



The Heritage

Heritage Chapter Bluebills
Boeing Retiree Volunteer Newsletter

May 2014

WWW.BLUEBILLS.ORG

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Chairman's Corner

By Don Hilt Vice Chairman



This has been a good news month, both for the Bluebills and for me. After spending several months looking for a new meeting space, we have finally found a new location for our Heritage Chapter monthly meetings. Bill Baker had the lead for this project and he, Karen, and others checked availability of rooms at the Tukwila Community Center, the Memorial Building in Kent, various Senior Citizen Centers, and BECU. They left no stone unturned. Bluebill Tom Moberg suggested the VFW in Renton and it is a fairly good fit for our needs. It has a large room for our meetings and comes with permanent tables, chairs, a kitchen, and serving bar. There is plenty of parking across the street. So, beginning in May, we will hold our monthly meetings at the VFW (Post 1263), 416 Burnett Avenue South, in Renton. Special thanks to everyone who helped with this effort. All of your comments, suggestions and recommendations helped the "investigators" with their search. Good job!

More good news came this month for our School Supply Program. We were recently contacted by a Boeing organization with more than 1,000 binders to donate to schools or children in need. The binders are no longer needed because the organization is digitizing two of their very large libraries. We are very excited about this donation.

Now that the rainy Northwest weather MAY be partly behind us, it's time to think about our yards, gardens, and patios. It seems like my gardening is never done, but with two new knees I will be able to work longer and harder outside.

We have already power washed our patio and entry area, put up fuchsia and geranium hanging baskets, and planted most of our clay pots. It's a start.

My orthopedic surgeon has given me the "green light" to begin playing golf in June. My wife and I have had togetherness, on a grand scale, since my first knee surgery last November. So, it comes as no surprise that she is excited about having me play golf twice a week, and out of her domain, in just over a month!

Enjoy your spring and summer!



- New Meeting Location -
Beginning May 30th Bluebills Heritage Chapter Meetings will be held at the ...

VFW Post 1263

**416 Burnett Avenue South , Renton,
WA 98057**

Social: 10:00AM

Meeting: 10:30 to 12:00 N



March Chapter Meeting Recap

By Mary Ulibarri

With an overflowing room full of members, Vice Chairman Don Hilt called the meeting to order starting with Don Hoople leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Attendance was definitely up this month with members anxiously awaiting the guest speaker. But first, Don spent a few minutes asking for new members, guests, birthdays and anniversaries. There was only one birthday for this month. No one noticed that the other announcements were skipped until after the “main event.”

Jim Beasley introduced the speaker Rebecca Wallick, daughter of Lew Wallick, former Boeing test pilot and Director of Flight Test. Becky was born in Seattle in 1956, fourth and youngest, and only daughter, of Lew’s children. She grew up surrounded by Boeing test pilots, engineers and their families. Her own family often entertained airline pilots and VIPs from around the world, in an era when the test pilots helped sell the airplanes they tested.



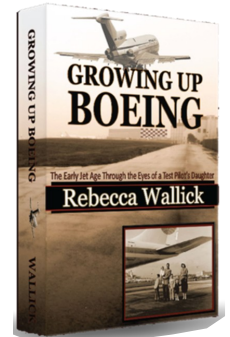
By high school, Becky began to understand that her father wasn’t just another Boeing engineer. While in college studying history, she attended the first flights of the 757 and 767, as well as Lew’s favorite personal project, the P-12 biplane.



After attending her father’s retirement party in 1986, Becky realized her father and the other test pilots of his era played an enormous role in aviation history. Becky wanted to preserve the stories she’d heard growing up. Stories about first flights and test flights, many that didn’t go as planned, and tales about travels to all corners of the world demonstrating airplanes. Thus, in 2000 Becky began interviewing a number of pilots and flight test engineers, breaking through their modesty about their own accomplishments, and realizing their experiences influenced how she was raised. Those stories are woven into a memoir/biography that covers the 1950s through the 1980s, mixing amazing flying stories with glimpses of family life in a bygone era.

Becky currently resides in Kirkland with her Australian shepherd Finn MacCool. She is a recovering attorney who much prefers being a writer.

Becky told a fascinating story with the help of slides and a short video, all a part of her recently released memoir, “Growing Up Boeing: The Early Jet Age Through the Eyes of a Test Pilot’s Daughter.”



Lew Wallick was Boeing's chief test pilot during the introduction of the 7-Series jets, and retired as Director of Flight test and Chief Test Pilot in 1986 after 35 years with the company. Along with flying the B-47, B-52, Dash 80 (the 707 prototype) and the first 727, he was pilot or co-pilot on the first flights of the Boeing 737, 747SP, 757, 767 and more. His story is tied closely to a large portion of the aircraft in the Museum of Flight, including the Boeing B&W replica.



Lew Wallick in original 727 cockpit days before 1st flight (note temporary plywood seat back and missing instrumentation)

Mr. Wallick grew up on a Kansas farm with his parents and four siblings. At age 17, he joined the Naval Aviation Cadet program, but the war ended before he saw any combat. After the war, he earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Kansas State University and soon went to work at Boeing in 1951, first in Wichita and then in Seattle.

Succeeding as a test pilot takes a unique blend of intelligence, mechanical know-how, common sense, love of adventure, calculated risk-taking and ability to remain calm under extreme pressure. And he was admired for his character as well as his flying skills. And to top it off, he was also known for his sense of humor.

It was perhaps that quality of derring-do that inspired test pilots of the era to push their craft to the limits. Becky reminded the audience of the time Alvin “Tex” Johnston, in a 367-80 (707), performed a barrel roll over Lake Washington on a test flight in August 1955. Though a historical moment, the stunt led Boeing to forbid its test pilots from rolling their planes, under threat of losing their jobs.

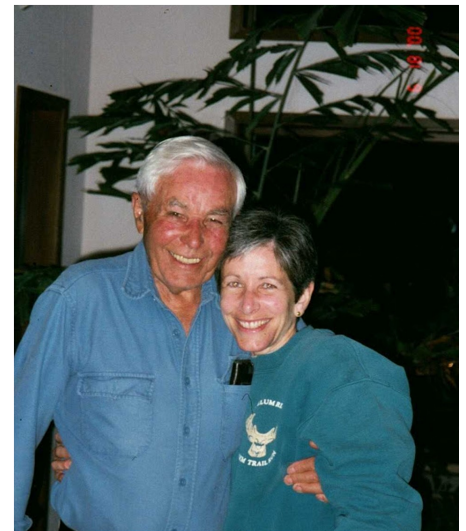
Becky stated that probably the biggest reveal was that Tex Johnston wasn’t the only one to roll one of those big jets. She said that whenever they asked dad if he had rolled a plane, he would respond with a mischievous look, “No, that was Tex.” It wasn’t until Becky attended his retirement party in 1986 that they played footage of one of his test flights and, yeah, there it was.

Her father admitted to the roll formally in a later group interview with his peers. His colleagues were shocked, but a few of them admitted to sneaking in their own rolls. Becky thought it amusing at how hesitant they were to admit to it, even years later.

Becky said that sense of adventure carried over into family life too. Dad, mom, three brothers and herself - they all loved to water ski, snow ski and, of course, flying was a part of it. One of the family’s favorite destination included small, remote lakes in British Columbia, where they would fish and relax. Wallick bought a Wigeon floatplane just for said trips. Flying was not only associated with work, but play as well.

Although his job was dangerous at times, Becky said her father didn’t talk about that at home. It wasn’t until much later she learned of many of his exploits. For instance, once her dad successfully recovered a 727 after another pilot caused it to go into a deep stall, plummeting thousands of feet in a matter of seconds. It was a close call, but as usual he didn’t share the danger with his family. When Becky was told about it years later, she asked her dad why he didn’t tell them about it. He matter-of-factly answered, “I didn’t want to come home and say I’d almost died today.”

Wallick was required to retire at 62 as a requirement of the Federal Aviation Administration. But he continued to fly small, private planes well into his “golden years.” Lew Wallick passed away on August 19, 2009.



Lew & Becky Wallick Fathers Day 2000

As a footnote (thanks to an excerpt from Amazon.com on Google), here is a summary of Ms. Wallick’s book “Growing Up Boeing: Through the Eyes of a Test Pilot’s Daughter.”

Part memoir, part biography, *Growing Up Boeing* tells the story of the pioneers of the Golden Age of commercial jet transports from an insider’s perspective. Take a nostalgic flight back in time to the dawn of the jet age—1950s through 1980s—when the best experimental test pilots flew by the seat of their pants, putting new commercial jets through tests that stressed and pushed the edge of performance envelopes, discovering their limits and tolerances. Fly along on demonstration and proving flights as the test pilots help Boeing sell the airplanes to airlines around the world, meeting a few celebrities along the way. See how they lived their lives in the air and on the ground—their adventurous spirits, need for speed, leisure activities and families. Secrets big and small are revealed, as are hair-raising moments when the hazards, the incidents, near accidents, and tragic

events inherent in exploring the limits of aeronautical technology and new airplane designs are described. This artfully narrated account breathes life into the extremely personal and human experiences that have, in some magical way, been shared at some level by so many, and provides more than a hint of what has made this aircraft manufacturer legendary.

Following this wonder presentation, Vice Chair Don gave the floor to Bill Lee. Bill had good news for the members that the Bluebills would once again be represented at the Washington State Fair in Puyallup this year. He passed around a sign-up sheet for members to select shifts during the few days there will be a booth, September 5-9.

Don then announced the location of the next monthly meeting to be held at the VFW Hall in Renton at 416 Burnett Ave. S. - see the last page of this newsletter for the map. Entry to the Hall will start at 10:00 am, with the meeting to start at 10:30 am.

Don then conducted the door prize drawing, which included some great hand-carved items provided by a friend. The meeting was then adjourned.

Busy Bees

by Janice Hawes

Another month has zipped by and here we are again. The Busy B's have new project. We are making pillowcases for the USO.

Lonnie Stevenson said they really need them and we are always happy to help where we can. We are using white bed sheets since the cases need to be bleached. We had a couple to start with and quite a few can be made out of one. If anyone has any they would like to contribute that would be great. Yoshi Akers is our expert go to person when we need anything cut out and she has been busy cutting the material for the cases. Jean Derheim has already made several. With help like this we should be able to turn out quite a few right away.

We're making long pants for Child Haven again this year.

Dick Beham's wife Earlene gave us a beautiful crocheted shawl to give to some deserving person.

Bambi Lee will be taking some quilts to St. Francis Hospital for their cancer patients and more quilts to Child Haven in Auburn.

Zip Zuther is delivering what seems to be our monthly donation of medical dolls and quilts to Children's Hospital.

As you see, the Busy B's are keeping busy.

Bluebills Angels—Eileen Bear & Heinz Gelhalhaar

by Karen Baker

When I suggested a few months ago that we needed to recognize and publish articles in the Newsletter about Bluebills Angels, Eileen Bear and Heinz Gelhalhaar were exactly the type of people I was thinking of. Eileen and Heinz are the most thoughtful and generous people I have ever known and we are so lucky to have them in our group.

Eileen has been a part of the Retiree Assistance Program (RAP) for over 15 years. Over that time she and Heinz have purchased ingredients for holiday baskets for hundreds of Seniors and Children. Each Easter, Halloween and Christmas the Heritage Chapter prepares about 200 packages of goodies and distributes to Seniors in Nursing Homes and Children in cancer treatment at Hutch School and Child Life Specialist Clinic. The packages contain various items depending on the recipients but usually candy, stuffed animals, playing cards (for Seniors), pencil, crayons for the youngsters, books and other items depending on the season.

Eileen and Heinz not only shop for these items, they often pay for them out of their own pocket. And it is not only donations to RAP, they also purchase and donate jackets to cold, needy kids. And there is no doubt much more that we will never know about. We all owe Eileen and Heinz a thank you for all their kindness and generosity. I know

they will be happy to hear from us telling them how much we appreciate what they are doing and that it reminds us what Bluebills is all about. Volunteers are wonderful folks. Some work quietly and no-one even knows what they are busy doing. Some have a little time to give – for others it's a full time job. What a blessing each one is. So to all you Bluebills out there lets hear from you. Share with us the love and caring you are giving and sharing with others.

Guest Speaker for May 30th

by Jim Beasley

Don Skoumal, speaker for May, is a retired senior executive manager of the Boeing Company. A veteran of over 36 years in the Aerospace field Don had engineering and management assignments that included aircraft, missile, spacecraft and launch vehicle design, development and delivery.

At one point, Don served as Director of Structures Engineering, Defense and Space Group , where he was responsible for management and engineering personnel performing stress, thermal, weights, loads and dynamics analyses and primary and secondary structural design for multiple D&SG programs.

Joining Boeing in 1966, he was assigned as a research engineer in the Commercial Airplane Group. He was involved in the early development and use of titanium and high temperature composites for use on the Supersonic Transport. During his engineering career he was a lead engineer on numerous NASA and USG research contracts including composite applications for the Peacekeeper Missile, High Temperature Composite Joining methods, Dimensionally Stable Structures for the Hubble Telescope and a magnetometer boom assembly for the Mars, Venus, and Mercury Spacecraft.

Don was an author/co-author of nine technical publications in the structural development field and received NASA Technical brief awards, Boeing Top Contributor Awards, a US patent for dimensionally stable waveguides and was selected to serve on multiple Red Teams for review of new business proposals and analyses of in-flight and other test failures. Don co-chaired a noon-time lecture program and taught a composite applications training course. He was active in technical groups outside of Boeing including the Society of Materials and Processes Engineers and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). He served as local chapter chairman of AIAA and later as Regional Director, Chairman of the National Structures Technical committee and ultimately serving on the National AIAA Board of Directors. He was recognized as an Associate Fellow of AIAA and a Professional Licensed Engineer in the State of Washington

As a manager, Don had assignments including the Engineering Technology Manager of the Space Station Development program, Chairman of the Corporate Composite Steering Committee, Study Manager for an X-Band Radar System for the Missile Defense Program and VP Project Management for the Sea Launch Program.

Don graduated from the University of Nebraska where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Civil engineering. He later did graduate work at both the University of Nebraska and the University of Washington and completed numerous Boeing engineering and Management training courses.

In retirement Don and his wife Dana spend time in Wyoming and Washington and have been snowbirds on occasion in Arizona. He enjoys home and classic car restoration and has served on the Home Owners Board of Directors, the Board of Deacons at his church, as a Security volunteer for the Thunderbird Airshow and a part-time driver for the Meals on Wheels program.

Calendar of Events 2014

- May 15** Heritage Leadership Meeting
- May 30** Chapter Monthly Meeting
- Jun 12 Heritage Leadership Meeting
- Jun 27 Chapter Monthly Meeting
- Jul 10 Heritage Leadership Meeting
- Jul 25 Chapter Monthly Meeting
- Aug 14 Heritage Leadership Meeting
- Aug 22 Chapter Picnic
- Sep 11 Heritage Leadership Meeting
- Sep 26 Chapter Monthly Meeting
- Oct 16 Heritage Leadership Meeting
- Oct 31 Chapter Monthly Meeting
- Nov 13 Heritage Leadership Meeting
- Nov 21 Chapter Monthly Meeting
- Dec 11 Heritage Leadership Meeting
- Dec 19 Chapter Monthly Meeting
- Dec 20 Chapter Monthly Meeting

Food Bank Schedule For 2014

Bring a non-perishable food item to monthly meetings to be given to a different food bank each month.

Month	Kent	Bob Stubbs
June	Auburn	Lonnie Stevenson
July	West Seattle	Marian Herrin
August	Tacoma	Ted & Judy Leyden
September	Renton	Bob Lambert
October	White Center	Eileen Bear
November	Issaquah	Eleanor Skinner
December	Des Moines	Dave & Mary Frantz
January	Highline	Marian Herrin
February	Bellevue	Doug Hoople
March	Federal Way	Jim & Bambi Lee
April	Maple Valley	Vaughn's

Bluebills - Heritage Chapter

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Bluebills Heritage Chapter Meeting

VFW Post 1263
416 Burnett Ave S
Renton, WA

May 30, 2014

Social: 10:00 to 10:30 AM Meeting starts at 10:30 AM

Speaker: Don Skoumal

Topic:

“Sea Launch--From Concept to Reality in Four Fast Years ”

Bring a non-perishable food item to monthly meetings to be given to a different food bank each month

Please Note:

The Bluebills monthly meetings are held at the VFW Post 1263, 416 Burnett Ave South, Renton, WA. Parking is available in the lot immediately across the street from the VFW.

Bluebills Monthly Volunteer Hours

Volunteer Name _____

Phone Number _____

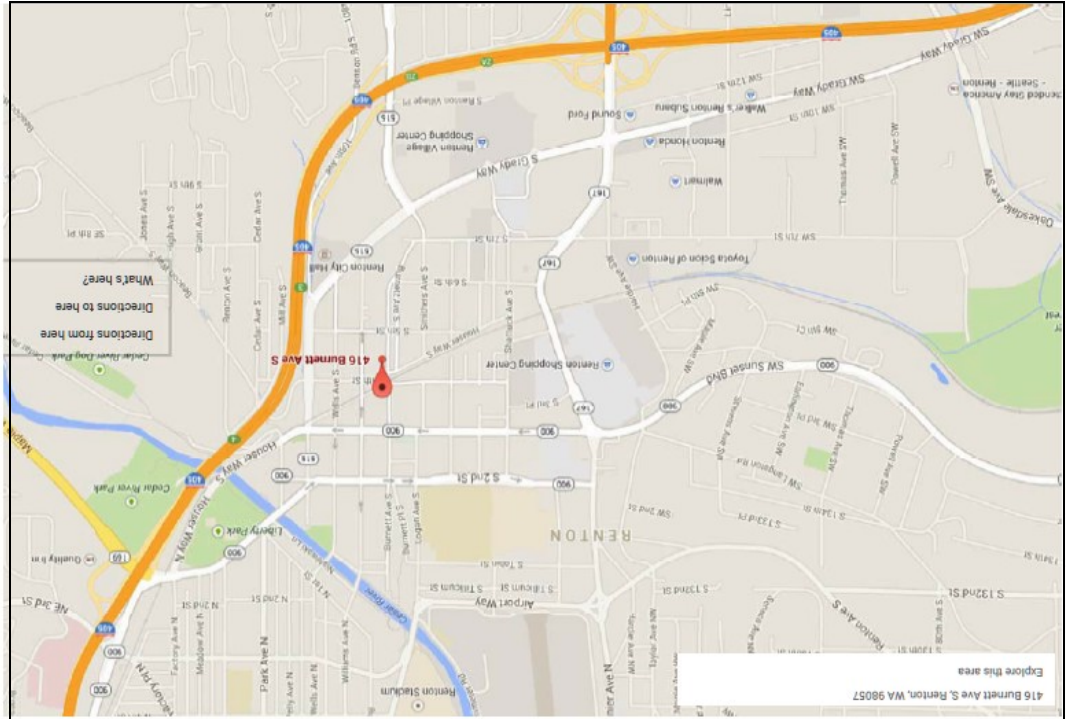
_____ **Hours worked** _____ **For** _____
(month/year) (agency name)

_____ **Hours worked** _____ **For** _____
(month/year) (agency name)

_____ **Hours worked** _____ **For** _____
(month/year) (agency name)

Please send completed hours form to Bluebills, PO Box 3707 2T-04, Seattle, WA 98124
Email to bluebills@boeing.com or bring to Bluebills monthly meeting

Bluebills Heritage Chapter Meeting: 416 Burnett Ave S, Renton WA 98057



From the north take 405 S
Bronson Way. Keep right
to Williams Ave S. Turn rt
onto Williams Ave S con-
tinue to 5th St and turn
right onto 5th St. Go one
block and turn right onto
Burnett Ave S to VFW.
From the south go north on
Highway 405 to Exit 2
Hwy 167 Rainier Ave S.
Go north to S Grady Way.
Turn right on S Grady Way
to Talbot Rd (3rd light)
turn left on Talbot Rd. One
block turn right on 7th St
and then left on Burnett
Ave S. Continue three
blocks to VFW.

