a raffle for a free ride in one of the vintage aircraft, sometimes, in the featured airplane. Come early to get a good seat to take some photos and to visit with friends. I'm always there on Saturdays, so! I'll be looking for you. Fran

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## FROM THE FLIGHT SURGEON

Bob Helton MD

Memory: Mild memory lapses such as forgetting where you put your keys or eyeglasses, though worrisome, are normal. But certain memory problems, such as putting your car keys in the refrigerator, may indicate more serious issues, as would memory loss that disrupts daily activities such as balancing a checkbook, driving, or frequently forgetting appointments or where you parked your car. Other warning signals such as forgetting whole conversations, forgetting the names of family or close friends, frequently repeating yourself or asking the same questions in the same conversation. There are a number of things that you can do to help reduce the risk of developing memory problems: keeping cholesterol and blood pressure low, not smoking or drinking too much, eating a healthy diet, engaging in lots of social, activity- such as Gramps- and keeping your brain active by reading, writing, learning a new skill, playing games, and gardening. As part of the aging process, it can be harder for some people to recall certain types of information, such as the names of individuals. Mild cognitive impairment however is a condition characterized by a memory deficit beyond that expected for age, but is not sufficient to impair daily activities. Some memory helpers are big calendars to remind you of important dates and events, "to do" lists for each day, notes about safety in the home, written directions for using common household items. (Alzheimer patients can still read). Family members can help in living normally, help him or her stay active, go places, and keep up daily routines, remind them to take medicines, or visit the doctor..

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## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Bill Thompson

Reminders: Almost every year I have to look up the birthdays of the military services. Could you get all these days correct on a quiz?

***Army Birthday -14 June 1775***

***Marine Corps Birthday - 10 November 1775***

***Navy Birthday -13 October 1775***

***Air Force Birthday - 18 September 1947***

***Coast Guard Birthday - 4 August 1790***

No doubt you know and celebrate the birthday of your own branch of service. Why? Because you're proud of your service. Another date is coming up soon that we all are a part of, and that is our national date for electing a new President of the USA: November 8, 2016 Let's celebrate. Make sure you are registered to vote. Make sure that you vote. And the day after the election we can all celebrate together. If you voted your party affiliation--fine. If you voted for a candidate other than your party--fine. But together we can celebrate on the day after the election. Vote for the candidate you believe to be the one best for our nation. You may be like me. As I look at the last six presidents of our nation, I have voted for three of them who were not my party's affiliation because I thought they were the ones who would best lead our nation in good times or bad times. On the day after the election we can all celebrate....because we have done our part.

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The 50/50 winner, Joe Anderos, thanks Carol Fields and Doloris Hardy for calling the right number.