



ANA **GRAMPAW PETTIBONE**
SQUADRON INC.

1 JANUARY 2017

www.gpsana.org



Editor Hal McDonnel

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, 12 JANUARY 2017

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 9 January 2017

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

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



About our speaker's topic:

NAVY COMBAT SEARCH & RESCUE AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS OVER NORTH VIETNAM.

About our speaker:

CAPTAIN MARC LIEBMAN USN(Ret)

Marc retired as a Captain after twenty-four years in the Navy and a career that took him all over the world. He is a Naval Aviator and helicopter pilot with just under 6,000 hours of pilot-in-command/co-pilot flight time in a variety of tactical military and civilian fixed and rotary wing aircraft. He is a combat veteran of both Vietnam and Desert Shield/Desert Storm where he flew combat search and rescue and special operations missions. Captain Lieberman has worked with the armed forces of Australia, Canada, Japan, Thailand, Republic of Korea, the Philippines and the U.K.

In the business world, Marc has been a partner in two different consulting firms; the CEO of an aerospace and defense manufacturing company; a corporate officer for a Fortune 1000 firm; an associate editor of a national magazine; and a copywriter for an advertising agency.

Marc has authored four novels, the most recent one is *Forgotten*. A fifth – *Inner Look* – is scheduled to be published in January 2017. All his novels - *Big Mother 40*, *Cherubs 2*, *Render Harmless* and *Forgotten* are available in electronic as well as hard copies. In June, 2013, *Big Mother 40* was ranked #48 in Amazon.com's list of top 100 war novels. All are available through Amazon.com or through either the Fireship Press (*Cherubs 2*, *Big Mother 40*, *Render Harmless*) or the Deeds Publishing (*Forgotten*) web sites.

Marc and Betty, his wife of 47+ years live in North Texas when they are not traveling in their RV with their three dogs. They also spend a lot of time visiting his four grandchildren.



About our December luncheon:

HOW TO BECOME A NAVY PILOT

Article by Dick Fields
GPS PAO

CDR Erik "Reno"

Franzen presented the story of life as a Navy pilot to Gramps this month. Erik was born in Anaheim and grew up in California. He attended San Diego State University and graduated in 1991. While there, he participated in the Naval ROTC program and was commissioned as an ensign upon graduation. He wanted to become a pilot and applied for flight training. Only about four out of a hundred applicants get to fly, but Reno was selected. He underwent the "Water Survival" training that included sudden



T 34c

submersion in a simulator that was very difficult to handle. It was described as "Panic In A Can". His flight training was then begun in the T-34C trainer. He soloed on his twelfth flight. From there was a selection of what kind of aircraft to fly and he chose jets. He was number three in his class.



T-44

Next he trained in the T-44 Pegasus, a twin engine pressurized plane that was used to train in engine-out procedures and flight in Texas. He had 35 flights in that A/C and said it was "miserable" having to sit in the back seat while others did their practice. His next A/C was the T-2 Buckeye, a single engine jet aircraft that was carrier capable. That took place in Pensacola, Florida, and included formation training. He told a personal story at that point about his pending marriage: "Wings Before Rings" was his belief and motto, and he delayed his marriage until he had received his wings. His initial carrier qualification was achieved in the T-2 and consisted of multiple land based simulations that later turned out to be nothing like landing on a deck that is moving away from your approach. On approaching



T-2

the carrier from a distance for the first time he said, "Land on that???" Being low on fuel, he was not able to make the usual several low approach practices and found himself looking for the "Lens/Ball" and not finding it. However, the LSO talked him into the proper position by radio and he landed successfully. This occurred on the U.S.S. Eisenhower and he then received his Wings Of Gold in 1994.



Next he was assigned to San Diego and flew the E-2 Hawkeye, a twin engine early warning aircraft with the massive radar dome and carrier capability for 1200 hours. He discussed night carrier landings that he described as "Adrenaline Rush". The wingspan

was so large that a deviation of 2.5 feet from the deck centerline would result in a collision with the carrier structure. He became an instructor pilot in the T-45 Goshawk for 1000 hours in Corpus Christie, TX. This was a near Mach one aircraft that would fly at 0.95 Mach but would not go supersonic even in a dive. He was a participant in the Operation Iraqi Freedom, flying the C-2 Greyhound carrier onboard delivery (COD) aircraft for 700 hours. He discovered an anomaly from previous carrier aircraft with the C-2, resulting in "boltering" a few times before getting it right. Although he had intended to retire soon, he elected to stay in and continue his service to the country after 9-11. He was the first pilot to fly a COD over Iraq. His "Best Day In The Navy" was his homecoming day to be with his family. His daughter grabbed his flight suit and would not let go!

He later got to fly with the "Blue Angels" even though they would not let him wear a G-Suit since they did not look "cool". He took part in an inverted pass at an airshow at 100 feet over the ground. During the flight he had an episode of gravitational loss of consciousness (GLOC) since he was not conditioned for the G load as were the Blue Angel pilots, Reno woke up just before the pilot landed the aircraft. We thank Erik for his devotion to our country and the many hours of flight time and management time served as well as the most enjoyable presentation.



CO'S COLUMN

Tim Brown

December was busy, as usual, with all of the holiday festivities. We started the month with the Sailor of Year Awards presentation at our meeting on 8 December. That weekend your staff got together for

our annual "staff" meeting to celebrate another successful year and to enjoy the fellowship of our group, including spouses and significant others. Santa Claus showed up to greet us and to snap a photo with us. A fun time was had by all. (Pictures on page 4)

Now it is time to move forward in anticipation of another great year. Cindy Macha has already lined up a fine list of speakers for us. Our speaker in January, Captain Marc "Mad Marc" Liebman, USN (Ret), is a retired Naval Aviator (Helo community) and an accomplished author whose books have been very well-received.

I have read two of them. I am going to read his third one, "Render Harmless", before our meeting on 12 January. I have enjoyed talking to Marc at Tailhook on a number of occasions and reading his books/stories. Personally, I look forward to his presentation.

Currently Cindy has "penciled" in Colonel Jason "Woody" Woodworth, USMC, Commanding Officer, MCAS Miramar, for our meeting on 9 February. The last time that we had Woody as a presenter he was C.O. of VMFA-323 "Snakes" and getting ready to deploy aboard the Nimitz. When you read his bio you should be excited to attend that luncheon which will also feature the presentation of SOQ awards for NWSSB and NMC.

Our staff has pretty much stayed the same for many years. Again, I ask you to step up and volunteer to fill one of the staff positions or at least help out one of the staff members. Last year we lost Fran and Paula Pieri, our Membership Officers because they moved out of the area to be closer to their grandchildren; and both George Del Gaudio (SOQ Officer) and Dolores Hardy (Treasurer) had to slow down because of health reasons. Luckily we had competent people available to step up and take those important positions. Of course, the other side of the coin is/was that those folks who stood up were already staff members: Sel Ramsay added Membership to his duties; Bill Thompson picked up SOQ; and Ray LeCompte took over as Treasurer. Bottom line is that we need different/new volunteer help.

Finally, please try to attend our luncheons and continue to send contributions to Hal McDonnell or Ray LeCompte to help support our efforts to honor the Sailors of the Quarter (and Year) at the Weapons Station. We derive our funds from the "Great Guys", the 50/50 and from direct contributions from you. Remember those days when you were active duty and how nice it was to receive recognition for busting your butt for very little monetary compensation. These awards add a little something to their lives and help them out a little bit financially. All of that is the result of your support of Grampaw Pettibone Squadron.

Now, let's go enjoy 2017! See you on the 12th.

SAILORS of the YEAR

By Bill Thompson

At the regular December meeting of the Grampaw Pettibone Squadron, affiliated with the Association of Naval Aviation, one of the highlights was the recognition of the "Sailor of the Year". The Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach, selected Petty Officer First Class William A. Morse as its Sailor of the Year.



Front Row, left to right: C P O Jay Knox, P O 1 Chance A. Beckford, P O 1 William A. Morse, C P O John Sissons, Back Row, left to right: Commander Erik Franzen, Command Senior Chief Kirby Lee, Jeannie Brodeur (H&R Block), Jim DeLozier (USAA), Sel Ramsey (GPS Membership)

Also, the Navy Munitions Command CONUS, West Division Unit, Seal Beach, selected its Sailor of the Year to be Petty Officer First Class Chance A. Beckford. Commander Erik Franzen, Executive Officer, Naval Weapons Station, presented the Certificates of Achievement to both recipients. They also received certificates from Grampaw Pettibone Squadron, Commemorative Coins from Jim DeLozier, Force Master Chief/E9 (Ret) USN, USAA Field Representative. Jeanne M. Brodeur from H&R Block presented Gift Coupons for free tax returns to both recipients.

Throughout the year various local restaurants in Seal Beach have contributed gift certificates to Sailors of the Quarter and of the Year--Athens West, Avila's El Ranchito Mexican Restaurant, Beachwood BBQ, The Crab Cooker (Newport Beach), Glory Days Beachside Grill, Hennessey's Tavern, My Italian Kitchen, OMalley's on Main, The Hangout, and Yucatan Grill.

All our members are encouraged to visit the restaurants who have contributed gift certificates. Let the manager know that we appreciate their generosity in donating gift certificates for the sailors of the quarter and sailors of the year.

The GREAT GUYS

**Chance Beckford, Vince van den Brink,
Ray LeCompt, Bob Helton, Bob Olds
And Anonymous**

Above are some of the Great Guys who have made contributions

to Gramps in December. 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 to change to email.

From the
CHAPLAIN
Bill Thompson

I remember that when I was growing up in Virginia, I used to see a flock of geese frequently flying over and that they were always in a "V" formation. I thought the "V" stood for Virginia!! I was surprised to learn that they flew in a "V" formation over all the states. I was also surprised when I learned that when one of them gets sick or wounded, it never falls from formation by itself. Two other birds fall out with it, and follow the ailing bird to the ground. One of them is usually the mate of the wounded bird. Once on the ground, the healthy birds protect and care for the sick one; even to the point of throwing themselves between it and an predator. They stay there until the wounded bird is either able to fly again, or until it dies. We humans can learn from their behavior. At this season of the year it is not unusual for us to notice someone who is sad and grieving because of the memories of previous years when loved ones were all together at this season. But now those special people may have died and are much missed in family gatherings. Thus grief frequently accompanies the gatherings where loved ones are missed. Grief usually causes us to withdraw from every thing. Whenever we pay special attention to those who grieve because of missing loved ones, we can always provide support and care. That's what real friends do! "Presents" may be nice, but our "presence" may be far more satisfying.

From the
FLIGHT SURGEON
Bob Helton MD

As of November only about 2 of 5 people in the United States reported having gotten this season's flu vaccine, although this vaccine offered substantial benefits last season by preventing an estimated 5 million flu illnesses and 71,000 flu hospitalizations. Flu vaccine last season is estimated to have reduced the amount of flu illnesses and hospitalizations by 19%. There were an estimated 25 million illnesses and 310,000 flu hospitalizations in the United States last year. While vaccination is the first and best way to prevent flu, CDC recommends influenza antiviral drugs as a second tool to fight flu; they are recommended for people at risk of serious complications or people who are very sick with the flu. Flu vaccination activity drops after November, but flu activity has peaked between December and February about 75% of the time and flu can be active until May, meaning that vaccination after November **WOULD STILL OFFER SUBSTANTIAL PROTECTION DURING MOST SEASONS- so GET YOUR FLU SHOT!!**



Julie & Tim Brown



Vince van den Brink and Santa



GRAMPS' staff at Los Coyotes Country Club. Bob Cashman played SANTA. Photos by Dick Fields.

MEMBERSHIP

By Sel Ramsay

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Gramps welcomes retired Navy Captain Richard Allen to membership in the Grampaw Pettibone Squadron of the Association of Naval Aviation. Rich earned his DFC flying A4's off the USS Ranger in Viet Nam combat, and was in the Reserves at NAS Los Alamitos, NAS Point Mugu, and NAS North Island. He is a 50-year resident of Westchester, helped found Westchester Neighborhood Elementary School, and taught English and Journalism at Hawthorne High School. Hobbies include golf and music. Welcome aboard!

Our hot summer days are now cooling down, and it will soon be time to put on our coats, again. And to go with the coats, our members can show their enthusiasm for Gramps with golden lapel pins. We have miniature Naval Aviator wings, Association of Naval Aviation (ANA) wings, and even a leather-helmeted "Gramps" to wear or give to a favorite person. They are \$5 each, available at the luncheon.