

NATIONAL AIRLINES BUCCANEERS

April 2017

CENTRAL FLORIDA BUCCANEERS

CFB Luncheon April 12th. **JUST A REMINDER IF I MAY**, next month's luncheon will be our last before the summer hiatus which runs from June thru September. We will reconvene on October 11th when our travelers return from the cooler climes and settle in for another Florida winter. In attendance today were: BILL GRISCOM, ERNIE ELLISON, BILL STRELECKI, JOHN BOWLING, BILL WEST, BOB MARTIN, JON and GIGI COCKES, STAN BARFIELD, FRANK SAVINO, DAN PIERCE, BOB THRASHER, SHERRY and DAVID BRADLEY, DON and DORIS MORGAN, BOB DYKE, JAY HOPPE, JOE FRICKS O.D.A., and LINDA and JOHN WENTWORTH.

The 50/50 went to Joe Fricks O.D.A. and Bill(why aren't you in Vegas) Strelecki.

Thanks for coming all! See you next month. Until then, be well!

NOTE: I will have much more to say about the 2017 Boca Raton Convention in the May issue! John



Past issues, along with current
issues, are still available at

www.nalbucs.com



GONE WEST

Sad News Department: F/A Michael "Mike" Thomas Stickley began her almost 37 year career in March of 1964 at National. She stayed through Pan Am and retired from Delta. She was 75 and a resident of Charlotte, N.C. at the time of her passing on April 20th.

While this next entry certainly belongs in the Sad News Department, it has quite a loving story to tell. **Captain Bobby Willis** passed away on April 11th, at the age of 101. On the previous day, April 10th, Bobby lost his wife of 75 years, **Johnie**. Their doctor seems to think that Bobby died of a broken heart from his loss of Johnie. Who can say. Bobby was a long time check pilot at National and had an uncanny ability to put an airman at ease during stressful situations. He was one of the "Good Guys!"

For the last 16 years they made their home in Jensen Beach, Florida.

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

MYSTERIES SOLVED

Last Month's Mystery Airplane and Airport:

Mystery Airplane: This was apparently easier than I expected it to be. This particular Martin Marlin was, at one time and may still be, on display at NAS Pensacola. Several

of you recognized it quickly enough that I hopefully will make you work a little bit harder this month. Anyway, correct IDs were sent in by Dusty Rhodes, Jim Gannon, Vince Wynne, Curt Briggs Bob Cassube, Hart Kelley, Ernie Ellison, Jerome Kline, Bill Bateman and Alan Smith.

Mystery Airport: Kudos to Dusty Rhodes, Jim Gannon, Vince Wynne, Curt Briggs, Bob Massey, Bob Pierson, Jerome Kline, and Bill Bateman for IDing Anchorage. Well done gentlemen! I'm anxious to see how you do **this** month. **Bill Bateman** also got both the airplane and airport in February but I received the IDs after the letter went to print. As always, thanks for participating!

BUCCANEERS 2017 CONVENTION

The 2017 Buccaneer Convention has now been entered into the history books. For those of you that attended...Thanks for coming...for those that could not join us...we missed you. The weekend started off with the Hospitality Room opening up Friday as members began arriving. Sat morning 38 Buccaneers boarded a party bus for a short ride up to Delray Beach for a 2 hour cruise along the beautiful shore lines of Boca Raton. Arriving back at the Hotel the Hospitality Room was again the focus of folks catching up and also checking in. Sunday morning we had our member meeting where some good news was shared with the Buccaneers in attendance. Since Capt. Dick Walker was unable to take the helm due to his coming work schedule, it was announced that Capt. Stan Barfield would become the new Buccaneer President effective April 23, 2017. I will remain your VP & Convention Chairman, along with Bob Thrasher as Treasurer. Steve Mills communications & Capt. John Wentworth bulleting editor (till Dec 31 2017 (2359) or sooner, since we also have 2 volunteers to take over the bulletin. These two dedicated members are Gigi Cockes and Capt. Hart Kelly. At the Convention banquet dinner Sunday night we had 94 folks that enjoyed the evening dining and dancing way past their bed times. Next years Convention location was discussed and I will be looking at all of our options in the coming weeks. Meanwhile stay tuned and stay well. Bob Pierson VP/Convention Chairman

VP BOB PIERSON RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE TO BUCCANEERS

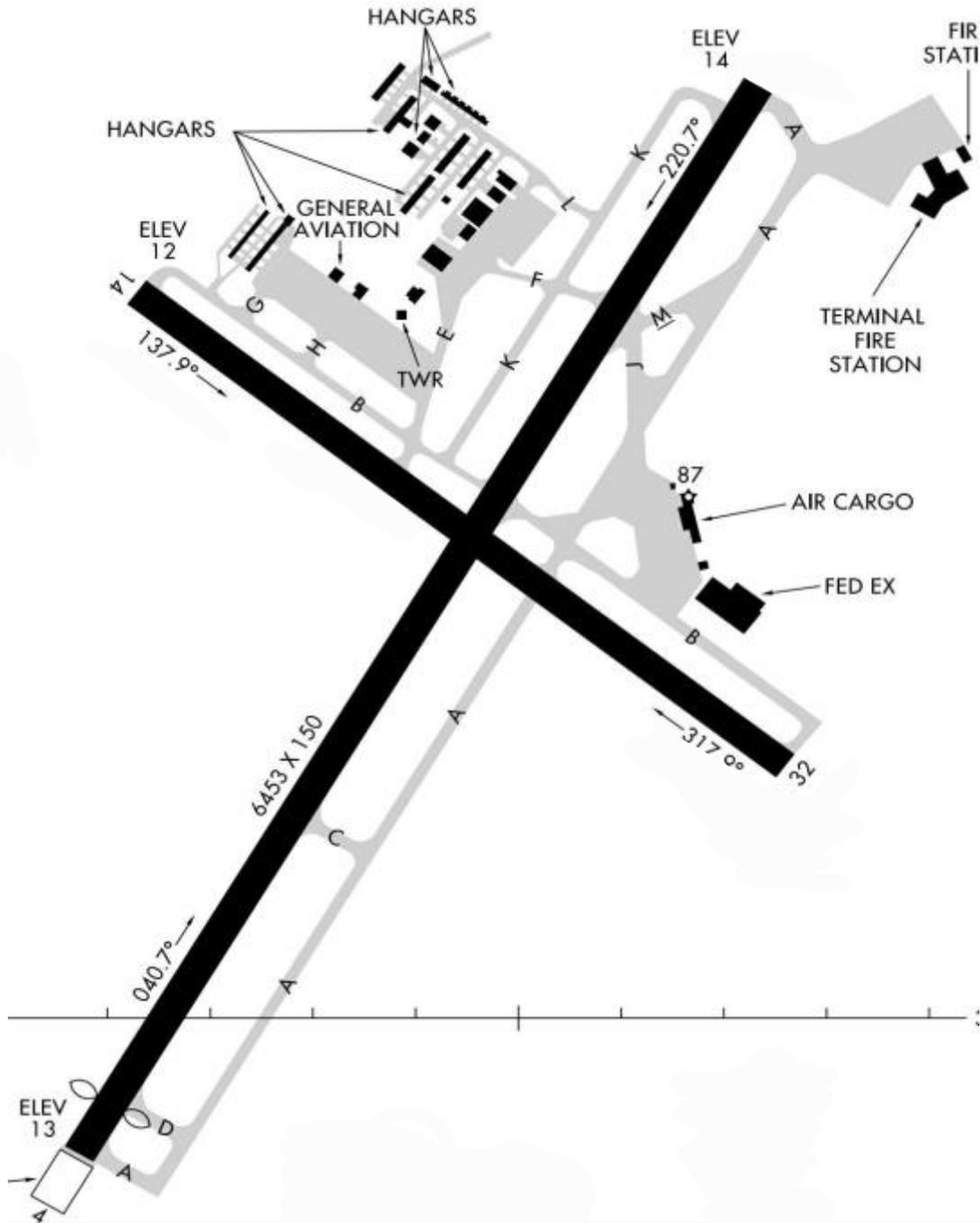
During the banquet dinner program I was blown away when our Past President John Wentworth, along with Gigi Cockes and our new President Stan Barfield, took over the

podium and commenced to read a few complimentary letters from members of the Buccaneers who took the time to jot down letters of appreciation for my efforts as Convention Chairman. I am humbled by the many folks that paid me this tribute. I would like to say a heart felt “thank you” to everyone involved especially John and Linda & their daughter, Kimberly, Stan, Gigi , Hart Kelly and many more for taking the time to put this beautiful album together. I will cherish this book for many years to come. I will continue as your Convention Chairman for a few more years, but if and when I hang it up, PLEASE, no more surprises....Thanks from the bottom of my heart. Bob Pierson Convention Chairman

Newsletter note: At the time of this writing, we have known for less than a week that **Gigi Cockes and Hart Kelley** will be taking over the newsletter. I will tell you that both are talented writers, and I have total confidence that the letter will be in **excellent** hands! There are some things that need to happen before they take charge and we will get those things done in a sensible amount of time. We will keep you posted as things develop!



This was a National stop but may require some thought to get a correct ID. You are good enough that I think you're up to the challenge. Think outside the box.



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Even if you don't recognize this one right away, a little research will provide the answer! You have my confidence!