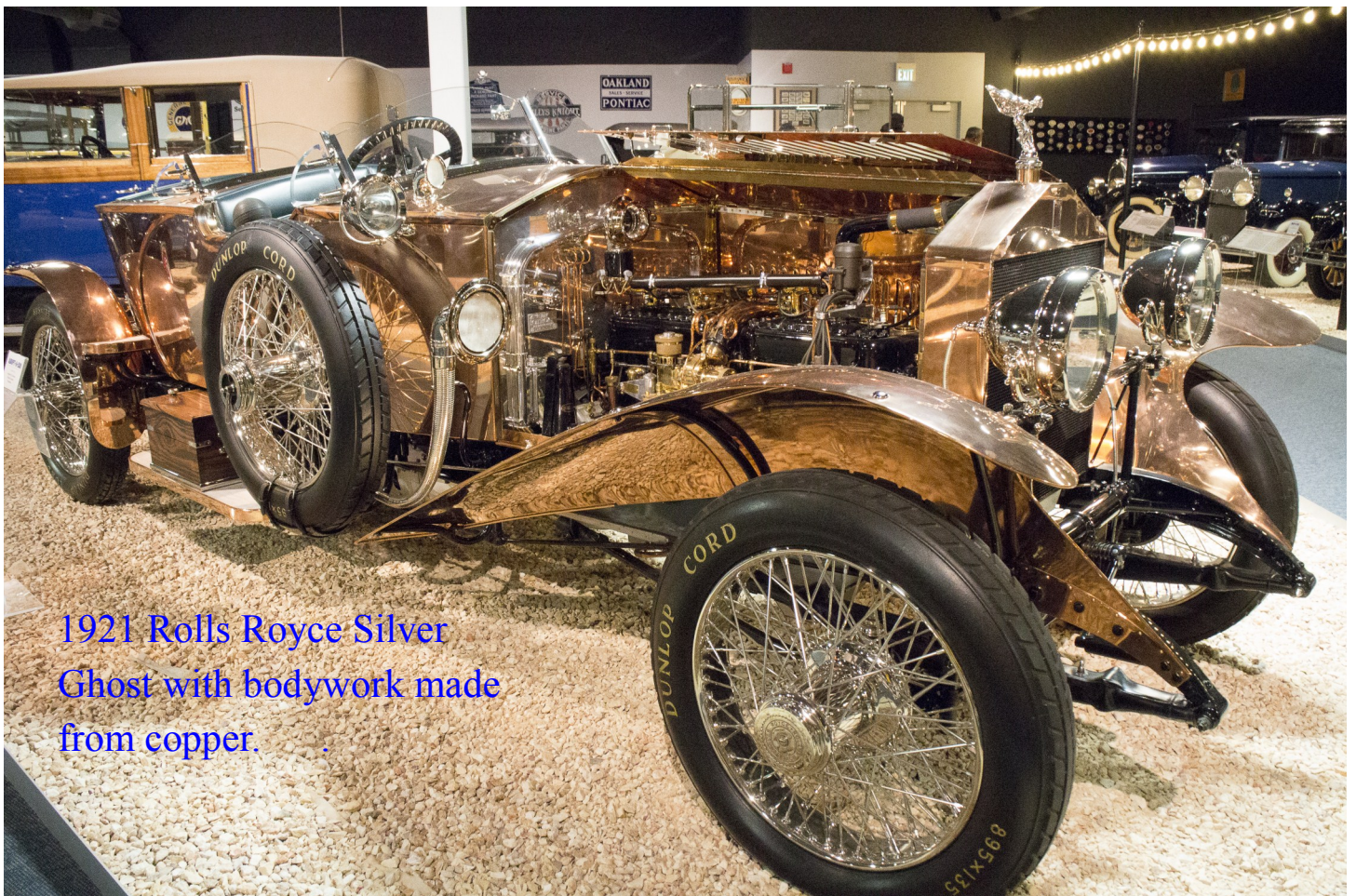




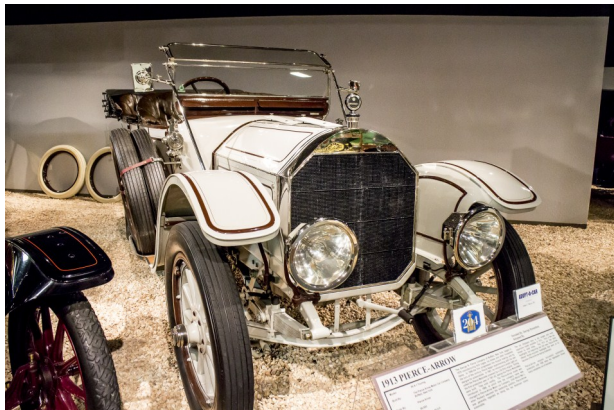
GOLDEN CONTRAILS

August 2014

..... And off the setting sun is pleased to trim the Clouds with molten sails
And lace the way of passing jets with golden condensation trails



1921 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost with bodywork made from copper.



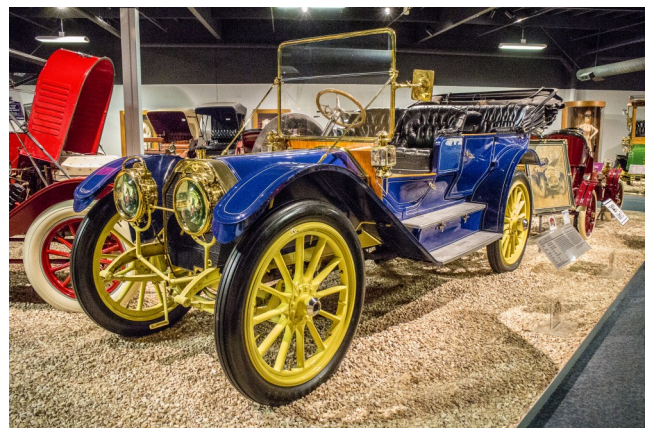
1913 Pierce Arrow



1913 Mercer Runabout



1913 Stutz Bearcat



1910 Oldsmobile

Thoughts from the editor:

What a great outpouring of comments on our last issue that was dedicated to Air Mike. I am still getting photos and stories and I totally encourage all of you who had the opportunity to fly with this wonderful group of people to send in your memories. If I get enough to fill another issue, we will plan to publish it next April. I know there are a lot more stories out there and I hope that this last issue will “prime the pump” and inspire more of you to submit your memories. If I remember correctly, we had a Captain who befriended a tribe of the New Guinea natives—I would love to hear more about this and I am sure this is just one of the many stories that have remained untold.

In the meantime, I want to thank all of you who sent in the pictures, stories, memories and souvenirs that made up the first Air Mike issue. If you didn’t see something you submitted, it will be in the next issue for sure.

I also have to say that this was the most enjoyable issue I have worked on since taking over as editor. Usually I am begging for material to fill enough pages to make an interesting issue and this time I had more than I could use. Good job!

I also want to say that my time spent flying with the Air Mike group was one of the highlights of my flying career. The folks at Continental always had a “can-do” attitude but Air Mike took it to a whole new level. My hat is off to all of them.

Speaking of my taking over as editor brings us to another important topic; the loss of our former editor and the creator of *Golden Contrails*, Dick Grigsby. I still don’t know why

he chose me to succeed him and with every issue I publish I worry that I am not doing him justice. When Dick was the editor, the issue was put together by pasting and cutting until he had a hard copy he could take to the printer. The printer then digitized the hard copy and printed it and sent all the copies back to Dick. The next step was to gather his usual group of volunteers from the LAX area to stuff the envelopes with the magazine, address the envelopes and put the postage on. They then had to be delivered to the post office for mailing. Believe me, there was a lot hands-on work to get an issue out.

In contrast, I have a computer program called Microsoft Publisher which lets me do all that hard work on my desktop. (I have to admit, however, that I am still learning the many things this program can do) When I get the final edit finished, I send a .pdf copy to Birdie for our web page and to Charlie Starr who has a great commercial printer who prints it, puts the addresses and postage on and sends it to the post office. A piece of cake!



Not only did Dick edit and publish *Golden Contrails*, but he was also our poet laureate and contributed many fine poems including the one on the masthead of the magazine. All of the Golden Eagles owe a large debt of gratitude to Dick Grigsby, the founder and editor and publisher of *Golden Contrails* for many, many years. We therefore dedicate this issue to the memory of Dick and his leadership and to his lovely wife Susan for all the support she provided throughout the years. (The picture on the previous page is a copy of the cover of *Golden Contrails* following Dick's retirement as editor)

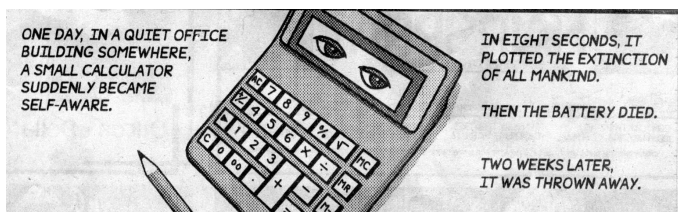
Linda and I are looking forward to seeing you at the convention in Denver this coming October. I know that Don Gentry and the usual group of volunteers have a great time planned and of course what would a convention be without the hospitality room? A place to visit with old flying buddies and tell (and re-tell) the stories of our careers as aviators. You can find a copy of the reservation and meal choices as well as for the golf tournament in this issue. See you in Denver!

Shaun



P.S.

Hope you enjoyed the photographs of the cars from the National Auto Museum in Reno, NV. Linda and I spent a very enjoyable morning there during our summer trip in 2013.



From the President: Don Gentry

A Special Summer greeting to all of our Golden Eagle members. Since our last edition Francia and I have moved to Sun City in Georgetown TX. We love the area and are blessed to have a nice group of our Continental friends with us.

Speaking of our Contrails, I hope all of you enjoyed the history of Air Mic as much as I did. Many thanks to Shaun Ryan for bringing back such wonderful memories.

We are fast approaching our Oct 1-4 reunion in Denver. I will give you a run down of our schedule of events: On the 1st our hospitality suite will be open from 5-9. For the folks who are going to Blackhawk/Central City, the hotel shuttle leaves at 2:55 and the Casino busses run every hour on the hour, from a station near the hotel. You will pay the bus driver \$22.00 dollars, which may be refunded, depending on the Casino. I will have more info on this as I receive it from the Casinos. On the 2nd our golfers will start play at the Green Valley Ranch at 9:00AM. We will arrange rides from the hotel for those in need. Registration will start at 2:00 PM and the hospitality suite will be open from 2:00 to 11:00Pm. On the 3rd the hospitality suite will be open from 7:30-9:30AM. The men's business meeting will start at 10:00 AM. and the lady's luncheon will be at 11:00AM. The tours of the CAL/UAL museum and training building are scheduled between 1:00-4:00. The cocktail reception will be from 5:30-6:30 and the banquet and evening show is from 6:30-9:30. Our entertainment is a group from Knoxville, TN. called the Sunday Drive. They come with great reviews.

On October 4th the hospitality suite will be open from 8:00-9:30AM for those who want to have a little coffee or just say a quick goodbye. This year the dress code for the banquet is slacks and shirt with sport coat optional for the men and dress or pant suite for the women.

I am looking forward to seeing you in beautiful Colorado, so get your room reservation, and your registration form sent in, and get ready to have a great time. Enjoy!

As always,

Don Gentry



From the President- Elect: Bill Cham- bers

We are very pleased to announce that The Golden Eagles organization is making a Group Medicare Supplement Plan available to our members that will become effective January 1, 2015. The Plan is part of the Aviation Retiree Medical Plan and includes Medicare Supplement, Prescription Drug, Dental and Vision Plans. This plan also includes a "Customer Care" provision that allows participating

members to utilize professional help to seek out doctors, rehabilitation centers, help with diagnosis and other related medical help. The plan offers very affordable group rates and is offered to anyone who has worked in the aviation industry. Look for a mailing to arrive during Medicare open enrollment which begins on October 15, 2014.

If you already have a Medicare Supplement Plan from a source such as Humana, United Healthcare, AARP or any of the many healthcare providers that you pay for, you should consider this plan. If you are retiring from UAL in the future or retired after the merger was effective, you are already eligible for coverage under UAL's retiree medical insurance options. If you were a CAL retiree before the merger was effective, you likely did not have any continuing healthcare options paid for by CAL/UAL except for "bridge medical". Since most CAL retirees fall in this category, you might be able to obtain a better option for a Medicare Supplement Plan than what you have now. "better" means higher quality healthcare at lower premiums than competing plans can offer. It also is defined as higher "ratings" by the users.

We understand that NWA retirees found themselves in the same predicament after their acquisition by DAL, but solved the problem by organizing their own Medicare Supplement Plan. In the past couple of years, we have been working with the plan's leaders to facilitate the addition of our many CAL retirees and to add this plan to UAL's annual healthcare offerings. Predictably, UAL has declined to offer this plan just as several other airlines did for various reasons. However, it was suggested by a forward-thinking manager at UAL that we offer the plan, not through the airline and its bureaucracy, but instead through The Golden Eagles, AR-ECA and any similar groups. Without going into the background too deeply, let us tell you that it looks like the plan administrator will have the plan ready for the addition of any aviation related group to the existing NWA group in time for next year's

coverage.

You should carefully review the plan materials when they are mailed to you in the fall. We are not staffed for the many questions that this message may generate, but the plan administrator will have this topic covered once the materials are ready.

The Golden Eagles is a purely social organization that makes no assurances about the Plan or its suitability for any of its members or other persons. The Golden Eagles, its officers and members make no claims regarding the Plan, but merely provide a conduit of information about the Plan to interested parties.

Just as our advocacy on behalf of retired CAL/UAL pilots has vastly improved the pass travel experience for retired pilots along with all coworkers, we view the continuation of healthcare benefits for all airline retirees to be a worthy goal. The NWA folks have apparently been very happy with this plan. We will tell you more during the coming weeks ahead.

Best regards,

Captain K. William "Bill" Chambers Jr. (retired)
President Elect - The Golden Eagles



NOTES FROM YOUR TREASURER *TOM DOHERTY*

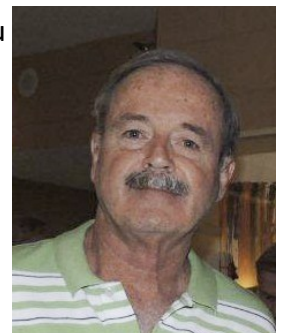
We headed home to New Hampshire from Florida in early May and have been having a wonderful summer - outdoor concerts and fireworks at the beach, a little golfing, and following our local triple A baseball team the Lowell Spinners. I hope you and your families have had a fun-filled summer as well.

The Golden Eagles Reunion/Convention in Denver is scheduled for October 1-4 and we are looking forward to a great turnout. In addition to the banquet, there are tours of the UAL/CAL museum and training facilities and a bus trip to Central City/Blackhawk available. Even if you are not a big gambler, it is a picturesque ride and there are nice restaurants in the area for dinner. The golf tournament at Green Valley Ranch Golf Club should round out a great convention. More information on these activities can be found on the website www.the-gold-eneagles.org. Please complete the meal reservation form and mail it to me by September 26. Don't forget to include any changes in your mailing address and to include your 9-digit zip code to help with our mailings. As always, any contributions to the CARE program and/or the postage fund are greatly appreciated.

Look forward to seeing you
all in Denver!

Tom

Tom Doherty
7 McCormick Way
Salem, NH 03079-2816



FROM YOUR BEAN COUNTER (aka: TREASURER'S REPORT) *Tom Doherty* – Treasurer

Report Period 3/28/2014 – 7/27/2014

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Bal. (Checking) from 3/28/2014	\$ 21,284.77
Inflows (checking)	
Membership Dues	\$ 4,055.00
Postage Contribution	195.10
2014 Banquet/Luncheon Deposits	491.00
Total Inflows This Period	\$ 4,741.10
Outflows (checking)	
Contrails Printing	\$ 2,701.20
Contrails Postage	401.69
Printing	92.05
Postage	98.25
Miscl. Office Expenses	49.71
Membership Brochures	132.50
Total Outflows This Period	\$ 3,475.40
Bal. (checking) 7/27/2014	\$ 22,550.47

IMPORTANT

The password for accessing the Golden Contrails and Roster on the website www.thegoldeneagles.org will be:
stickshaker (all in lower case)

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Bal. (Savings) from 3/28/2014	\$ 18,109.48
Inflows (Savings)	
Interest Earned	\$ 1.22
Total Inflows This Period	\$ 1.22
Outflows (Savings)	
None	\$ 00.00
Total Outflows This Period	\$ 00.00
Bal. (Savings) 7/27/2014	\$ 18,110.70

CARE ACCOUNT

Bal. (CARE) from 3/28/2014	\$ 702.29
Inflows (CARE)	
Contributions	\$ 10.00
Interest Earned	00.04
Total Inflows This Period	\$ 10.04
Outflows (CARE)	
None	\$ 00.00
Total Outflows This Period	\$ 00.00
Bal. CARE 7/27/2014	\$ 712.33

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE POSTAGE FUND!

Barry Borella	Craig Chapman
Bob Hulse	Sal Liguori
Jim McDonald	Elsie Burt O'Neal
Jay Welch	Andrew Whittlesey

With the ever increasing costs of postage, these donations are especially appreciated and help keep your dues from increasing. If your name was inadvertently omitted, please let us know – so that your generosity can be acknowledged!

A Special welcome to our NEW MEMBERS

Wayne & Kathleen Fischer	Michael & Teresa Hill
Michael & Florence Jackson	William & Ann Reiser
Chris & Cara Spores	

Don't you know a friend who is eligible for Golden Eagle membership? Why not tell him or her about all of the many advantages of joining. A membership application is available on The Golden Eagles web-site:

www.thegoldeneagles.org

Please consider making a tax deductible contribution to *The Golden Eagles CARE Program*. Your donation will go to help a co-worker that has encountered a serious problem or calamity such as a flood, tornado, serious illness, accident, etc. Donations should be sent to:

The Golden Eagles CARE Program
C/O Tom Doherty, Treasurer
7 McCormick Way
Salem NH 03079-2816

Some Comments from your "SCRIBE" – a.k.a. your Secretary – *Charlie Starr*

As you read this, I would imagine that you find summer in the 'full heat mode'. Here in Northwest Florida, it's been a long, hot and wet season; and I'm looking forward to enjoying some cool Rocky Mountain fall weather, relaxing and enjoying the comradery of our Golden Eagles' annual Convention/Reunion (Oct. 1st – 4th) in Denver. I've just finished making our hotel and banquet reservations, as well as some plans to extend our Colorado stay to visit other parts of the Rockies. If you haven't already done so, I'd urge you to make your Convention reservations now. The ever-popular "Hospitality Suite" will be open throughout the event to mix and mingle with your friends and enjoy your favorite snacks and libations. And, for those who like to "whack" at a little white ball in the grass and sand, the fun golf outing is set for Oct. 2nd (see the signup form in this issue). Our President, Don Gentry, and Ladies Auxiliary President, Gail Grover, have been hard at work to assure that this year's event will be as great – or even greater – than last year's 40 anniversary event – with a tour of the museum and training center, along with banquet entertainment by "Sunday Drive" from Knoxville TN. Please use the banquet reservation form, included in this issue; and note the cut-off dates for both hotel and banquet reservations. With Denver as a "hub" city, transportation should be reasonably easy and be convenient to our members and friends throughout the east and west. The annual business meeting will be on Friday morning, with several issues of importance to the membership. Even if you can't attend, give your proxy to someone attending. Don't be left out; make your plans today to attend today.

Though the New Year, 2015 (and dues renewal time) is still some months away, I'd like to make an appeal to all remembers to please remember that dues checks should be sent in January. While a reminder is published in the December issue of Contrails, the time-consuming and costly task of sending out individual reminders to those who forget is a daunting task each year. One other reminder (yes, I know that we all tend to forget things like this): but when you move, change e-mail addresses or phone numbers, please let our treasurer, Tom Doherty know. Mail is only forwarded for a short period, and e-mail is never forwarded to a new address. Please, don't become a "Lost Soul"! One other note; dues payments, postage fund contributions, and CARE

donations should be sent to our treasurer, Tom Doherty (7 McCormick Way, Salem NH 03079-2816); if you send them to me, I have to forward them to Tom.

Another quick reminder; The Golden Eagles CARE Program – a charitable program to aid our fellow Continental (and now even United) employee who may have suffered a grievous loss (such as from a hurricane, flood, accident or serious illness) has been reinstated – this program was temporarily suspended at the time of the merger as our distribution and vetting agent, Continental Cares, was realigned with the United Cares program. In the years that our Golden Eagles CARE program has been in effect, we have been able to collect and distribute almost \$30,000 to needy fellow co-workers. Not a bad record that brings recognition to our organization as well as providing aid to those in need. Please consider making a tax deductible contribution to The Golden Eagles CARE Program. Checks can be sent to our treasurer, Tom Doherty.

**Enjoy the rest of your summer, and - - - -
see ya in Denver!**



IMPORTANT

The password for accessing the Golden Contrails and Roster on the website www.thegoldeneagles.org will be:

stickshaker (all in lower case)

Deadbug!

Military Aviator Tribute Orin Victory you deserve champagne. In Defeat you need it!

As we get older and we experience the loss of old friends, we begin to realize that maybe we bullet proof Pilots won't live forever, not so bullet proof anymore. We ponder...if I were gone tomorrow did I say what I wanted to my Brothers? The answer is no! Hence the following random thoughts.

When people ask me if I miss flying, I always say something like, "Yes, I miss the flying because when you are flying, you are totally focused on the task at hand. It's like nothing else you will ever do (almost)" But then I always say, "However, I miss the squadron and the guys even more than I miss the flying."

Why, you might ask? They were a bunch of aggressive, wiseass, cocky, insulting, sarcastic bastards in smelly flight suits who thought a funny thing to do was to fart and see if they could clear a room. They drank too much, they chased women, they flew when they shouldn't, they laughed too loud and thought they owned the sky, the bar and generally thought they could do everything better than the next guy. Nothing was funnier than trying to screw with a buddy and see how p---ed off they would get. They flew planes and helos that leaked, that smoked, that broke, that couldn't turn, that burned fuel too fast, that never had autopilots or radars, and with systems that were archaic next to today's new generation aircraft. All true.

But a little closer look might show that every guy in the room was sneaky smart and damn competent and brutally handsome! They hated to lose or fail to accomplish the mission and seldom did. They were the laziest guys on the planet until challenged and then they would do anything to win. They would fly with wing tips overlapped at night through the worst

weather with only a little red light to hold on to, knowing their flight lead would get them on the ground safely. They would fight in the air knowing the greatest risk and fear was that another fighter would arrive at the same six o' clock at the same time they did. They would fly in harm's way and act nonchalant as if to challenge the grim reaper.

When we went to another base we were the best squadron on the base as soon as we landed. Often we were not invited back. When we went into an O' Club, we owned the bar. We were lucky to be the Best of the Best in the military. We knew it and so did others. We found jobs, lost jobs, got married, got divorced, moved, went broke, got rich, broke something and the only thing you could count really count on was if you needed help, a fellow pilot would have your back.

I miss the callsigns, nicknames and the stories behind them. I miss getting lit up in an O' Club full of my buddies and watching the incredible, unbelievable things that were happening. I miss the crew chiefs saluting as you taxied out of the flight line. I miss lighting the afterburners, if you had them, especially at night. I miss going straight up and straight down. I miss the cross countries. I miss the dice games at the bar for drinks. I miss listening to BS stories while drinking and laughing until my eyes watered.

I miss three man lifts. I miss naps in the Squadron with a room full of pilots working up new tricks to torment the sleeper. I miss flying upside down in the Grand Canyon and hearing about flying so low boats were blown over. I miss coming into the break hot and looking over and seeing three wingmen tucked in tight ready to make the troops on the ground proud. I miss belches that could be heard in neighboring states. I miss putting on ad hoc Air Shows that might be over someone's home or farm in far away towns.

Finally, I miss hearing DEAD BUG! called out at the bar and seeing and hearing a roomfull of men hit the deck.

deck with drinks spilling and chairs being knocked over as they rolled in the beer and kicked their legs in the air—followed closely by a Not Politically Correct Tap Dancing and Singing spectacle that couldn't help but make you grin and order another round.

I am a lucky guy and have lived a great life! One thing I know is that I was part of a special, really talented bunch of guys doing something dangerous and doing it better than most. Flying the most beautiful, ugly, noisy, solid aircraft ever built. Supported by ground troops committed to making sure we came home! Being prepared to fly and fight and die for America. Having a clear mission. Having fun.

We box out bad memories from various operations most of the time but never the hallowed memories of our fallen comrades. We are often amazed at how good war stories never let truth interfere and how they get better with age. We are lucky bastards to be able to walk into a Squadron or a bar and have men we respect and love shout our names, our call signs and know that this is truly where we belong. We are Pilots. We are Few and we are Proud.

I am Privileged and Proud to call you Brothers
Push it Up & Check SIX!

Editor's Note:

I received this in an email and thought it was extremely accurate and well written and felt that even though it was obviously written by a retired fighter pilot, it would be interesting no matter what your background in aviation was. At age 75 you would think I would finally admit to joining in with some of these questionable activities such as Ad Hoc airshows but we all learned early on—Deny, Deny, Deny! I was innocent. Really!



DEADBUG

Def....A drinking game played by pilots at Happy Hour at the O' Club. One person is appointed as the referee (usually the senior officer present) and waits until no one is paying attention and then shouts "DEADBUG" He then watches very carefully to see which pilot is the last to hit the floor with feet in the air and curled up like a dead bug. This lucky person gets to pay for the next round of drinks. Your tax dollars in action!



Superman Retires! Note cane, flask and lit cigarette in right hand, bedroom slippers.

Golden Eagles Golf 2014



WHERE: GREEN VALLEY RANCH GOLF CLUB
(Home of the Colorado Open Championships)
4900 Himalaya Road, Denver CO
(303) 371-3131

WHEN: Thursday, October 2, 2014; Start time 9:00 a.m.

COST: \$55/Player - includes Green fees, Cart, Practice Balls and Prizes

RSVP: September 18, 2014

Make check payable to: Benny McKenzie
103 Branding Iron Cove
Georgetown TX 78633-4885
(512) 869-8203; (936) 203-3104 (c)
email: bmmcgolf@aol.com

Directions: From Double Tree Hotel (15 minutes)
North on Quebec to I-70, 0.6 mi.
East/North on I-70/Pena Blvd to Green Valley Ranch Blvd 6.9 mi
East on Green Valley Ranch Blvd to Himalaya Road 1.9 mi
North on Himalaya Road 0.2 mi

MAIL FORM WITH YOUR CHECK (Please print)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ **PHONE** _____

HANDICAP (IF APPLICABLE): _____

ANYONE CAN PLAY (LADIES WELCOME) * HANDICAP OR NO HANDICAP * NEVER PLAYED? It's OK.

WE JUST HAVE FUN!!!

THE GOLDEN EAGLES REUNION/CONVENTION OCT. 1 - 4, 2014

Denver Double Tree Inn – Corner of Quebec and 32nd Ave.
Reservations & Meal selection form for Oct. 3, 2014 Reunion Banquet and Ladies Luncheon
(All meals include tax and gratuity) - - - - - **PLEASE PRINT**

Last Name _____, First Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ + _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

My significant other half (spouse) or guest(s) will attend ☐ Spouse/Guest(s) name(s) _____

Ladies Aux. Luncheon Price \$26.00 each x number _____ = \$ _____ total .00

Banquet Dinner (Grilled Chicken) \$46.00 each x _____ = \$ _____ .00

Banquet Dinner (Seared Trout) \$49.00 each x _____ = \$ _____ .00

Banquet Dinner (Grilled Fillet of Beef) \$54.00 each x _____ = \$ _____ .00

Banquet Dinner (Bone-in Pork Chop) \$48.00 each x _____ = \$ _____ .00

No. in party _____

Meal Total: \$ _____ .00

Prices include tax and gratuity plus banquet entertainment

Please remit this amount

Special dietary requests or needs can be accommodated with advance notice

Please send this completed form along with a check for both the banquet and /or luncheon – (and number of each) payable to:

Golden Eagles, C/O Tom Doherty, Treasurer
7 McCormick Way, Salem NH 03079-2816

Deadline for **meal reservations is Sep. 26th**. Banquet or luncheon reservations after this date subject to availability. Refunds for cancellations after Sept. 26th subject to refunds from hotel

☐ If you are interested in a tour of the UAL/CAL museum and training facilities, check here

☐ If you are interested in a bus trip to Central City/Blackhawk on the afternoon of the 1st, check here

IMPORTANT – MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS DIRECT WITH HOTEL (Deadline Sep. 20th)

Hotel room reservations and payments must be made directly with the Denver Double Tree. Be sure to ask for Golden Eagles group rate of \$92 per night (plus taxes). For our golfers - rate is good for the nights of Oct. 1 - 3. The Double Tree's number is: 1-303-321-3333. The Double Tree's address is 3203 Quebec St., Denver CO 80207 Complementary limo service to and from DEN airport

Editor's Note:

I received this from Charlie Starr after he and Cynthia had returned from a cruise and thought it had a lot of good information for those of us who are considering such a vacation. My thanks to Charlie for his contribution.

Just got home from a cruise/vacation - a few days in MIA and then a 7 day cruise in the Caribbean. One of those "deals" for airline (or travel industry) people that sounds so good you can't refuse it - 7 days on one of the new 'mega ships' - MSC's Divinia (2 years old on its first US cruise). \$249 per person for a balcony with stops in San Juan and St. Thomas. That sounds pretty good when you consider this works out to about \$34 per day per person for room, entertainment, and as much food as you can possibly eat for the week. Of course, by the time you add on taxes, tips, insurance, extra night or two in MIA, plus the booze and junk you buy on board, the total for two people works out closer to about \$3000. Still, not too bad for a ten day vacation. Beautiful ship, but the food (and this is true for all of the cruises now days) isn't like it was a ten years ago - still it's pretty good (and lots of it) - but not like it used to be. Entertainment was pretty good, and fortunately we don't gamble, so the casino didn't make any money from me. This was an Italian "themed" ship, and though Italians do a good job with pasta, soups and deserts, they sure as hell don't know how to cook beef (especially steaks). But I did manage to eat enough (and drink enough) to gain a few pounds. Our air travel, even with full flights and spring break in full swing (both here in NW FL and in MIA), went without any problems - using a vacation pass. Glad to get back home, though, and to rest a day or so before tackling the mail and bills. Also, I imagine that the grass (weeds) at the hanger are in need of mowing already; and I still have to replace the broken wind-

shield in my airplane. I(hope to go to the big spring air show in south Florida next month - Sun & Fun - at Lakeland - a small version of Oshkosh. Probably won't go te whole week, but hope to go for a few days.

As you probably know, cruise ships are like airlines - no booze can be brought aboard (years ago, they didn't care and everyone brought bottles on board to drink for the cruise (or purchased bottles in the ports to consume or take home). Now, they scan all of your luggage to make sure you aren't sneaking any on board. I had two quart bottles of distilled water in my bag for a sleep apnea machine - I had a heck of a time convincing them that they contained water - even had to drink some to prove it. However, they said nothing about the quart of scotch that was in a Listerine bottle, or the three little (empty) mini scotch bottles - that I filled each night from the big Listerine bottle and used to keep refilling the one drink I would purchase every night - wow, is that being cheap or not?

Charlie Starr

Ladie's Auxilliary

Dear Ladies, Our gathering in Denver is playing out to be another memorable event.....the worker bees have been buzzing with great ideas, and very positive support from countless Eagles.

The mission of the Ladies Auxiliary is simple.....to do whatever we can to enrich the lives and memories of the Golden Eagles. Along the way we get to "Lunch" and "Girl Talk" and share "tips" on HOW TO GET IT DONE!!!!

So to "GET IT DONE" I am so grateful to THE TEAM that never fails, and we have some new

nominees to carry on THE MISSION.

So Ladies, plan to come with your votes for some familiar and new faces and join the Discussions, DeLish food, and Downright Dancin and entertainment that the Golden Eagles conventions are famous for.

As always I need your thoughts and suggestions...PLEASE!!!

Fondly,

Gail Grover



Engineers!

I am sure that everyone comes into contact with friends who are engineers (not flight engineers but the type with the slide rule and the plastic pocket protector). I have a good friend who graduated from the Air Force Academy and his engineer mind drives me up a wall at times. I have begun collecting engineer stories to bring him back to earth someday and thought I would share some of them with you. Mind you, he is a good friend and this is all said in good humor.

1. How do you drive an engineer crazy? You tie him to a chair and then stand right in front of him and slowly fold a road map the wrong way.

2. Playing Golf:

A priest, a doctor, and an engineer were waiting one morning for a particularly slow group of golfers. The engineer fumed, "What's with those guys? We must have been waiting for fifteen minutes!" The doctor chimed in, "I don't know, but I've never seen such inept golf!" The priest said, "Here comes the greens-keeper. Let's have a word with him." He said, "Hello George, What's wrong with that group ahead of us? They're rather slow, aren't they?" The greens-keeper replied, "Oh, yes. That's a group of blind firemen. They lost their sight saving our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we always let them play for free anytime!" The group fell silent for a moment. The priest said, "That's so sad. I think I will say a special prayer for them tonight." The doctor said, "Good idea. I'm going to contact my ophthalmologist colleague and see if there's anything she can do for them." The engineer said, "Why can't they play at night?"

3. An engineer was crossing a road one day, when a frog called out to him and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess". He bent over, picked up the frog, and put it in his pocket. The frog spoke up again and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn back into a beautiful princess and stay with you for one week". The engineer took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it and returned it to the pocket. The frog then cried out, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a princess, I'll stay with you for one week and do anything you want". Again, the engineer took the frog out, smiled at it and put it back into his pocket. Finally, the frog asked, "What is the matter? I've told you I'm a beautiful princess and that I'll stay with you for one week and do anything you want. Why won't you kiss me?" The engineer said, "Look, I'm an engineer. I don't have time for a girlfriend, but a talking frog is cool."

4. Normal people believe that if it isn't broken, don't fix it. Engineers believe that if it isn't broken, it doesn't have enough features yet.

Classic Aircraft

This will be a new page for the *Golden Contrails* and I am actively soliciting photos from all of you Golden Eagles members. Just send them to me at f100plt@gmail.com and let us share them with the members. The first two come from my collection and were taken at a CAF airshow in Midland, TX. I have always felt that the P-51 Mustang and the F-4U Corsair were two of the classic fighters from WWII.

Shaun



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On July 15th 1954, the prototype of the Boeing 707 first flew which makes this past July the 60th Anniversary of that beautiful aircraft that had such an impact at Continental Airlines.