



NATIONAL BUCCANEERS NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2015

The Central Florida Buccaneers

CFB's MARCH 11th LUNCHEON

We had one of our better turnouts in some time this month. It was good to see Sherry and David Bradley and Alan Rodberg again after a couple of absent months. And we welcome Alicia Savino back after not seeing her for a while. We also welcomed Howard Morgan and Jenny Saul on their first time visit to our

function! And to our bevy of regulars, it's ALWAYS a pleasure to share time with you!

Due to the masterful handling of our 50/50 feature by Dan Pierce we were able to bestow three prizes of \$25 each to our

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Miami Group News

We remain in waiting mode until a suitable venue is found that satisfies everyone's needs.



Sad News Department: In 1965 a man named **Merrill Wetherington** hired on with National. His name however does not appear on any seniority list after 1965. I must assume that he left us and went to United as that is where he was when he retired. Merrill passed away on February 26th at the age of 83.

On February 22nd we lost **Captain Tap Holt** at the age of 76. Tap originally hired on with us in 1969 and retired from

United. He was living in Winter Park, Florida at the time of his passing. (on a personal note) Tap was a TRUE gentlemen and always fun to be with!

Captain Dick Peeples was 82 when he passed away in Miami on March 8th. Dick came to National in 1966 and stayed through Pan Am.

Pilot Leslie Jacobs joined National in 1979 and eventually retired as a Captain with Delta. Les was living in Talladega, Alabama when he passed away on March 15th at the age of 66.

On March 16th we lost **F/E Leo Jimenez**. Leo was 90 years old and living in Tallahassee at the time of his passing.

We will miss these **good** people, we will NOT forget them. May their last flight West be fair of wind and free from turbulence.

APRIL CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN TAMPA

The 2015 National Airlines Buccaneers Convention will be held on April 17-18-19 at the Embassy Suites-Airport/Westshore Hotel in Tampa Fla. The address is 555 North Westshore Blvd. For reservations call their toll free number [1-800-362-2779](tel:1-800-362-2779). Please advise them you are coming to the National Airlines Convention in order to get our rate which is \$119.00.per night...Our group code is NAL. We are having an event on Sat. the 18th which will take us on a little bus trip up to Tarpon Springs for a 1 1/2 hour boat cruise. We will be leaving the Hotel at 0930AM arriving in time for our cruise which leaves the dock at 1030AM. We will return to the dock at Noon. There are some shops and restaurants near by so we will have and until 1:30PM to shop and grab a bite to eat before the bus leaves for the Hotel. We should be arriving back at the Hotel at 2:15PM. Sunday morning (19th) after breakfast we will be having our Member Meeting at 1000AM. The meeting will last about 1 hour. All members are invited to attend. Sunday evening (right after Happy Hour) we will be having our Banquet Dinner beginning at 7:30PM in the Grand Ballroom at the Hotel. There will be dancing & live entertainment for all to enjoy. There is a courtesy bus from the TPA airport to the hotel. They pick up at the baggage claim area every 30 minutes..if you need to call them just dial 813-875-1555.This is the front desk number at the Hotel and they can assist you. We will also have our Hospitality Room open each day for all to come in and relax & reminisce. Parking will be free for the Buccaneers. Please make your reservations as soon as your able since we have a cut off date of April 4 for our rate. The registration fee will be \$90.00 per person and you will see the form coming soon in the bulletin. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 770-328-6351. Looking forward to another fun filled weekend with the Buccaneers Spread the word / Bob Pierson - Convention Chairman

Hi Guys Sorry I didn't include the reason for the \$90.00 registration fee. Thanks for letting Alana know. The money goes to a lot of different areas in case anyone else inquires. Here is a list/ Banquet Dinner-Hospitality Room-Bus Ride-Boat Ride-D.J --Bartender (at banquet dinner) Supplies for Hospitality

Room--- Meeting Room (sun)-Flyers at Check-in. Even at \$90.00 we will still have to go into our reserves when its all tallied up. Thanks for all you do to keep the Buccaneers alive and well..Have a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year...

Bob Pierson-convention chairman

BUCCANEER MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2015

It is once again time to renew your Buccaneer membership. Due to a by-law change a few years back, full membership is offered to ALL former employees of National Airlines and their spouses. We ask that dues be paid by **March 31, 2015**. Keeping track of everyone's status is a bigger job than you may realize so earlier attention to this will be most helpful to us. Dues have been **reduced to \$18** per year and covers the newsletter production and mailing costs as well as certain administration costs involved. Please make your check payable to the National Airlines Buccaneers and include it with this form. MAIL TO: National Airlines Buccaneers, P.O. Box 120835, Clermont, FL 34712

Name_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip_____

Phone_____

E-Mail_____

Position held @ NAL_____

CONVENTION REGISTRATION, TAMPA, APRIL 17, 18 and 19, 2015

Number attending__If attending the banquet ONLY, please check here__

Names_____

Your street address_____

City, State, Zip_____

Phone_____

E-mail_____

Please indicate dinner entrée preference for EACH person:

Chicken_____ Beef_____ Fish_____

Please include a check for \$90 PER PERSON if you are attending the entire convention or \$45 PER PERSON if attending the banquet only. Checks should be made out to the National Airlines Buccaneers. Mail the registration form and check to: National Buccaneer Convention, P.O. Box 120835, Clermont, FL 34712

PLEASE NOTE: This is the last month these forms will appear in the letter this year. After this they will only be available on line.

Hi John,

Responding to Bill Mauldin's suggestion I submit the following. Use or reject according to your editorial decision. No offence.

I predict that you will have a very low response. My limited knowledge with our auto club news letter is that most males would rather undress in Macy's window than to write a personal note. I think there is also an attitude of "who gives a flip".

Well, here is mine.

Fallow is a word generally associated with agriculture. My dictionary defines it as a field that has been plowed and prepared for planting, then left unseeded. It's fallow ground. Then I came upon a scripture that used the word in reference to this thing we call our life. And of course, it admonished don't let it happen. It was a wake up call for me, for I realized that in our productive years we had a fair amount of

mental activity, but in twenty plus years of retirement balancing my check book each month was the about the only time I used my brain. I also realized that it was a "use it or lose it" proposition. Before it turned fully to mush I needed a mental stimulant. Then I came upon an article that stated that two best mental stimulants were to learn a foreign language, or master a musical instrument. While learning Spanish here in S. Fl. could be a good plan, I favored the music idea, but what instrument?

Then came a skit our church people put on and I was cast as a Texas cow boy. To maintain my identity I was given boots, a hat, and a guitar to hang around my neck. The guitar was borrowed from a widow whose husband had been a guitar player. As my wife, Mickey, and I was returning the instrument the next day, I half heatedly said it would be good for me to learn how to play the thing. Within a week she presented it to me. She bought it from the

widow. It was now put up or shut up time. I bought beginner books, teaching DVDs, and attended adult night school for learning the thing. I found out that at age 80 learning does not come easy. But with enough practice I picked on the basics of chord progression and some music theory. I can now play most any thing I want, but not with the smoothness that it should have. If I strum "Folsom Prison Blues" I want it to sound like Johnny Cash did it. I have not got there yet. I do enjoy the mental stimulant and I entertain myself, but I don't consider myself as entertainment qualified. We attend a Navy reunion each year with the men who served on the same Aircraft Carrier. Two years ago they were wanting entertainment but had none scheduled. Scrapping the bottom of the barrel, so to speak, they asked me Perform. I still don't know from where I got the nerve, but I gave them a couple of songs. I received favorable comments, even asked me to bring it back next year. I never did ham it up again and don't expect to do so. I'm just having fun. My audience reminded me of the man who prayed that God would make him a really good musician. The Lord answered him and said "just do the best you can I will give you an audience that can't tell the difference." I think that was my audience. As for the rest of my life, I think of it like a long cruise at a comfortable altitude some turbulence, but mostly smooth. I have now been cleared for decent. The final check list is complete, and I will soon arrive, at what else, it's known as the Terminal,
Check Essential ! Ralph W

[Thank you, Ralph, for your contribution and sharing your story with our readers.](#)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 **CFB MARCH 11 LUNCHEON**

winner who happen to be Bill Griscom, Frank Savino and Joe Fricks. Thanks Dan!!

Linda and I will be absent from our **April 8th** meeting as we will be in South Carolina attending a grandson's graduation from Army Basic Training, but we look forward to seeing you again on May 13th for that month's gathering. Then, beginning in June we return to our summer hibernation so ya'll can go north in search of a cooler climate. We will reconvene then in October after the summer recess.

So, in attendance this last time were: DAN PIERCE, JON and GIGI COCKES, JACK and SANDI GORDON, JOHN BOWLING, JIM and HILDA O'REILLY,

RON CHATLOS, BOB MARTIN, BILL STRELECKI, ERNIE ELLISON, BILL GRISCOM, HOWARD MORGAN, JENNY SAUL, SHERRY FASSETT-BRADLEY, DAVID BRADLEY, NORTON and PAM ELDER, JACK and GAIL THEISEN, DON and DORIS MORGAN, RUSTY and SHARON HEARD, FRANK and ALICIA SAVINO, BOB and FAYE MURRELL, BOB and SHARON THRASHER, JOE FRICKS, BOB DYKE, JACK and EVELYN FINNEGAN, ALAN RODBERG, and LINDA and JOHN WENTWORTH.

Till April, be well!

Monthly Mysteries Solved

Last Month's Mysteries: Once again Jim Gannon got both the airplane and airport correctly IDed. His company for the airport piece was Bob Massey, Bob Pierson, and Dusty Rhodes. For the airplane portion it was, of course, Bob Wilson. So, PVD was the airport and the airplane a Call Air A3. There were other models that looked exactly like the A3 but differed only with the engine.

As always, I thank you for participating!

John:

PVD, Providence, Rhode Island.

CallAir-A-3 This was a tough one.

On the 727 that lost the #3 engine over TX, the flight attendant that went to the cockpit and said to the FE “#3 engine is gone, it’s not there anymore”, Was my wife, Michlene “Mike” Briggs. The Captain was Eliot Adams.

Cheers, Curt

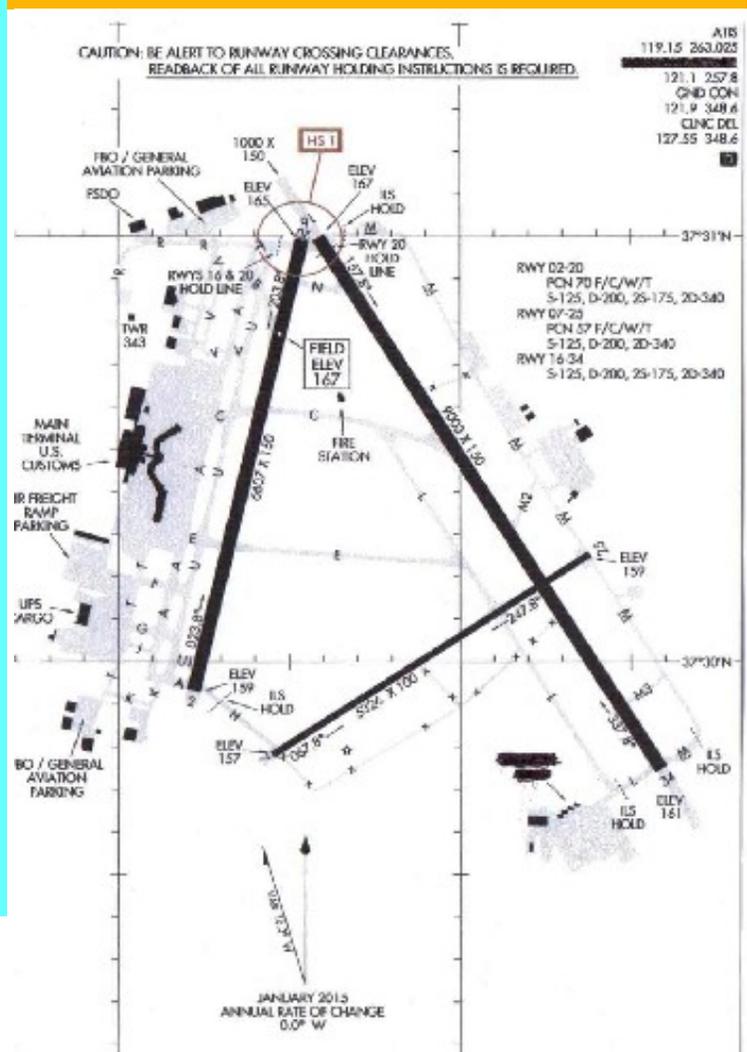
FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

A few months back we started putting the newsletter on the web-site. I understand that many of you are utilizing the site to get the letter early. That's a major reason we did that. I say we, but in truth the credit goes to Bob Thrasher, Keith Mackey and Kimberly Wentworth-Thomas, as they did the heavy lifting. Anyway, another expected benefit was that we would be able to cut the mailing list down thus reducing our cost which would be passed on to you in the form of dues reduction. So far only a very small number of people have asked to be deleted from the mailing list. Another advantage to the web version is that it can be downloaded in color. I reiterate that no one will be taken off the list unless we get your OK or you stop paying dues. So, if it works for you to get the letter on line it would help us control costs and mailing list issues. Please give it some thought. John

John can be reached at

johnhd500@gmail.com

I'll be interested to see how many of you ID this old NAL airport.



NATIONAL BUCCANEERS

P.O. BOX 120835

CLERMONT, FL 34712

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Considering last month's participation rate, let's try something a bit easier this time around.

