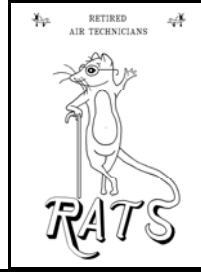


# RETIRED AIR TECHNICIANS & AGRs



RATs & RAGs  
7447 Bear Ridge Road  
North Tonawanda, NY  
14120-9587  
716-694-7414

## MAY 2011 - QUARTERLY REPORT

The RATs quarterly meeting was held on May 11, 2010 at 1100 hrs at Legion Post # **1142**, 8643 Buffalo Ave, NFalls, next door to the Sunshine Cafe. Board members meet at 10:30. We'd like to again thank Richard Campbell for setting this up for us, including installing the tables and chairs.

Carl Brown presided over the meeting due to the absence of Ralph Sellitto. Tom Litz led the Pledge of Allegiance and Tom Keough led a moment of silence for those who passed since the last meeting.

Florian Matuszewski presented a report that reflected a balance of \$4,249.57 as of April 29, 2011.

### RALPH SELLITTO:

**6 June 2011 Board meeting:**

**Called to order at 10AM @ Alton's Seneca St. Elma NY**

**Board members present: Sellitto, Brown, Matuszewski**

#### **New Business:**

Falvo & Greene will be hosting the winter reunion, it will be held earlier in 2012. Funds were approved for the pavilion deposit.

Treasurer: has provided the treasurer's report to the board.

It was determined to bestow Current board members who are not running for reelection to the status of honorary board effective after the Aug. elections.

### **Committees Reports:**

**Meeting Committee** – Mike Ryan did check with the Falcon Club manager, he was not able to obtain firm information. The club requires a firm booked date. Mike has not provided information regarding if the 107<sup>th</sup> Chief's were contacted. **Sellitto will send Ryan an email to ask.**

**Ride Committee** – Dave Hosmer reported that no one has contacted him or Duane for rides.

**2012 Winter reunion committee.** Pavilion has been booked.

**Next Board Meetings** – To be determined.

**Board Elections** – Cut off for nominations/volunteers who wish to run is 15 July 2011. **This will allow time for electronic voting and ballot preparations.**

#### **Old Business:**

**Elections for Board Members - will be held at the Aug Annual Meeting.** At this time we have the following individuals interested in running: **Prior, Ryan, Walker, Krakowiak, Iannucci, Lozinski, Hosmer, Keough, Bores, Hosmer and Brown.** **Sellitto's and Matty's term are not up, and will continue on the board.**

**Existing Board Member Status: Closed not all board members replied. Will assume that all those who didn't reply are not interested.** Brown is the only current board member whose term is up and will run again.

**Falcon Club: Issue Closed.**

**POC to coordinate: CLOSED Mike Ryan.**  
Chief's invitation to attend and also assist in the cost of our meetings.

**Ongoing:** Tim Heary mentioned that he is in the process of switching to US Family Health Plan, Martin's Point Tricare Prime and he will provide feedback to the membership.

### **Tabled for the new board:**

Consider returning to the Falcon Club for quarterly meetings.

Chief's Council invitation to attend and also assist with the cost of a meeting.

Membership dues for those receiving all correspondence electronically will be suspended for 2011 for current members not in arrears. Dues for other members will be three dollars per person annually.

### **TRICARE PRIME in WNY**

Attend one of the many seminars and then ask us questions. One can save a lot of money by evaluating your medical needs and switching from IHP to BC/BS with TRICARE Standard or switch to TRICARE Prime and save a lot of denaro.

### **To all: (From Jerry Slipco)**

Please check out the NEW FSS/Services website at [www.niagarafss.com](http://www.niagarafss.com). It is easier to use and save it as one of your "Favorites".

**Thunder of Niagara Air Show 10-11 Sep 2011 featuring the USAF Thunderbirds**

### **MEMBERSHIP LISTING**

If you desire a new listing snail mailed please ask. Listings are updated and emailed as an attachment often during the year. All additions, updates and changes are included in a New Membership Listing.

### **2011 APRIL VENICE, FL REUNION**

It is now a proven fact that RATs would like to head south when the weather up north is likely blustery irregardless of the potential for

cool weather in FL. Cold is relative. It did snow in Buffalo the day before I left for Venice. The following people were in attendance and had a good time.

Carl & Jackie Brown, Ron & Dianne Dubke, Jim & Joanne Falvo, Phil Geng, Russ & Cill Grasso, Bob Greene, Bob & Vonna Haring, Dave Higby, Jay & Leanne Hopper, Ed & Judy Lendel, Al Liedke, Carl & Dianne Lombardo, Russ Mariglia, Angela O'Brien, Norm & Isabel Schroth, Jim Stockman, Wally & Janet Suter. Bob Ronaghan canceled due to all the weather and water problems his way.

It was a sad day when Al Liedke stopped producing hot peppers; however, he has outdone himself in the wine making industry. Al drove a truck load of Fredonia wine to Venice for all to sample.

Thank you to Jim & Joanne Falvo and Bob Greene for producing another fine time.

### **2012 APRIL VENICE, FL REUNION**

This is not a misprint. Please let the Falvo's know your intentions. Probable scenario, dates firm: Thursday, March 22, 2012 dinner at Mama Leones; Friday, March 23, 2012 AM golf at Lake Venice Golf Club, Non-golf event ? Dinner Marco Polo Chinese Buffet in the *Jim Falvo* room or a suitable venue. Picnic March 24, 2012 start time TBD at a **new pavilion** near Sharky's in Venice, FL on the Gulf food and cost TBD. If you're interested please let Jim know.... Golfers too.

### **Walgreens to Drop TRICARE?**

Week of July 11, 2011

Walgreens pharmacy announced that it had broken off negotiations to renew a contract with TRICARE Retail Pharmacy's contractor, Express Scripts, Inc. Walgreens is the nation's largest retail drugstore chain, and the largest TRICARE network pharmacy. The Military Officers Association

of America reported that Walgreen's will continue to fill prescriptions for TRICARE patients **at least until January 1, 2012**. At that point, if both sides are unable to come to an agreement TRICARE Pharmacy benefits will no longer be available at Walgreens. This is a recurring saga.

## SUSPENDING FEHB

Jules Thurn and Carl Brown decided to SUSPEND their FEHB (Federal Employee Health Benefits) June 30th or is it July 1st. Jules decided to verify our detailed instructions by calling the number we provided in Washington, DC. He was told he didn't even have to put his name on the form; his Claim Number was all that was needed. Also he was told to suspend his FEHB effective the first of the month whereas we've been told to suspend using the last day of the month even after arguing that logic. Had I more time I would have gone to DC and discussed how to with the perp and her supervisor like I threatened to do at Boyers, PA years back. Jules sent his form to DC and I sent my form to Boyers, PA. My suspension letter was dated prior to his but we both seemingly have completed the task. Money will show up in the August check as you pay after the fact. Boyers, PA does forward the info to DC but I tend to think there is a manpower power struggle. Form and instructions are still available in my computer.

## MANPOWER STRUGGLE

If you live in Niagara County and you'd like to keep a couple of bucks in the county, mail or use the drop box provided by: DEPT of MOTOR VEHICLES, 500 WHEATFIELD ST STE 4, NORTH TONAWANDA, NY 14120-7098 Cover over the preprinted address and insert your local DMV Office. This is true of all counties. I know you can do it online but a larger portion of the portion does stay in your county if it's processed by your county.

## SMOOTH SAILING

Note so fast fish breath. Things were quiet, too quiet. I ran into a couple of RATs who were always going to ask me how TRICARE worked while being eligible for over the past three years but never used it.

## SAILING CLASS

- If any age Sponsor or Spouse becomes disabled they will typically be offered Medicare Part B within two years. **TALK TO ME, DON'T SCREW UP**. Even if not yet retired militarily. Depending upon whom you talk to you will hear multiple tales. TALK TO ME or a reasonable facsimile thereof for the real story.
- When you are about to retire militarily (BLUE ID) and \$. **TALK TO ME**.
- When you turn 65 or are offered Medicare Part B, **TALK TO ME**.

**TALK TO ME** equals volumes of writings and we can instantly tailor the tale to your needs with instant gratification for your all your questions.

## NEW RETIREE MILITARY ID

I probably have one of the first new Retired military ID cards. So new that DEERS and TFL folks didn't know what I was talking about so opted for a high level conference call with both agencies on the phone.

Any retiree ID card issued after Saturday, May 29, 2011 has a **DoD ID Number** on the front and a **Benefits Number** on the back and **NO SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER**.

Since my wife needed a new ID for TFL, I asked about my SSN removal. At this point it was my choice so I opted for the new version. Her benefits number is the same as mine except I'm -00 and she's -01.

## HERE'S THE DEAL

If you do not have any OHI (Other Health Insurance) except Medicare and TFL, call 1-866-773-0404 and ensure that they set you up to use the Medicare form cross over block. This will make lots 'o people happy, very happy. **With that call completed you can inform medical providers to use the cross over block and with one bill to Medicare, the provider will receive two checks.** This is not new. This makes medical providers want to have TFL patients.

## DOOR NUMBER 2

If you have an OHI and there is no social security number on your military ID make your medical providers happy.

Tell your medical provider to bill Medicare if you have it, **then bill** your OHI showing the Medicare EOB and **then bill** TRICARE showing the two previous EOB's. This can be easiest done electronically or the old snail mail way.

**PAY ATTENTION**, currently all varieties of TRICARE will recognize your SSN or your new BENEFITS NUMBER (hopefully), from the back of your new military ID. It's a nine digit number and TFL is not happy with the dash (-) 00, or - 01 etc. 00 is the sponsor and 01 is the spouse and 02 etc for dependents. So inform your medical providers to use only the nine digits or you may end up with medical billing errors.

TFL can not handle your DoD number from the front of your ID this is a ten digit number that does not match the spouse's or dependents DoD number.

Now you know more of the story. If Medicare stops using your SSN we'll have true privacy.

## GOLF

In a message dated 7/12/2011 7:04:12 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, alan.walker2@verizon.net writes:

The **Kirsch, Warda, Montaro Golf Tournament** will be Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 0800. The same place as last year which I believe was Niagara Country Club. It might be Niagara County Country Club. Anyway the price will be \$55 and that includes Hot Dog or Hamburger at the turn (drinks will be on your own) and a Steak Dinner. The dinner well be around 1400 and there will be several prizes. You can pay through the Credit Union just like in the past. A flier will be coming out soon as soon as we find out when the cut off date will be.

Alan Walker

## NAME FROM THE PAST

Jackie & I had breakfast with Norm & Isabel Schroth and their grandson and **Margo (Goater) Beecher** and her husband at Jay's Diner. Margo left the base about 1969.

## NEXT MEETING: + SEE BELOW

Will be Wednesday, August 10, 2011 at 1100 hrs at the Legion Post # **1142**, next door to the Sunshine Cafe. Board members meet at 10:30 we'll eat about 1130 **and please be alert for emails pertaining to the board meeting.**

Sorry again for the delay in getting this out. If you have questions feel free to ask. The good thing about the lateness is you can write and mail your check for the August meeting now.

## **AUGUST MEETING REUNION**

At the May meeting we voted for one of three venues. Falcon Club, Lewsiton #2 Fire Hall or Legion Post # 1142. The Legion Post was almost unanimous. We also voted for one of two caterers. The folks Tuchols had do our last two events or a late entry mysteriously requested by Gary Wilcox. Gary had asked the Sunshine Café and Lisa submitted three choices and again almost unanimously option # 2 was selected. Pasta w/ sauce, Meatballs or sausage, chicken, relish tray, vegetable, desert, coffee, tea and pop. Cost per person \$15.00. Beer and mixed drinks will be available at the bar.

If you'd like a ride to the meeting contact  
Dave Hosmer (716) 822-3379  
Duane Bores (716) 694-9432  
Carl Brown (716) 694-7414 and we'll see what we can do.

Checks payable to **John Tuchols**.

### **Mail to:**

[John Tuchols](mailto:John.Tuchols@lockportny.com)  
[6402 Locust St Ext](mailto:John.Tuchols@lockportny.com)  
[Lockport, NY 14094-6536](mailto:John.Tuchols@lockportny.com)

Regards,

Carl