

SPRING 2001

The Association of Aviation Ordnancemen

THE RED SHIRT

www.aaordies.com

newsletter #80

25th Anniversary Issue



President's Message

Hello fellow Ordnancemen!!

Pat and I hope that you all had a wonderful Holiday Season. Although it, (once again) failed to snow in San Diego, we are seeing our share of rain right now.



On the 4th of December, while en-route to Yuma, Arizona, I had the pleasure of visiting with John W. Finn. I found him to be in very good health, though his knees are just about worn out. He is, however, getting around pretty well with the help of his wheel chair (when he uses it).

LTCOL Malson and TOP MAYS from HQMC invited me to attend the USMC Ordnance Officer Conference in Yuma. I felt right at home being around our brothers in arms, as well as being very impressed with the high attendance of so many outstanding United States Marine Corps Aviation Ordnancemen. I was also asked to give a short brief about the "who", "what", and "why" of our association. I pitched the fact that our association was not just for the navy, and that, in fact, it was for all Ordnancemen . . . Navy and Marine Corps, active and retired. I was able to leave about 125 applications for our marines. Hopefully we will see some new members. Great conference!!! Thanks, for the invite.

After my visit to Yuma I headed up to NAS Lemoore to work some F/A-18 E/F issues with VFA-122 (The Super Hornet Rag) and the STRIKEFIGHTERWING. But more importantly, I was honored to be the guest speaker at the retirement ceremony for LCDR Johnny Wheat. Thanks, Johnny, for the many years of dedicated service to your country.

Speaking of dedication, we have a heck of a lot of dedicated folks in our association. It makes me proud to see the great contributions chapters from around the world are making. As I have said previously, a viable and strong organization is one whose members care and who share a strong fellowship together. It encourages me to see our members at large doing their share to promote our association and cause. I see our great association only getting bigger and better! We all have the chance each day to make contact with a non-member. I urge you to consider telling them that they

too can be a part of this great association. If you see someone needing a little help getting their application in, give them a hand!

As I write this, the San Diego Chapter is meeting in Laughlin, Nev., formulating some final plans for this year's convention in San Diego. They certainly are putting forth an enormous effort to make this one of the best conventions ever. It appears also that the COMNAVAIRPAC Force Weapons Staff is planning the annual Senior Ordnance Conference to be held either the last week in September or the same week as the convention. More on that later! This could be an opportunity to see an exceptionally large turn out. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

I need to inform you all that Pat and I are headed to GUAM in March for my Command tour. The most recent Command Selection Board found me worthy of command, so I'm headed to relieve CDR Mike Porter as the CO of Naval Airborne Weapons Maintenance Unit One (NAWMU-1). My new work e-mail address will be conawmu@guam.navy.mil. As soon as I get my home email account set up I'll get out to you.

Till next time " DON'T DO IT, IF YOU CAN'T DO IT RIGHT"

Respectfully,
CDR Dave Lepard

Red Shirt Articles *are due*

15 APR 01
15 JUN 01
30 OCT 01
15 JAN 02

Vice President's Update

Well, it finally happened. I was beginning to wonder when someone would say something. Ordnamcemen in general are not known for being bashful. They tend to always speak their mind's. Sometimes that may not be the politically correct thing to do, but in this case, I was surprised it took so long for somebody to speak up. And the man of the hour is our illustrious Secretary/ Treasurer, Rich Grass.

Rich has informed me that being Vice President does not entitle me to unlimited space in the Red Shirt. He was kind enough to point out to me that my last article exceeded a full page in length and that I should quit being such a windbag and leave some room for someone who really has something important to say. So, with that in mind, I want to remind everyone to get your nominations for prospective officers to me as soon as possible to allow for publication in the Red Shirt. The positions to be filled at our upcoming convention are Vice President, Secretary, and two members of the Board of Directors. Please send your nominations to either of my e-mail addresses or my home address, which is published in each addition of the Red Shirt.

As Always, if anyone has any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Submitted by Dave Moore
Vice President

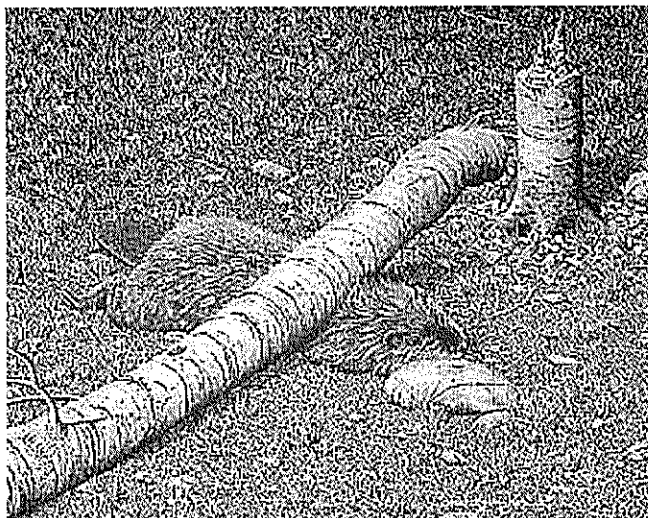
Absentee Voting

Nominate or allow yourself to be nominated for one of the four (4) offices that will be up for election.

**Vice President
Secretary
2 seats on the Board of Directors**

1 June 2001 is the cut off date for nominations to qualify for the Absentee Ballot.

Procedures for nominations and getting on the ballot will be published in future Red Shirts.



the safety beaver...

1. No matter how long you have done the job.
2. No matter how well trained you have been to do the Job.
3. No matter how well equipped you have been to do the Job.
4. No matter (if) you were born to do the job.
5. Some times accidents happen...

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Greetings! Here it is 2001 and time is still flying by. Your convention committee and the members of Chapter Eight are hard at work preparing for this year's convention in San Diego. We should all remember that this year the convention will be in OCTOBER. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

For those of you that like to keep complete records, I have a limited number of the 6th revision version of our bylaws remaining. They are the official red covered printed ones. Anyone who wishes a copy should call or write me and I will send one to you.

Chapter Meetings - Places / Times / Dates

Chapter 1 - Lemoore, CA
President: Robert S. Walecki
559-924-1989
NAS Lemoore, Ordie Shack
3rd Wednesday, 1700

Chapter 3 - Whidbey Island, WA
President: Kenneth A. Hobbs
360-679-6329
VFW Post 7392 (Whidbey)
2nd Wednesday, 1600

Chapter 4 - Virginia Beach VA
President: Bob Borges
757-486-6789
VFW Post 392, Bowland Parkway
3rd Wednesday, 1900

Chapter 5 - China Lake, CA
President: Neely Hall
760-384-1810
VFW Post 4048, 117 N. Alvord
3rd Thursday, 1800

Chapter 7 - PT. Mugu, CA
President: Michael Gramolini
805-986-1244
Weapons Dept. Bldg 68 Conf Room
2nd Wednesday, 11:30AM

Chapter 8 - San Diego, CA
President: J.J. LaMaitre
619-562-8492
FRA, Chula Vista
1st Thursday, 1900

Chapter 9 - Jacksonville,
President: Thomas W. Rose
904-268-7756
FRA, Collins Road
3rd Thursday, 1900

Chapter 11 - Kaneohe Bay, HI
President: Thomas O. Rock, III
808-839-2226
Call for Meeting Time and Place

Chapter 21 - Fallon, NV
President: Pete Quintana
775-428-2173
American Legion Post 16 Fallon, NV.
1st Wednesday, 1800

Chapter 22 - Patuxent River
President: Lee Clark
410-394-0036
Lexington Park FRA
3rd Wednesday, 1900

Chapter 63 - USS Kitty Hawk CV 63
President: Harold (Mac) Mclean
Forward Deployed

Chapter 65 - USS Enterprise CVN 65
President: Sheltric Peterson
On Board

Chapter 68 - USS Nimitz CVN 68
President: Thomas W. Prunick
On Board

Chapter 72 - US S Lincoln CVN 72
President: Barry W. Ehnerd
On Board

Chapter 74 - USS Stennis CVN 74
President: Tracey M. Appleby
On Board

Chapter 75 - USS Truman CVN 75
President: George W. Johnson
On Board

Chapter Pensacola - Pensacola, FL
President: Joseph A. Elliott
850-453-0428
Call for Meeting Time and Place

Chapter Desert/Southwest - El Centro, CA.
President: Ronald L. Anderson
760-339-2265
Call for meeting time and place

Chapter MT ETNA -
NAS Sigonella, Sicily
President: Gloria M. Johnson

... Support Your
Chapter ...
Attend Meetings
Regularly

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

AOC(AW/NAC) James L. Poulin
 AO2 Osceola Condulle USN Ret.
 AOCM Donald D. Settell USN Ret.
 CDR Merrill A. Dalton USN Ret.
 Roy J. Ballets
 AOCM(AW) William H. Roop
 Allan L. Peterson

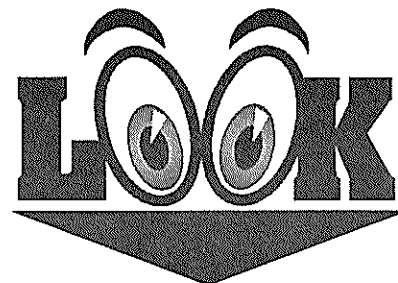
NEW MEMBERS

AOC John C. Getz
 AO1 David L. Beam
 AOC Wesley R. Smith USN Rot
 AO3 William J. Simmons
 AO2 Albert O. Williams
 Clarence M. Quanrud
 AO3 Trevor Brazelton
 AO2 Bobby N. Williams
 AOC(AW/NAC) Robert Birkhead
 LTJG Jamy L. Weaver
 AOAN Nathan H. Vaughan
 Allen R. Gravina
 AO1(AW) Kyle E. Morton
 AO1 John R. Dadt
 AO1 Gary A. Hughes
 AOAN David Beckner
 AO1 Edmond M. Griffin
 AO2 Keith C. Purcell
 AO1 Thomas A. VanGrimbergen
 AOC(AW) Douglas E. Williams
 AO3 James E. Mickanen
 CW03 Lary Hurlbut
 AO2(AW) Kerry D. Hancock
 AO2 Christopher M. Hain
 AOAN Christopher A. Ablard
 AO1(AW) Ulises A. Caraballo
 Dana K. Murphy
 AO1 David Rohde
 AO1 (AW) Albert A. Budaszewski
 AO3 Timothy N. McGee
 AO3 April E. Stapleton
 AO1 Kenneth D. Hecker II
 AOAN Mary K. Pfaff
 AO3 Robert D. Campbell
 AO3 Shannikia T. Jenkins
 LCDR Thomas A. Wolfe
 AO3 John W. Gardner
 AO3 Justin M. Rodgers
 AOAA Bridgette M. Barker
 AOAR Marc R. Lisi
 AO2(AW) Larry T. Bass
 AO2 Jonathan C. Harvey
 AO2(AW) Alex C. McNatt
 AOC Charles C. Kennard USN Ret.

AO2 Brian P. Leonard
 AO1 Adam Rand
 CWO3 Crane P. Daumsys
 Nicholas J. Farnett

**SCHOLARSHIP
CONTRIBUTORS**

John & Katie Drake
 Lawrence P. Grabiell
 Brenda Cotter
 Lee & Patricia Dodson
 Terry & Beverly Tageson
 Frank & Genevieve Fogg
 Brian & Renee Albrecht
 Thomas L. Gordon
 August & Joanne Galante
 Rodney & Kelly Ledger
 Donald & Dora Settell
 John & Grace Burns
 Roy & Gaetana Bailets
 Otto & Nadine Hafer
 James T. Wilcox
 Bob Anderson
 Jack & Linda Breedlove
 John & Lydia Buckley
 David & Peggy Rivera
 Kordeen & Camy Kor
 John & Morita Barry



Can you help?.....Know
 where any of these members can
 be located?

Hector Hernandez
 AO2 Peter J. Van Nimwegen
 AO2 John C. Dunbar
 Irene DeMuth
 AO3 Chris Morris
 AO1(AW/SW) Sandra A. Butler
 AO1 Michael W. Gettys
 AO1 Michael R. Bruns
 AO2 Clinton Donham
 William D. Leavins Jr.

**Moving?**

Please submit your change
 of address !

TIDEWATER CHAPTER

Chapter IV

Greetings fellow ordies!

I hope you all had a great Christmas and that you will continue to enjoy a happy and prosperous New Year.

Another year has passed and many changes have taken place. We should take time to recall some of those changes, both good and bad, and learn life's lessons.

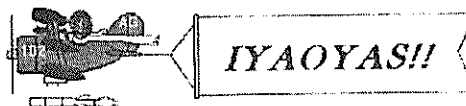
On a lighter note, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported chapter 4 during the previous year. They are too numerous to name, but I thank you all. As my tenure comes to a close in the next few months, please let me say, I'm grateful for the chance to be president for the third time. I wish my successor well.

Many of you will be pleased to learn that the battleship, USS Wisconsin BB64, is now berthed at Nautilus in downtown Norfolk. It will be a tremendous attraction for visitors beginning this April, when it officially opens for tours. What a great place to visit during the 2002 convention!

I won't be able to attend the 2001 convention, but I'll sure see you all at 2002 convention.

Good luck and keep safe . . . IYAOYAS!

Bob Borges

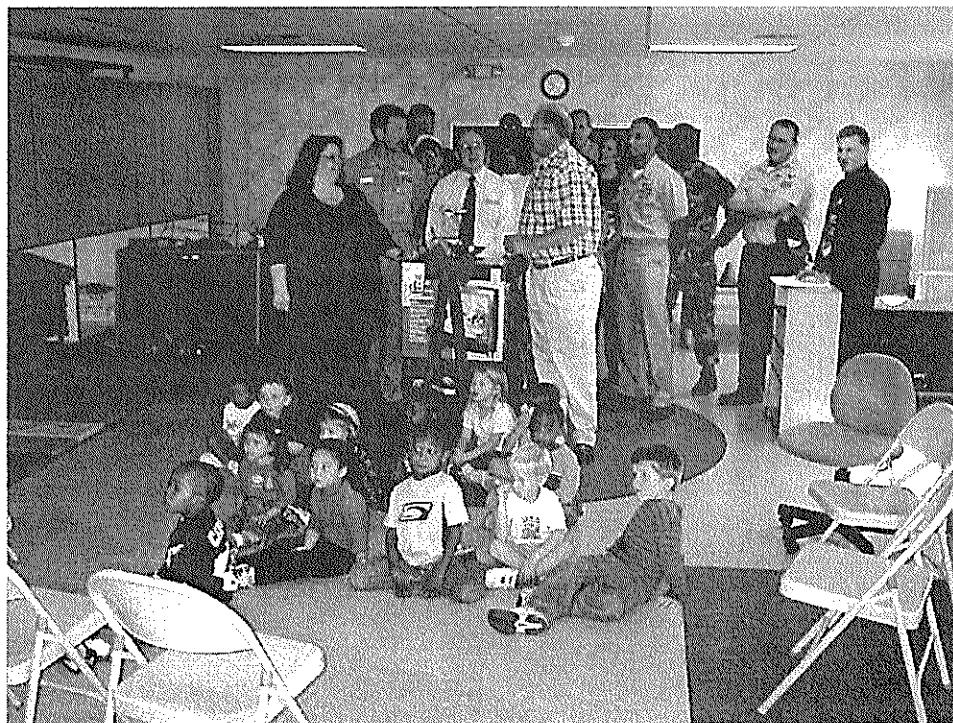


President Chapter IV

SPECIAL!!!!!!

First time re-enlistees; submit this application along with a signed copy of your re-enlistment contract for a one year free membership. If you are already a member, your expiration date will be extended one year

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION			
www.aaoordies.org			
MEMBERSHIP DUES:			
FIRST TIME MEMBERS \$15.00 PER YEAR OR \$25.00 FOR TWO YEARS			
PREVIOUS MEMBERS AND ANNUAL RENEWALS \$15.00			
NAME:		SPOUSE	
LAST	FIRST	MI	
ADDRESS			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP
PHONE: (home)		(work)	
RATE/RANK:	BRANCH OF SERVICE:		Active: Retired:
DATES SERVED:		TO:	SSN:
Type of membership:	Regular ()	Associate ()	
SPONSOR			
I ELECT TO RECEIVE MY NEWSLETTER BY DOWN LOADING FROM THE WEBSITE ()			
Under the freedom of information act: I do / do not authorize release of my name, address and telephone number to other members or prospective members of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen.			
SIGNATURE:		DATE:	
MAIL TO:	LCDR Richard J. Grass USN Ret. 613 Tennis Avenue Ardsley, PA 19038-1704		
SEPT. 2000			



AMMOPAC and ESSOPAC gave a 19 in color TV to the North Island Child development center for Christmas. Mrs. Raeann Patricio the center's Director accepted our gift with some of the children present. We felt this was a better idea than giving each other gag gifts this year. The Child center told us they needed a TV, and we donated funds to buy one December 20th.

Chaplain's Corner



The Holidays have come and gone and it is time again to start planning for the upcoming year, as well as reflecting on the events of the past 12 months. For some it was a difficult time because of loss of friends or loved ones. This is also a good time for us to count our blessings and to look for the good in those difficult times.

This New Year brings a new chance to start with a clean slate. What you put on that slate is up to you. What resolutions will we make? What will we give up? The usual ones like going on a diet or exercising more frequently usually last me until the

middle of January when my resolutions fall along the wayside.

Perhaps we should make resolutions that are not so demanding and that are more enjoyable for everyone. For example, we could try to be more positive and to expect only good things to happen to and for us. Every day we could tell our family and loved ones that we love them. We could try to be a better listener and not do all the talking. We could say something nice to someone every day. We could pray, praise and thank our Maker throughout each day for all His many blessings. We could try to live a better life and set better examples for our family, friends, and co-workers.

Although the making or breaking of our New Year's resolutions show us our faults and short comings, if we follow the love of our Lord and strive to be better persons, and to live a better life, we will meet with God's approval. *"I can do all things through Christ which strengthen me."* KJV Philippians 4:13.

Easter will soon be upon us. It is a time for the renewal of our faith, and with that our friendships, and the belief that we can and will live a better life.

In closing, I would like to remind you that daily prayers are needed for our great country, its leaders, our shipmates, friends, and families. Please, also remember those that have given their lives so that we may live free in this great land. May peace and love be with you until we meet again.

Leon Stolz
Chaplain

TAPS



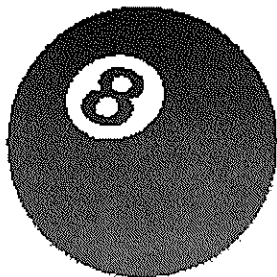
LCDR John B. Corbett, USN/Ret.

Chapter

Eight

San Diego

Chapter



Greetings from San Diego. Hope the Holiday Season was a time to both rest and spend time with friends and family.

HIGHWAY WALK

We had our highway walk on Sat 7 December 00, with a great turn out by the Eight-Ballers and from the Stennis Chapter. We took a load of wood to John Finn's after the walk, and had our traditional burger burn.

HOLIDAY HAND UP

Jim Saxton headed our Holiday Hands Up Committee again this year. We sponsored a record number of families this year for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. We could not have done it without the generous donations from numerous people both here in San Diego and afar. I won't try to thank all who donated for fear that I may miss someone, but, from me personally and from the "Eight-Ballers", THANK YOU. Special thanks to Gunner Stemler and crew, from the USS Boxer, who went above and beyond the call of duty and donated over \$1100 to the "Hands Up Program". They had one young sailor (E-2) donate \$100! He felt it was better to give to this cause rather than get another tattoo!!!! ☺

CONVENTION 2001 NEWS

We had a pre convention meeting at the River Palms in January. The buffet dinner menu was picked out with the traditional beef, chicken, fish and all the fixings. The "Registration Check In" lay out will be a little different this year. It will be separated slightly from the Chapter table area.

CHAPTERS – We need to know how many tables will be needed to meet your requirements.

See the convention events article (next page) regard-

ing the activities we plan on providing. We will need to have **EARLY COMMITMENTS, SIGN UPS, AND PAYMENT IN ADVANCE**. The cut off date is 1 September for the "cost" events. If there is anything else you would like to see, **NOW** is the time to speak up. Contact us at PO Box 710273, Santee, CA 92072, E-Mail at aocm@aol.com, or call me at home at 619-562-8492. This is your Association. How may we serve you???

For you Rvers, the following is provided:

Fiddler's Cove Marina & RV Park

Address: 3205 Highway 75 (Silver Strand)
San Diego, CA 92155-5090.

Phone: (619) 522-8680 / 435-8788

Fax: (619) 437-1389

Hours: Winter: 8 AM-4: 30 PM; Summer: 8 AM-6 PM

RV Park offers cement sites with water and electrical hookups. Dump station on site but no sewage hookups. Laundry and showers are available. \$17 per night or \$105 per week. Reservations may be made three months in advance by active duty, and two months in advance for all other eligible patrons. Reservations may be made for two weeks at a time. Pets are allowed, but must be leashed and cleaned up after at all times. An eligible rig may sponsor one guest rig. Sites are different lengths; we appreciate your flexibility to ensure we can accommodate as many customers as possible.

Facility: Admiral Baker Campground

Base: Mission Valley, San Diego

Phone: (619) 556-5525 for reservations.

Reservations may be made through e-mail at:

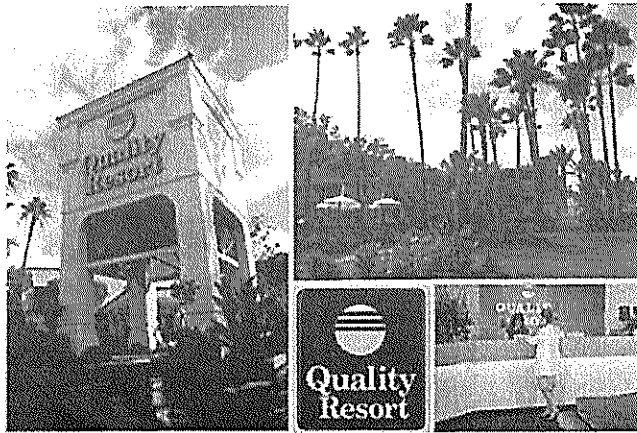
ADMBakerPark@aol.com

CHAPTER EIGHT PICNIC

We moved our picnic date this year to Saturday, June 16th at Admiral Baker Recreational Area. We are accommodating as many of the active duty folks and their families as possible which was the reason for moving from our traditional May date. Hope to see you there.

That is all for this time. **IYA OYAS**

JJ LaMaitre
Eight-Baller President



25TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN

WILL BE HELD AT THE
QUALITY RESORTS HOTEL
in San Diego CA
4-7 OCT 2001

PARTICIPATION IN THE CONVENTION EVENTS SURVEY

The following is a list of events we are planning on scheduling during Convention week. Please indicate what you would be interested in attending. You can convey your inputs via the internet at aocm@aol.com or by mail to: AAO Chapter 8, PO Box 710273, Santee, CA 92072. After each item listed there is either a "C" (cost) or "F" (free) indicating if the event has a cost or is free. For cost events, you will need to pre-register and send payment when registering for the convention. Please take a couple of minutes to let us know what you want at your Convention.

- | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------|
| Golf Tournament – C | Wine Tasting Trip – C | NFL Football Game – C |
| San Diego Zoo – C | Deep Sea Fishing – C | Indian Casino Trip – F |
| Wild Animal Park – C | Harbor Cruise – C | Harbor Dinner Cruise – C |
| Sea World – C | Gas Lamp Quarter – F | Old Town – F |
| Seaport Village – F | Carrier Tour – F | Tijuana Shopping Trip - C |
| Balboa Park Museums – C | Naval training Facility Tour (NAMTRADET) – F | |
| Porta Nueva Lobster Dinner (Rosarita Beach Mexico) – C | | |

Chapter 8 hopes to provide transportation to some of these events. We have been raising money for over a year, and plan to have a large passenger van available.

We need your input by March 15th so we can firm up the "Schedule Of Events" for the May Red Shirt.

Chapter ONE

Lemoore News



Greetings Ordies! We here at Chapter One in lovely Lemoore hope this article finds all safe and recovered from the holidays. Oh yeah, Happy New Year! It seems that time goes by so fast, it's already 2001 and we, in the greatest country in the world, are going to inaugurate a new President after eight years. It took a little work in December but after much confusion, discussion and some drama, it's going to happen. Here at Lemoore, Chapter One is moving forward in our process to elect new Chapter Officer's as well. Currently the following offices are up for nominations; President, Secretary, and (3) Board of Director seats. Although some incumbents may be reelected, my position as President is not one of them. I have transferred back to sea duty with the Fighting Redcocks of VFA-22 and am deep into the work-up cycle for deployment in July. So this will be my last Redshirt article for Chapter One in the foreseeable future. I have to admit, I have enjoyed writing them. It was never difficult due to the fact that this Chapter is very active in the community and on the Air Station. For the second year in a row, Chapter One was nominated for the Lemoore District Chamber of Commerce "Organization of the Year Award". The award presentations aren't until the 26th of January, so I cannot say whether we received the award or not, but it's an honor just to be considered. I would like to give my personal thanks to all those members of Chapter One and our Auxiliary who have volunteered their time, money and assistance to all the events, projects, and goals we have accomplished in the last 3 years since it has been my pleasure to be Chapter One's President. It would be difficult at best to mention everyone, but a few stand out. I think everyone in our Association will recognize their names; Chuck and Beverly Onken, Carl and Stella Collier, Johnny Wheat, Dave Moore, Joel Cooley, Ron Thomas, Rick Ogan, and Chris Hathaway. They, as well as all our members, have made this Chapter the best in the association. I am sure will continue to do so. Thanks y'all!!

Let's see, over the last few months we have been pretty busy here. We have held our "Turkey Shoot" again in coordination with the Lemoore Rod and Gun Club. It was very successful. All proceeds will be going to youth programs in the area. Chapter One celebrated Christmas at our annual Christmas party on the 9th of December, at the Fleet Reserve Association home in Lemoore. I would like to thank the Fleet's staff for a great time as well as Joel Cooley, for all the work setting up the party, and especially for the outstanding door prizes. The Chapter collected food baskets for needy Ordies during the holidays. Thank you all for your generosity. As always, the chapter also donated financial support to various youth activities as well as support in the form of coaching assistance from our numerous members. Chapter One members enjoyed what is now our "annual" campout in the Sequoia's. Everyone had a great time; even the weather did not hinder the camaraderie. And thanks to adherence to safety procedures this year . . . no one was maimed or burned! We also held our quarterly Adopt-a-Highway FOD walkdown in late October. This was one of the longest in recent history as there was plenty of trash to be picked up. We are scheduling another for 3 February. If you are the area, meet us at 0800 at the main gate of NAS Lemoore.

I would like to congratulate CWO2 Joe O'Brien who was recently commissioned to his present rank (by myself) on the 29th of December. Gunner O'Brien was attached to USS Stennis. He will be returning to NAS Lemoore (after "Fork and Knife" and AOOCP) to be the Gunner for VFA-146. Good luck Joe and have a great time down there in Pensacola.

We at Chapter One would like to give a hardy congratulations to LCDR(Ret) Johnny Wheat and his family on his recent retirement from active duty. Johnny had a very impressive ceremony at Strike Fighter Weapons School Pacific. CDR Dave Lepard was his guest speaker and did a wonderful job, with the exception of tossing golf balls at the crowd, I just happened to catch one and will be holding that pink ball for him until the next time I have the opportunity to play 18 with him. Johnny's reception was held at his huge, luxurious home in Lemoore. I have never seen so much food in one place except at a buffet in Laughlin, but not of this quality! I don't think Kimiko will have to cook for a while. Again, congratulations Johnny. You will be missed on active duty after 28+ years of dedicated and faithful service to

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

your country.

Well shipmates, that's about it from all of us here in Lemoore. I personally wish I could say that I will see everyone at the 2001 convention in San Diego, but unfortunately, I will miss this years festivities because the USS Vinson and VFA-22 have invited me on a cruise to far away shores. Stay safe out there and remember, if you are in the area of Lemoore, Chapter One holds it's monthly meetings at the Trap and Skeet Range (The "Ordie Shack"), located between the Admin and Operations side of the base at 1700 on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. All Ordies are always invited. IYAOYAS!!!

Rob Walecki
President, Chapter One Lemoore

CHAPTER FIVE

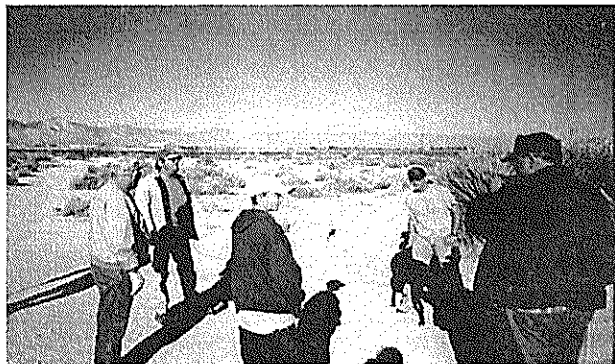


CHINA LAKE, CA

Happy New Year (Y2K+1) to all. You may have noticed that we didn't file a report in the last Red Shirt. Then again, if you didn't notice, you are probably not reading this either. Well . . . whatever!

Don't you just hate that word; whatever. By saying it you are supposed to be showing a sophisticated airy dismissal of trivial details. I used to think it was pretty clever. . . the first ten thousand times I heard it. You know, sometimes it seems our entire existence is unnecessarily cluttered with overused "buzz words." Well, never mind. . .

Guess what? Chapter Five is sponsoring a Boy Scout troop. Ginny Murray's son-in-law is the Scoutmaster. George Nehr is our liaison. The rest of us haven't seen the kids. We are trying to squelch the rumor that there are none. Anyway, we invited them to our January meeting. We plan to have our pictures taken with the cute little tykes.

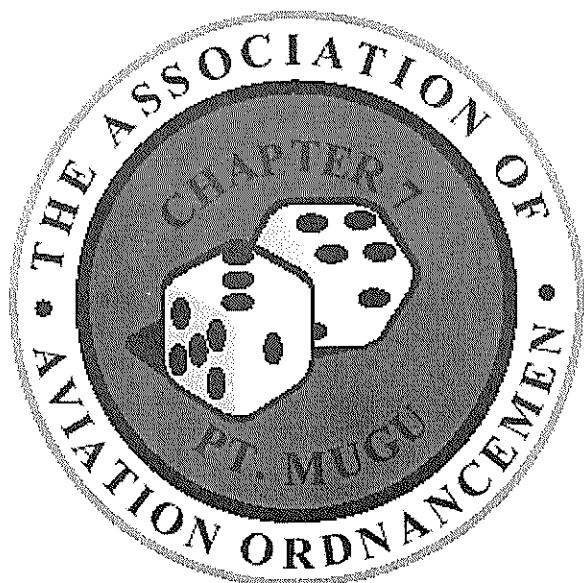


We had our last FOD Walkdown early in December. We had a good turnout, and we picked up everything in sight. Then we had to go back and replant some bushes. You just can't get good help these days. Seriously, everybody did an outstanding job. I know! I stood there and watched.

This year, we decided not to have a catered Christmas party. Instead, we opted for an informal Holiday gathering at a local spot, which featured "cook your own" steak dinners. Good idea. However, what we didn't know was that the place did not have a ventilation system adequate to handle all the smoke. We enjoyed the friendship and comradeship with our Chapter Five shipmates. But next time we do this, we will bring OBAs.

Cheers,
Neal Hall





CHAPTER SEVEN

Chapter Seven, at the Naval Base Ventura County, wants to wish all our friends and shipmates the happiest of New Years.

We are looking forward to a very prosperous New Year. Our membership has remained strong and family participation in all of our endeavors has been great. The Chapter will be participating in the upcoming Point Mugu Air Show. We are also in the planning stages of celebrating the AO Birthday. If anyone is in the area on March 01, 2001 and wishes to join in, please do so. The "Birthday Party" will be held at the Point Mugu Weapons Department Building number 68, conference room, at approximately 11:30 AM. The Chapter is also looking forward to celebrating the AO Birthday and the Birthday of the AO Association at the upcoming National Convention in San Diego in October. Many of the Chapter members are planning to attend this year.

We would like to welcome aboard some new AO's to our community. They are: AO2 Sanchez and AO3 Lopez assigned to the Weapons Test Squadron, and AO2 Trader, AO2 James, AOAA Sumeriski, AOAA Hayes, AOAA Dye, and AOAR Netekoven, newly assigned to the Weapons Department.

Mike Gramolini

CHAPTER ELEVEN

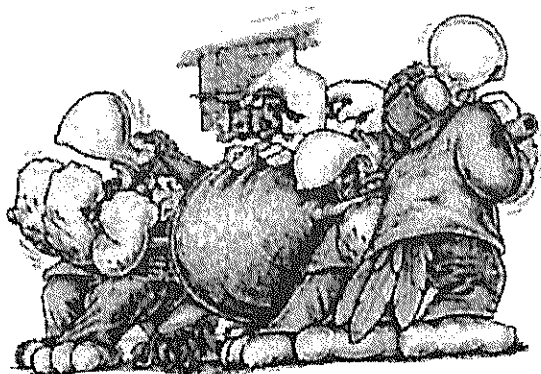


Aloha from paradise (at least that's what they keep telling us). The Sailors and Marines of Chapter 11 are back in action with an entirely new cast of Officers and members. The going is slow. We're off to a bumpy start but, morale is high and we're just building up steam!

It's a new team with new plans and great expectations for major success. We have elected a new roster of officers to include AOCS (AW/NAC) Thomas O. Rock as President of the chapter, AO2 (AW) Alex C. McNatt as Vice president, AO2 (AW) Larry T. Bass as Secretary/Treasurer and AO2 Brian P. Leonard as NIAA. We wish to extend a hearty "thank you" to AO1 (AW) John Hart for his excellent work on our website, which should be up and running by now.

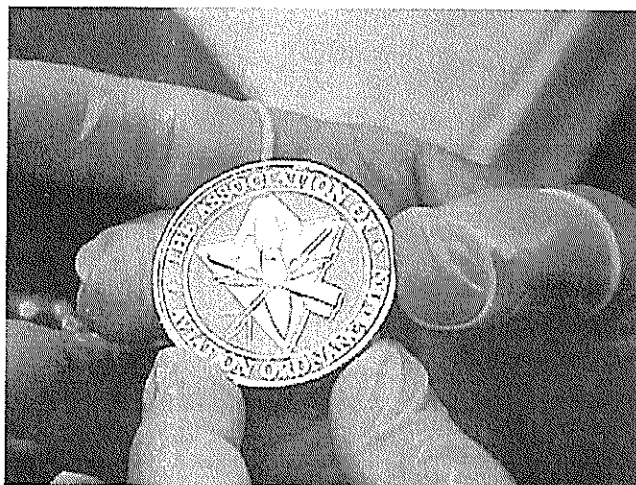
We've arranged for our local Board of Directors to review our by-laws. Hopefully we will all be able to cooperate a little better and safer than before. After all, it's all about the teamwork, people!

I.Y.A.O.Y.A.S.
Larry T. Bass



Auxiliary to the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen (AAAO)

Hopefully everyone had a healthy and happy Holiday Season and are now ready to work on plans and activities for the Annual Convention in October. It seems like we have plenty of time yet, but if this last year was any indication, it will be here before we know it.



We've nearly completed the very exciting project of the "John W. Finn Commemorative Medal". This collector's item will be issued in a Limited Serialized Edition of .999 Pure Silver with a Certificate of Authenticity signed by John W. Finn. The numbers available will be 100 thru 1000. The cost will be \$40 plus shipping and handling and can be reserved by sending me an e-mail at diggero@galaxynet.com. Profits will enhance the AAAO's donation to the



Robert L. Crow Scholarship Fund. It was a very interesting experience to tour the Northwest Territorial Mint and to have the honor of striking the first coin of this series.

The Memorabilia Committee, Chaired by Pat Castro, is working on an embroidered logo for shirts. Pat will have more information available in the next Red Shirt. If you have some ideas or suggestions that you would like to share, please send an e-mail to her at pacastro@juno.com.

If you have thoughts or suggestions regarding other craft-type projects, Dot May is the Craft Committee Chair and can be reached by e-mail at deejay52@hotmail.com. She would welcome any input you might have.

Keep up the good work and have a great 2001. Remember that the only reason for the AAAO is----
"WE SUPPORT THE ARMS OF THE FLEET".

BJ O'DELL

1584 EAGLE HAVEN WAY
OAK HARBOR, WA 98277

PHONE 360-679-2760
E-MAIL diggero@galaxynet.com

**The Association of
Aviation Ordnancemen**
www.aaordies.org

PRESIDENT

CDR David H. Lepard
Commanding Officer NAWMU-1
PSC 455 Box 204
FPO AP, 96540-1304
(w) conawmu@guam.navy.mil

VICE PRESIDENT

David W. Moore
525 Ash Street
Lemoore, CA 93245
(H) 559-924-3307
(W) 559-998-3567
Fax 559-998-3563
(H) moored@inreach.com
(W) MooreDW2@navair.navy.mil

SECRETARY/TREASURER

LCDR Richard J. Grass, USN/Ret
613 Tennis Avenue
Ardsley, PA 19038-1704
(H) 215-887-5009
(AAO) 215-887-5876
Fax 215-887-5876

EDITOR

LCDR H. Steve Cashat, USN/Ret
3505 Petunia Crescent
Virginia Beach, VA 23456-2205
(H) 757-468-6047
Fax On-Demand
stevecashat@home.com



Aviation Ordnanceman Rating

The Navy's Aviation Ordnanceman (AO) rating was established at all for petty officer grades of Chief, First, Second and Third Class on March 2, 1926 as a rating within the Aviation Branch. The AO rating was filled initially from qualified personnel serving primarily with the ratings of Gunner's Mate and Torpedoman (assigned to aviation). The Aviation Ordnanceman specialty mark, a winged flaming spherical shell, was incorporated into Uniform Regulations in January 1927

THE RED SHIRT

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN

RICHARD J. GRASS - SECRETARY/TREASURER
613 TENNIS AVENUE
ARDSLEY, PA 19038-1704

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage PAID
Virginia Beach, VA
Permit No. 151