



Contact!

MARCH 2002 ISSUE

Important Date: Time for the Spring gathering of our flock - we have closed the gate on **Saturday, April 27, 2002** at the **Sportsmens' Catering**, 12833 Ventura Blvd., Studio City, California. Doors open at 11:00 am - Empire Room, check-in area. **SEE YOU ALL THERE!!!**

Our speaker will be **Hal Cope** - sad to leave Africa, the people and animals he loves, but looking forward to reviving old ties and greeting old friends. You will recall the magnificent photos he displayed on his last visit. He is a masterful photographer!! This year's presentation is "**Wings Over Africa**". Hal will detail the scope of his Safari Air Services, bush flying experiences and the personalities that crossed his path during that period. "It will be wonderful to see you, Hal", and that includes your family, as well. Welcome home Friends!!

There will be a meet-greet party on Friday evening, April 26, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm in the Sportsmens' Lodge Hotel, Bar/Lobby area; no-host bar and munchies (For all members).

Sportsmens' has set aside a block of rooms for us with special rates - single/double: non-pool view - \$105 per night; pool view - \$120.00; Suite - \$170.00 - Call **800/821-8511** for reservations and identify yourself as an "**Aviation Pioneer**". Do not use "Reunion" because the hotel staff can be confused when there are several reunions happening. The cut-off date is April 5, 2002 and there is a limit on rooms available. So be an Early Bird.

Note: Sportsmens' Lodge Hotel does not run or operate the Restaurant/Catering/Party rooms in the building near the ponds where we meet; and those businesses do not run the Hotel. We deal with both groups and they do cooperate with each other and their patrons. We are well treated by everyone.

Chairman's Message: It hasn't been so long ago I used to wind my watch every morning when I got up, listened to music on my 78 rpm records, and when my secretary used carbon paper so we would

have a copy of the letters written on the manual typewriter. Time and technology have marched on at a pace I can scarcely believe and it is why I look back fondly on the way things used to be. Speaking of which, our **Annual Reunion** is coming up on April 27, 2002, giving us again an opportunity to renew old acquaintances and share some memories from a different era. Our programs over the last several years have really been outstanding, with presentations by **Clay Lacy** and **Dick Rutan**. This year our returning man from Africa, Hal Cope will be doing an update on the wonderful presentation he did for us several years ago. Don't miss it. George Batchelor will again be hosting the refreshments and there will be lots of door prizes as usual.

Along with the Reservation Form for the Annual Reunion is a Membership Form. Our Annual Dues are a nominal \$15 and these dues as well as your generous donations are what provide the wherewithal to keep our organization running. Even if you are not going to attend the Reunion, please take time to fill out the Membership Form and send it in with your check. Hope to see you all soon. Until next time, God Bless! - **Dave Simmons**

Business and Technology News:

A+ Avolar: We read that **United Airlines** is offering a new service - "A+ Avolar" - a fractional business Jet Programs, backed by their 75 years of operational excellence. Utilizing "only the best business jets from Gulfstream, Falcon Jet, Bombardier, and Raytheon, we will provide only the most professional operation, as you expect from United Airlines heritage - to make your life easier and better." (An info ad from recent LA Times Newspaper)

Delta Airlines has selected the "Cabin Alert and Monitoring System (CAMS)" for installation on one MD-88 Aircraft; this system will permit flight crews to view activities in the Cabin, via a camera with low light capabilities. Engineers from Securaplane Technologies and Hollingshead International have teamed with Delta's engineering staff to equip the first

aircraft. (Per Aviation Week and Space Technology, A.W.&S.T.)

There have been many aerospace related outcomes from **the events of September 11**, ie., There are 5692 pilots on furlough - slightly more than 6% of the total 94,571 active airline pilots - the most pilots on furlough since the early 1990's. At the same time, Air National Guard (ANG), fighter pilots are seeing flight time escalate from the typical flight training sorties per month, to as many hours as they can handle, flying airspace and protection missions. ANG is providing random Air Patrols nationwide and among the units called to action is the New Mexico ANG known as pilot circles as the "TACOS"!!! (A.W.&S.T.)

Among the many Homeland Security products/services is the Biometric Handreader which identifies a person by the size and shape of his hands, ensuring that only authorized personnel are allowed to enter secured areas; and another capability of the system allows a company to track visitors and contractors in the building. (A.W.&S.T.)

If you await with bated breath for our next shopping spree: there are sterling silver - tiny airplanes to hang from one's ears (known as earrings); speaking of airplanes, "Aviation Legends - Paper Airplane Book"; includes Voyager, Space Shuttle, a Boeing F-15 Eagle; the Concorde; the Bell X-1; the Spirit of St. Louis; the Wright Flyer, and more - for the young and the young at heart - to build your own airplane and autographed by Dick Rutan (see www.dickrutan.com/products.html). LS Smith's new sock collection imprinted with l'eoil shoes including golf and loafers, and for your pooch - Muttluks, fleece lined booties, leather soled and folding leg cuffs, and 3M Scotchlites on the Velcro straps so their footies can be seen at night. Not interested in new products? Maybe that is what happened to your Great Uncle Joe: In the early lipstick days it contained ARSENIC!!

Heads Up - "A passenger recently forced his way into the cockpit of a flight from Miami, but was subdued after the co-pilot hit him with a small ax. Good to see our Airlines are being kept secure by the latest in 12th century technology." (LA Times laugh lines)

19th Century Travellers: By feet, raft, boat, rail, horse - but not air! Alan Moorhead's book - "The White Mile" - Penguin Books - Chronicles the mid-19th Century search for the Source of the River Nile, including the exploits of one Samuel Baker and his wife Florence. At one point during the Bakers malaria ridden wanderings in Central Africa, the King of Benyoro tried to force Samuel to trade Florence for a young Banyoro virgin - which Samuel would not do...after all,

he had let her come along!! By boat, rail, cart, raft, horse drawn wagon, and feet. Most of the women explorers have been member of the **Society of Women Geographers**, founded in 1925 in New York. The venerable **Explorers Club** did not accept women until 1981. A bit of doggerel published in 1893, in the British magazine, "Punch", may explain why it took the women so long to organize:

"A lady-an explorer? A traveller in skirts?

The notion's a trifle too Seraphic;

Let them stay and mind the babies, or hem our ragged shirts;

But they musn't, can't and shan't be geographic!"

Nevertheless, the Society of Women Geographers now boasts 600 members worldwide, including Oceanographer, Sylvia Earle; Astronaut, Kathryn Sullivan; Antarctic Explorer, Ann Muscat; and then there is Sacajawea; Amelia Earhart; Margaret Mead; Jane Goodall; Delia Akeley and Sally Ride!!! So!!!

Our member, **Dick Rutan**, will be inducted into the **Aviation Hall of Fame**, Dayton, Ohio, on July 20, 2002 - a great honor, which he well deserves. Our sincere congratulations, Dick!

Dick is a contributor to many aviation focused and other magazines: **Flight Journal** - February 2002 issue, writes about incredible experiences in the Vietnam War; **Vietnam Magazine**, his article is expected to hit the stands in the June 2002 issue; **Boy's Life**, Dick is doing a story called "My Favorite Airplanes", wherein he comments on at least four different craft he has flown in his 13,000+ hours of piloting. Lots of photos will be included; the hard part will be selecting only four! This issue will be out by late fall, 2002. Dick, and brother Burt, are going to be featured in **Esquire** magazine in June, 2002.

On January 10, 2002, the EZ Rocket made a special flight for **CNN**. Dick has made more test flights and is preparing to set another World Record in this converted Long-EZ airplane (This is not Dick's record setting Ole Blue Long EZ, N1695H). It will be for a world altitude record. For additional information, www.dickrutan.com or www.xcor.com.

Mistys: The Mistys are a select group of pilots who performed spectacularly in the Vietnam War and still band together to write about and relive their experiences. The Misty Book is first person stories from surviving Mistys recalling their solo missions there. Go to www.1stbooks.com, go to military/war/category, then type in Misty in the title search. They've got a great sneak preview of one of the stories, written by Dick Rutan. They have just launched their web site: www.mistyvietnam.com.

Then and Now: - Jerry Senft - Jerry enlisted in the "Army Air Corps Aviation Cadet Program" at the tender age of 17 in October 1943 and unknown to him at the time, found a career that he carried through into civilian life for 34 years.

After washing out as a cadet due to 20/30 vision, he had the opportunity to attend any tech school in the army air corp command. At that time A/E school was 18 weeks long, armourer school was 14 weeks, and gunnery school was 6 weeks, but also at that time the saying was "Gunner at 18, Goner at 19" which wasn't exactly an inviting prospect for a young man who wanted to stay around. He was given the choice to attend radio operator/mechanics school (26 weeks) and continue to advance schooling in electronics if grades were good enough; he attended every radio and electronics school the air corp had to offer then was sent overseas as a radio operator on an air-sea rescue B-17 and later was in charge of base communications at Chitose Air Base on the island of Hokkaido in Japan (formerly a Japanese kamakaze base).

After discharge in 1946, he attended college and received a BA degree, married, had kids and worked for Intercontinental Airways at Burbank Airport, then established **Superior Aircraft Electronics** and the rest is history.

Superior Aircraft Electronics provided radio maintenance service for most non-sked and charter airlines based in Burbank and a few that flew into Burbank enroute; including - Great Lakes Airlines, Mercer Airlines, USOA, Blatz Airlines, Cal Air Charter, Capital Airlines (during Vietnam), International Maintenance (George Batchelor), Holiday Airlines, Cal-Hawaiian. Service was available 'round the clock: (Hey Jerry, this is Senko, 76C is coming in at 2:30 am with no.1 vor inop and has to leave for Honolulu at 6 am). Never a radio delay!

"In retrospect, it was hectic and exciting simultaneously; also a job I enjoyed." Jerry Senft, Superior Aircraft Electronics. Airline owner speaking, "Jerry ran a tight ship - producing superior work - as expected from a superior fellow!!"

"You must do the thing that you think you cannot do."
Eleanor Roosevelt

"One cannot have wisdom without living life."
Dorothy McCall

"I have no regrets. I wouldn't have lived my life the way I did if I were going to worry about what people were going to say." **Ingrid Bergman**

Obituaries: Our sincere condolences to the families of our deceased members, friends and aviation enthusiasts.

We learned of the death of **Jim Sorthun** of Miami, Florida. Jim was born in Tacoma, Washington in 1924. He leaves a wife, Linnea, and 2 daughters and two grandchildren. His son, Gary, died in a flying accident in 1979. Jim was a WWII Veteran and served as a crew chief in the US Army Air Corp. He spent his life in aviation with California Air Freight at Burbank. He owned several Part 40 Certificates - Farrier, Admiral Air Services, Sorthun Aviation, utilizing DC-3's; Martin 202; C-47; he also specialized in sales/leasing of DC-3 aircraft. In the 1970's he moved to Puerto Rico as COO to Air India and North Cay Airlines and operated American Aviation Enterprises and ALAR Aviation, a FAA approved overhaul repair station for Haviland, Fairchild and Fokker Aircraft. Jim spent many years in Burbank. He is sadly missed by friends and family.

We have a note from Jan Peterson, who asks that we correct the date of her father's, **Bud Milligan**, death to February 11, 2001. There was a misprint in our original announcement. Thank you, Jan, for calling this to our attention.

Bagattelle:

Marge Sorthun sent us this advice:

St Anthony is the patron saint of lost articles. When you cannot find something, just say...

"St Anthony, please help me find _____ or as the kids put it, "Tony, Tony turn around; somethings lost and can't be found."

Yours truly could not locate an article when Marge was reciting this plea for us - and lo and behold, I found it a few moments later. Honest!

See you next time, The APA Board