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Buc's News

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The Florida Buccaneers is a Chapter of the Special Military Active Recreational Travelers Club (SMART)

November 2023

CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bill Hastings

By the time the Treaty of Versailles was signed on 28 July 1919 over 4.7 million Americans had served in WW1. President Wilson proclaimed November 11th as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day..." Armistice Day November 11th, had giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I (The Great War) fighting at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as "Armistice Day."

In 1954 the word "Armistice" was replaced by "veterans". It was not until 1968 did Veterans Day become one of four holidays designated as a 3-day weekend in the US, and on September 20th, 1975 the Veterans commemoration was returned to the original date - 11^h month, 11th day, and 11th hour.

This past weekend several of our chapter members had the opportunity to take part in the Veterans Day celebration in Zephyrhills, Florida, to commemorate the millions of men and women who have served in our military services. The weekend was highlighted by a potluck dinner (with the park residence) with an opportunity to collect new toys for "The USMC Toys For Tots Program.", a reenactment of the war, and a parade which included local area participant floats and our Buccaneers float with a bevy of members walking alongside tossing candy to the crowd. I want to thank everyone who took part in the weekend. A great time was had by all.

More to come on upcoming musters, and just a reminder - we are still in need of a "Muster Master". Thanks again to everyone who participated in our Veterans Day Muster. *Bill Hastings*

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Veterans' Day Muster

Joe & Pam Faubion



Buccaneers gathered at the Palm View Garden Resort in Zephyrhills, Florida. This is a lovely campground, and we were the first group to “rally” at this park under the new management. Everyone went out of their way to make us welcome! Surprisingly, we were able to park close together, and the campground staff were very helpful in navigating a couple of their tighter spots. They gave us access to their large community room and full kitchen! We chose Zephyrhills as their military museum sponsors a World War II reenactment over Veterans Day. We kicked things off with a happy hour featuring a tasty sandwich bar. We welcomed guests to this muster - Donald and Marsha Wiesehan as well as Taylor and Tom, grandchildren of Sean and Margie Haire. We hope they will all join us again. Returning members in attendance were Tom and Lynn Barrett.



Top game of the week - Five Crowns.



Following our chapter meeting, we assembled our Veterans Day Parade float. Everyone worked together to assemble the



benches and add the patriotic decorations. Jack Fritz provided the trailer and networked the loan of an Iwo Jima memorial display - flag included. Bill and Joanne Hastings donated 6 service flags to the chapter



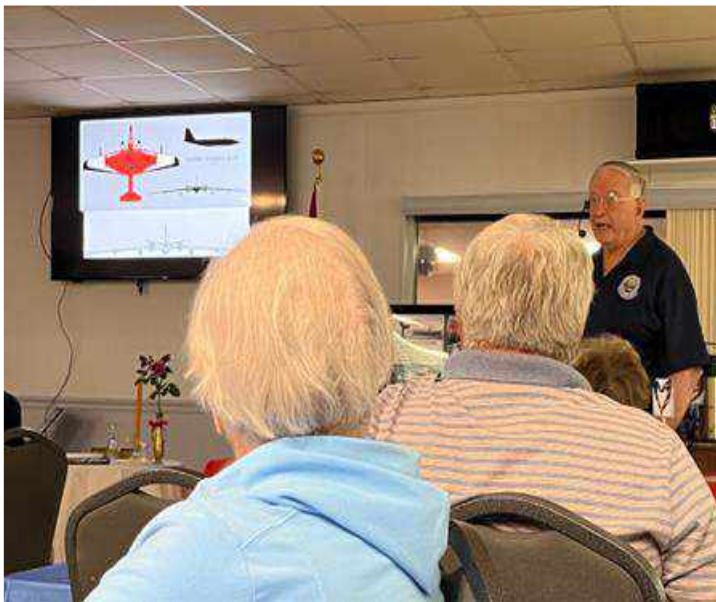
which made their debut at this event. Having carried flags before, the quality of the

flags was apparent. The poles he selected were sturdy and lightweight making them easy to carry. We gathered again for lunch, then scattered to prepare for the evening's potluck. This wasn't just a typical potluck. We coordinated with the campground and about 50 residents - many veterans - joined us. Jack Fritz led a moving presentation of the Missing Man table. Our charity event for the season was the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots. The campground residents participated in this as well. As we left, they were



already calling to have the box picked up early and had partially filled a second one! We're sure the children in Pasco County will appreciate all the wonderful toys donated.

Following the potluck meal, Tom Barrett presented a fascinating talk on his experiences as a high-altitude reconnaissance pilot.



During three of the twenty-two years he served in the United States Air Force, he was a high-altitude reconnaissance pilot participating in some of the USAF's most secretive photographic and nuclear sampling reconnaissance flights.

Few aviation enthusiasts know about the aircraft he flew. Built in 1964 to replace U-2A and B models, this General Dynamics 122' wingspan RB-57F aircraft was designed to carry a pilot, systems operator, and the world's largest camera.

of objects fifty miles away. Twenty-one Martin B-57s were built by General Dynamics. To minimize public speculation and maintain secrecy, the aircraft were never painted black and were given the same designation as an existing aircraft - the 65' wingspan.

Especially interesting are the missions flown taking samples of nuclear detonation “mushroom clouds” throughout the world. The campground residents and staff were blown away by his presentation.



Tom, thank you for the great presentation!

On Veterans Day, we participated in the Zephyrhills Veterans Day Parade. The parade was less than one mile in length. We had a SMART banner in the lead carried by Lynn Barrett and Roni Fritz.



Jack Fritz, and Bill Hastings towed the float with the Iwo Jima memorial display and US flag, Sue Vickers, Tom Barrett, and Paul Moniz, rode the float and tossed candy - to the delight of hundreds of spectators.

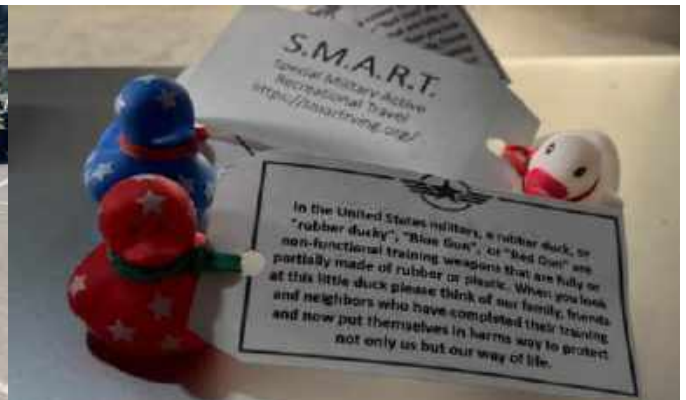
The rear of the float had another SMART banner with the Buccaneers Outstanding Chapter streamers. Behind the float were the six service flags that were donated to the chapter by the Hastings. From left to right:

Cordell Vickers carried the Army flag, Tom (the Haire’s Son-In-Law) carried the Marine flag, Taylor (the Haire’s granddaughter) carried the Navy flag, Joan Scheets carried the

Air Force flag, Sean Haire carried the Space Force flag, Margie Moniz carried the Coast Guard flag.



We had several members - Pam Faubion, Joanne Hastings, and Lisa Lyons - walking behind the service flags dispensing candy and patriotic ducks to the spectators. The patriotic ducks had a tag attached providing the SMART website and information on the history of the term "rubber ducky" as it relates to military training weapons.



The opening of the WWII reenactment kicked off with a parachute jumper with the US and POW/MIA flags.

Of course, there were plenty of military vehicles and reenactors eager to share their stories and explain their equipment. Ear plugs were available and welcomed for the



tanks and artillery demonstrations. When the demonstration was done, anyone wishing to collect expended brass was invited onto the field.

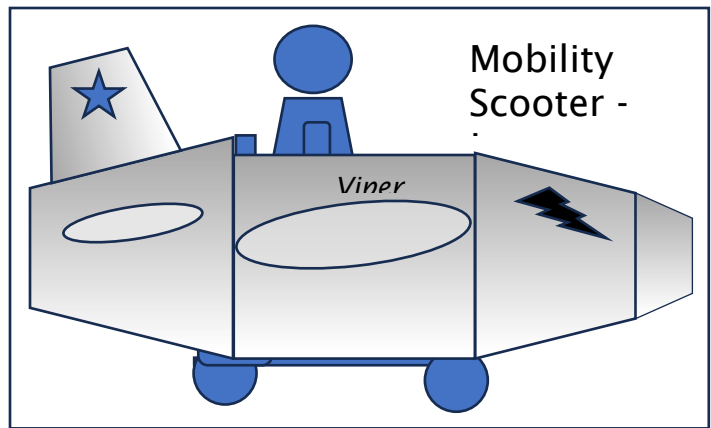


On our last night, we were all treated to an incredibly delicious Lasagna dinner provided and prepared by Joanne and Bill Hastings. Joanne is an amazing “chef” and everyone enjoyed the meal. Sue Vickers prepared a wonderful peach cobbler for dessert. Thank you so much – I will have to add another extension to my stretchy pants before the next muster!

Thank you to all who attended and participated in this Veterans Day muster. It was great to be together with friends old and new.

The Bucs plan to return to Palm View Gardens next November. The campground will provide an area to serve as our “assembly hangar “. Why do we need an assembly hangar?????

We are in contact with a local Zephyrhills mobility scooter company (veteran owned) regarding our plans for next year and attached is a concept drawing of what we have in mind. We’re still in the early stages of planning so watch for our newsletters and attend future musters to find out more.



UPCOMING MUSTERS

Join us for our 5th Buccaneer Murder Mystery Muster / Murder Among the Mateys,

April 22, 26, 2024

Ocala North RV Park

16905 NW Hwy 225

Reddick, FL 32686

2024 National SMART Muster

Sept 13-21, 2024

The Exchange Park

9850 Hwy. 78

Ladson, SC 29456

Buccaneers Veterans Day Muster

November 8 - 12, 2024 (tentatively)

Palm View Garden

3331 Gall Blvd

Zephyrhills, FL 33541

Safe Travels, Joe and Pam Faubion

BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES UPDATE

Jeff Stephens

Changes to our Bylaws and Standing Rules to permit charging muster fees were proposed at the September chapter meeting. The Bylaws change passed and has been forwarded to HQ for interim approval. A copy is now on the Bucs website.

The reason for the interim approval is that there are several additional, mostly administrative, changes that need to be made before the SMART BOD would grant full approval. We’ve asked HQ to grant interim approval with the assurance that we would submit a new change bringing everything up to date after our spring muster. Our chapter executive board will prepare and distribute new Bylaws for membership approval by March 22, 2024. They will be voted on at the spring muster.

Changes to the Standing Rules were also approved and, since they don't have to go to HQ for approval, are effective immediately. They authorize the chapter to pay the site fee for muster hosts at Buc musters. The stated purpose is to provide an incentive for our members to volunteer as hosts for future musters. The muster fee will be used to reimburse the chapter treasury for these incentives. At future musters, the chapter muster master and host are exempt from paying the muster fee. The new Standing Rules have been posted on the chapter website.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

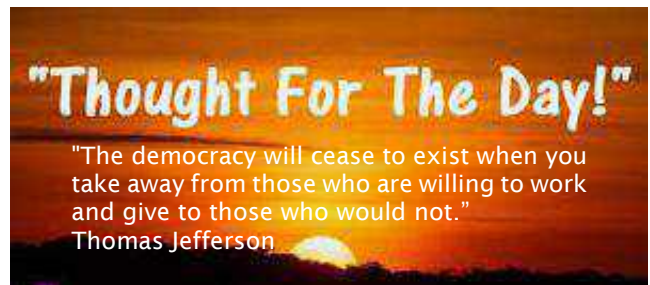
The following members are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in the coming months:

Anniversaries

Cordell and Sue Vickers	November 20
Bill and Joanne Hastings	November 21
Jack and Roni Fritz	December 30

Birthdays

Angie Hood	December 02
Brian Hood	December 10
Rita Bourque	December 14
Joan Scheet	December 18
George Young	December 21
Lindsey Gaston	December 28



FROM YOUR WEBMASTER

Jack Fritz

I've added a few new features to the chapter websites.

1. All phone numbers on chapter websites have been converted to telephone links. This means, when accessing the website via smart phone, you have one touch dialing.
2. An "Attendee Contact" button has been added to the list of chapter events on the chapter homepage. This link will display (to SMART members only) the event attendees' and their mobile numbers.
3. The chapter members only page now has a list of chapter staff contacts. This page also has a link to the new Chapter Website Management document.

