



NATIONAL BUCCANEERS NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2016

The Central Florida Buccaneers

April 13, CFB Luncheon: With little of particular import to pass on it was a rather subdued but pleasant gathering of friends and colleagues. Please remember that next month will be our last meeting before the summer hiatus and will be on the 11th. We will reconvene in October, as always, and begin the cycle all over again. So, you'll want to be there in May before the heat disperses our numbers northward, or westward as the case may be.

In attendance were: FRANK and ALICIA SAVINO, DAVID BRADLEY, NORMAN ROEHMER,

BILL WEST, JOHN BARRY, DAVE BLESSING, JOHN BOWLING, RON CHATLOS, DAMON BARKOW, BILL STRELECKI, CHUCK OLIVEROS, JOE FRICKS, STAN BARFIELD, JON and GIGI COCKES, HILDA O'REILLY, KAY STRAUSS, JACK and EVELYN FINNEGAN, LARRY HELMS, BILL GRISCOM, and LINDA and JOHN WENTWORTH.

My thanks to Kay Strauss for taking over the 50/50 ticket sales for the absent Dan Pierce and doing such a lovely job! The beneficiaries of her efforts, besides the club of course, were Hilda O'Reilly, Stan Barfield and Jon Cockes who each won \$20.

So, until next month, be well!

GONE WEST

Sad News Department: **Albert Royal** was a mechanic for NAL and PAA in Tampa for 20 years. He was 87 when he passed away on February 20 of this year.

Captain Gerald "Jerry" Ward began his airline career with NAL in 1961 as a Ramp Agent. In 1965 he joined Burnside-Ott as a flight instructor and went on to fly for Piedmont in 1968. Jerry was 75 and residing in Palm Coast, Florida at the time of his passing on March 18th.

F/A Shirley Smith-Hill joined NAL in 1969 and later flew with PAA. She was 66 and residing in Briny Breezes, Florida when she passed away on March 30th.

Mystery Airplane and Airport: I got 11 correct IDs on the San Jose, California airport SJC. They came from Dusty Rhodes, Stan Barfield, Bob Massey, Rusty Heard, Jim Gannon, Vince Wynne, Gary Snodgrass, Jerome Kline, Hart Kelley, John Uhrich and Bob Pierson. I'm impressed!

The airplane didn't fair quite so well. There were several airplanes that look VERY similar but the correct ID is a Travel Air 6000. Kudos go to Jim Gannon, Curt Briggs, Rusty Heard, and Jerome Kline. Well done guys!

On April 5th we lost **F/A Nancy Smetanka** at the age of 70. Nancy came to NAL in 1968, stayed with PAA until it folded and then joined NWA for a while in San Francisco where she was the Base Manager. She then worked as a Manager of Customer Service at the SFO airport for some 5 years. Nancy recently moved to Punta Gorda, Florida. She lost a lengthy battle with lymphoma.

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

This is an abbreviated issue this month for a couple of reasons. The sign-up form for the convention is no longer needed so it's gone. I only run the dues form for the first three months of the year so it's gone as well. Next week is the convention and I have PLENTY to do for that as well as my own personal stuff here. Also, I don't want this hanging over my head when I return home from Boca. So, read slowly and it will be as if it were a 4 pager.

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OK, something a little different this time. This is not a U.S. manufactured machine but it has made a substantial impact here and around the world as an aerobatic contender. It has another significance which I will mention next month.

The Mystery Airport feature will return in May!

