



The Heritage

Heritage Chapter Bluebills
Boeing Retiree Volunteer Newsletter

November/December 2021

WWW.BLUEBILLS.ORG

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 11-12

Chairman's Report – November 2021



By Richard Vaughn

The November 19, 2021, Heritage Chapter monthly meeting at the VFW in Renton has been cancelled. The members at the October meeting decided to cancel the meeting and to look forward to the December 17th meeting which will be a potluck luncheon. This decision was made due to the small turnout of members each month and the pressure of the holiday season. Let's make this a big event to end the year 2021 and look forward to the year 2022.

Why don't you call other members and ask them to come to the luncheon with you?

All members are encouraged to become involved once again, not only for the luncheon but for all of our meetings and events.

We hope you enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving with your families and friends.

Richard



Holiday Potluck

Holiday Luncheon December 17th

Note: We have combined the November/December Holiday Meetings into One on December 17th, for a Potluck at the VFW Post 1263, 416 Burnett Ave. S, Renton, WA.

Bring your favorite Holiday Dish to share and enjoy this wonderful end of the year Luncheon Event of the Bluebills.





September In Person Meeting Summary

By Mary Ulibarri

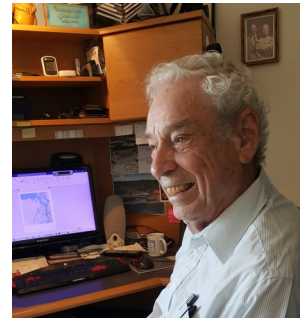
Don Hilt began the meeting at 10:30 AM with the Pledge of Allegiance. No October birthday members present, but there are three on my list: Martha Battles, Carmel Camerini and Ted Osborne. And since we will not have a meeting next month, here are the November birthdays: Gerry Bertagni, Pat Crockett, Marian Herrin, Oscar Ologue, Janice Hawes and Judy Leyden.

Today's attendance was somewhat low again, but it's understandable that folks are taking care of themselves by keeping a low profile, so to speak. It just means each of us are doing what feels right for ourselves.

Don brought up, and the attendees voted, to skip the November meeting and get together again on December 17th for the holiday potluck. Always a great reason to come together.

He then turned the meeting over to Heinz Gehlhaar to tell his story how he came to America.

In the mid-forties, while comfortably living in Kassel Germany, his family, (father, working for Gerhard Fieseler and Mother, taking care of Heinz, and a younger brother) lived through some serious bombing by the British and American forces. One night, after they returned from the community bomb shelter in the basement, they found a large section of wall in Heinz' bed. Another night, a 3-story house next door ended up with a hole through three floors as a bomb made it to the basement into the baker's flour storage. At this point dad's occupation took him away from the family who then moved to Konstadt, Silesia where a baby brother was born over Christmas 1944. Unfortunately, the Russian front was advancing into Germany and Heinz could hear the big guns banging in the distance. Finally, in February of 1945, the mayor of Konstadt declared an evacuation, but due to Heinz's ear infection they were unable to leave on the assigned date. That turned out to be a stroke of luck because they missed the train which was bombed that night. But they became real refugees.



Four days later, Heinz, his Mom, his younger brother, and 5 week old baby brother family left Silesia in a cattle car filled with hay and straw. At this time dad Gehlhaar suddenly reappeared from the war effort and joined the refugee family as they traveled to Harrislee, where a lot of his dad's family from East Prussia had escaped to. In Harrislee the local government directed the refugees to live in homes of local residents, where there might be room. Good at times, not so good at other times. During this time his father, an Aeronautical Engineer, became a garden-er.

After several more moves and different jobs for dad, the family ended up back in Kassel. During this time, dad became involved with the Doernberg Glider Club. Of course he took Heinz along, which was a big part of his growing up. And that was where he learned to fly gliders. After a long decision time, Heinz's dad and his family decided to move to America to join

Dad's former Fieseler co-workers at Holloman AFB in Alamogordo, New Mexico.



Hiinz First Glider and Flight

This move, under the Paperclip Act,* had a dramatic impact on the family. The parents, in their mid-forties, with three children, five suitcases, \$450 and a promise of a good job and a free return in five years, made the move to America, a major change in their lives.

Initially, the family stayed with dad's boss, Dr. Ernst Steinhoff. Heinz had learned basic English in school, but improved his vocabulary by reading the comic books which were left in the house. The next move was into military housing at Holloman AFB. During this time, Heinz progressed through high school, spent a lot of time on the Steinhoff farm and became active in the Civil Air Patrol.

The next move was to La Luz, N.M. and where the family lived in the Mauldin House, (Bill Mauldin, the famous Chicago Newspaper political cartoonist). A very interesting home, with foot-thick walls made of mud, also known as adobe. It had a basement and attic full of food and people history. Just the right stuff to teach a teenager Heinz. And the home came with some 2 acres of orchard and meadows, just right to keep busy and out of trouble and to keep horses. So Heinz became proficient in riding his own horse, Ranger. He chased weather balloons launched by Holloman Missile Range, ran cattle in the mountains, revived a bunch of WW-II aircraft radios and kept them tuned to White Sands Missile Range and became very active in the Civil Air Patrol. He also got his first car, and his first official paying job,

Life was good for Heinz and the family. America offered lots of opportunities for folks who showed an interest. So there was never a question: Shall we return? The family just stayed in America and became legal citizens. Heinz attended New Mexico State University and eventually moved to the Seattle area with a job at The Boeing Company in his future.

*Operation Paperclip was a **secret United States intelligence program** in which more than 1,600 German scientists, engineers, and technicians were taken from former Nazi Germany to the U.S. for government employment after the end of World War II in Europe, between 1945 and 1959.

In the chaos following World War II, the U.S. government faced many difficult decisions, in-

cluding what to do with the Third Reich's scientific minds. These were the brains behind the Nazis' once-indomitable war machine. So began Operation Paperclip, a decades-long, covert project to bring Hitler's scientists and their families to the United States.

Many of these men were accused of war crimes, and they were also directly responsible for major advances in rocketry, medical treatments, and the U.S. space program. Was Operation Paperclip a moral outrage, or did it help America win the Cold War?

Drawing on exclusive interviews with dozens of Paperclip family members, colleagues, and interrogators, and with access to German archival documents, files obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, and dossiers discovered in government archives, author Annie Jacobsen wrote in her book "Operation Paperclip: The Secret Intelligence Program that Brought Nazi Scientists to America." She wrote about more than a dozen German scientists through their postwar lives and into a startling, complex, nefarious, and jealously guarded government secret of the twentieth century.

In this definitive, controversial look at one of America's most strategic, and disturbing, government programs, Jacobsen shows just how dark government can get in the name of national security.

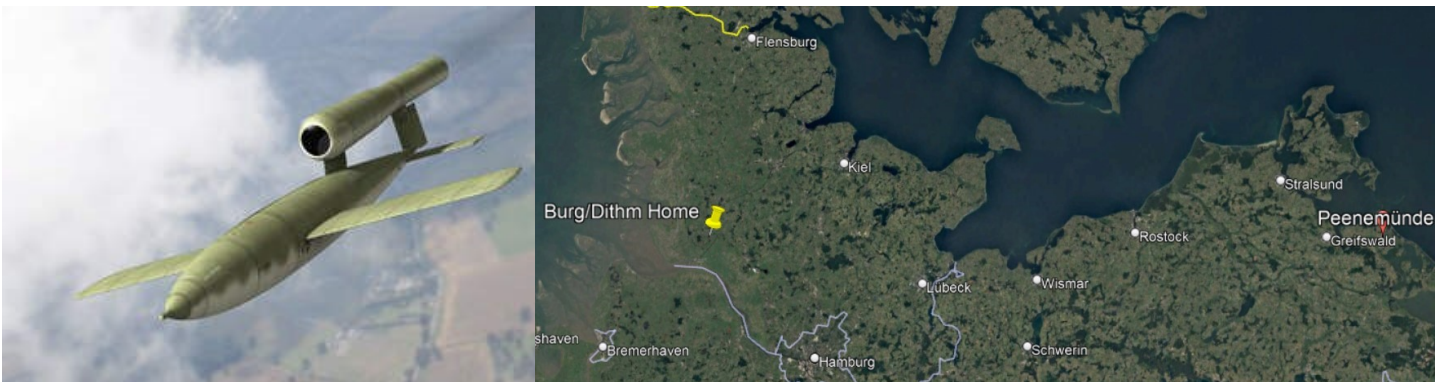
Postscript: Quite a while after Mom and Dad had passed, my Cousin calls me about a book.

It is called The V-1, the Buzz Bomb

Dad's name is all over the book.

Design, Test and Fielding

Now I know why Mom and I spent a summer at Peenemünde, Germany.



As mentioned previously, volunteer hours may be submitted to Mary at marybarri@centurylink.net or Dick Beham at bbbeditor@live.com.

The meeting was adjourned after the door prize drawing.

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EASTSIDE
HERITAGE
CENTER



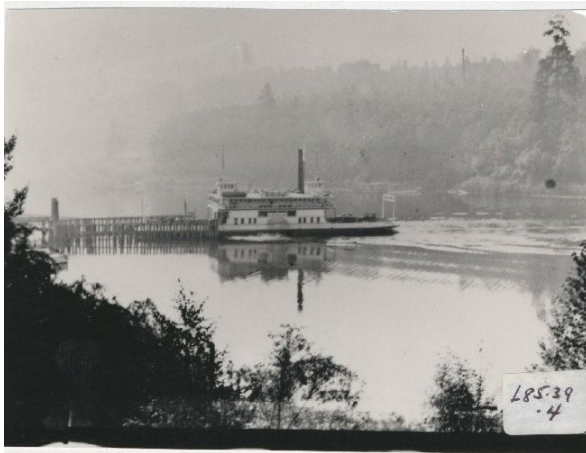
Discover. Share. Participate.

Eastside Stories

A Port on the Lake

BY MARGARET LALIBERTE, EHC VOLUNTEER

The lake ferries were now all being operated privately, although the county owned the boats leased to Anderson. In 1924 Anderson's Lake Washington Ferries advertised daily excursions on the county's steamer 'Atlanta' between Lake Washington and the Seattle waterfront through the Ship Canal and locks. Lake cruises and excursions were more lucrative than the ferry routes. In 1925 Anderson announced that he would turn boats back on the following January 1 (which the lease allowed him to do) unless the county would pay \$70,000 to buy and install a new engine on the 'Lincoln.' Or the county could just give him the boat and he would pay for the engine. As one wag suggested in the newspaper, maybe Anderson could compromise with an Evinrude outboard.



L85.039.004 - The venerable 'Leschi' ferried vehicles and passengers between 1913 and 1950. She had a brief second act on the route between Seattle and Vashon Island and finally ended her days as a salmon cannery in Alaska.

Anderson persevered; in 1927 his lease was extended without fanfare until 1951. But it was becoming clear that the real culprit in the "unprofitability" of ferry service was the automobile. Paving of the highway encircling the lake was completed in 1923, and the East Channel bridge to Mercer Island's east shore opened in that year. A floating bridge between the island and Seattle had been proposed in 1921, but it wasn't seriously considered until 1930. After funds became available through the Public Works Administration and serious planning began, one final major showdown over the ferry lease developed.

The Washington Toll Bridge Authority feared it would be difficult to pay off the bonds, which had financed the bridge, with bridge tolls so long as competition in the form of lake ferries continued. Under this pressure, in December 1938 the county commissioners cancelled Anderson's

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lease. He fought back by filing a claim for anticipated damages. Negotiations among the three parties finally led to a settlement. The county would not cancel the lease, and the Toll Authority would pay Anderson \$35,000. In exchange, he would terminate the Leschi-Medina route and the runs to Mercer Island once the bridge opened. The run between Madison Park and Kirkland would continue to operate.

There was one final unpleasant chapter to play out. The floating bridge opened on July 2, 1940 and that month Anderson announced that he was returning the ferry 'Washington' and the docks at Medina and Roanoke to the county and planned to return the launch 'Mercer' the following month. When the boats were returned they were found to be in very poor condition. One had had its federal license cancelled because of unseaworthiness. The commissioners ruled that Anderson would have to pay a sum, as yet undetermined, in lieu of repairing the vessels. Anderson countered that the boats were "just wore out" and that if they had been owned by a private business, they would have been "depreciated off the books long ago." The lease, however, provided that he was to return all boats leased in good condition. Appraisers from each side were unable to agree on the present value of the boats; the county's property agent was left to salvage what he could from the two boats.



John Anderson died of a heart attack on May 18, 1941. His widow, Emilie, and his longtime right-hand man, Harrie Tompkins, continued to operate the Kirkland ferry under the lease with the county. During World War II the ferry 'Lincoln' ferried shipyard workers between Madison Park and the Lake Washington Shipyard at Houghton. The 'Leschi' continued to make the Kirkland-Madison Park run.

1998BHS.027.027 - Leschi's last trip, leaving Medina.

In July 1947 Emilie Anderson wrote the county commissioners announcing that Lake Washington Ferries would not continue its lease beyond the end of the year and might suspend ferry service before then. But the enterprise just kept staying afloat. On January 30, 1950, however, the Seattle Times ran three photos of teary longtime passengers and onlookers—including faithful Harrie Tompkins--saying goodbye to the 'Leschi' on what was expected to be its final run. But no, there was still more. Members of the union operating the boat attempted to continue to operate it so long as revenues could meet wages. Their effort could not be sustained, however. On August 31, 1950 the Leschi made its truly final run on the lake, and vehicle ferry service between the Eastside and Seattle ended. In November the county commissioners voted to offer to the cities of Kirkland and Seattle the piers and land adjacent to them at their old ferry landings,

for use as public parks. And so this colorful and complicated piece of local history finally came to an end.

Roving with Perseverance **2021-2022 National Tour**



Opened October 30th at the Museum of Flight

The Museum of Flight is the first site to exhibit NASA's full-scale replicas of the Agency's newest robotic explorers on Mars—the rover and helicopter, *Perseverance* and *Ingenuity*.

The twins are part of NASA's Roving with *Perseverance* roadshow to museums that are members of NASA's **Museum and Informal Education Alliance**. The digging, scooping, roaming, flying, listening, photographing and analyzing robots have an almost “human” presence on the Red Planet, and the full-scale mock-ups will offer Museum visitors a visceral way to identify with them. The rover's lookalike is as big as a car, and its camera “head” towers over most people, while *Ingenuity's* diminutive double fits under Percy's belly.

To join the two, the Museum has pulled out of the archives, it's full-scale model of *Sojourner*, the first vehicle to drive on Mars. Part of the Mars Pathfinder mission which landed on the Ares Vallis region of the red planet in 1997.

The mock-ups are displayed in the Charles Simonyi Space Gallery. Throughout the run of the exhibition, the gallery's video wall will be updated to show the latest images from the robust rover and its flying sidekick. Future plans include speaker programs and other events related to Mars in fact and fiction. Please check the Museum's Calendar for updates.

Learn more about the Mars Rover Tour here: go.nasa.gov/marsrovertour

Perseverance and Ingenuity

NASA's **Mars 2020 Mission** landed *Perseverance* and *Ingenuity* on the Red Planet on Feb.18, 2021. Operations on the surface of Mars are planned to last at least one Mars year (687 Earth days). *Perseverance* is searching for signs of ancient microbial life, and will advance NASA's quest to explore the past habitability of Mars. *Ingenuity* is testing the technology for powered, controlled flight on another world for the first time. Its historic maiden flight took place on April 19, 2021. Since then, the helicopter has successfully performed additional experimental

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flights of incrementally farther distance and greater altitude. With its tech demo complete, Ingenuity transitions to a new **operations demonstration** phase to explore how future rovers and aerial explorers can work together.

A key objective for *Perseverance's* mission on Mars is **astrobiology**, including the search for signs of ancient microbial life. The rover will characterize the planet's geology and past climate, pave the way for human exploration of the Red Planet, and be the first mission to collect and cache Martian rock and regolith (broken rock and dust).

Subsequent NASA missions, in cooperation with ESA (European Space Agency), would send spacecraft to Mars to collect these sealed samples from the surface and return them to Earth for in-depth analysis.

“Then it was Winter”

Becky Thomas, May 13

THIS IS RIGHT ON THE NOSE.READ IT SLOWLY... I DON'T KNOW WHO WROTE IT, BUT I AM GUESSING IT WAS A SENIOR!!! I FIRST STARTED READING THIS AND WAS READING FAST UNTIL I REACHED THE THIRD SENTENCE. I STOPPED AND STARTED OVER READING SLOWER AND THINKING ABOUT EVERY WORD. THIS IS VERY THOUGHT-PROVOKING. MAKES YOU STOP AND THINK.

AND THEN IT IS WINTER You know. . . time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years.

It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. But, here it is... the winter of my life and it catches me by surprise...How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go?

I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like. But, here it is...my friends are retired and getting grey...they move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me...but, I see the great change....Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant...but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore... it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will... I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so...now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!

But, at least I know, that though the winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will last...this I know, that when it's over on this earth...it's NOT over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done...things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in your winter yet...let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!

Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not! You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life...so, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember...and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!

"Life" is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.

LIVE IT WELL! ENJOY TODAY! DO SOMETHING FUN! BE HAPPY! HAVE A GREAT DAY! REMEMBER....

"It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver.

"LIVE HAPPY IN THIS YEAR AND EVERY YEAR!

LASTLY, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE SO - ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS.

- ~Your kids are becoming you.....
- ~Going out is good... Coming home is better!
- ~You forget names.... But it's OK because other people forgot they even knew you!!!
- ~You realize you're never going to be really good at anything
- ~The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.
- ~You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep".
- ~You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch.
- ~You tend to use more 4 letter words ... "what? "...when?"... "were?"
- ~Now that you can afford expensive jewelry, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.
- ~You notice everything they sell in stores is "sleeveless"?!!!
- ~What used to be freckles are now liver spots.
- ~Everybody whispers.
- ~You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet.... 2 of which you will never wear.
- ~But Old is good in some things: Old Songs, Old movies, and best of all, OLD

FRIENDS!!

Stay well, "OLD FRIEND!" Send this on to other "Old Friends!" and let them laugh in AGREEMENT!!!

It's Not What You Gather, But What You Scatter That Tells What Kind of Life You Have Lived.

**November
7th**



Wisecracks & Quips ...



I finally did it!

Bought a new pair of shoes with memory foam insoles.

No more forgetting why I walked into the kitchen.

People can stay connected to the IRS through social media and e-news subscriptions

Taxpayers can stay in the know on all things tax-related by following the IRS verified social media accounts and subscribing to the agency's e-news services. Here are some details about these valuable information resources.

IRS social media platforms

- **Twitter:** [Taxpayers](#), [businesses](#) and [tax professionals](#) can follow the IRS handles for up to the minute announcements, tips and [alerts](#) in English and [Spanish](#).
- **Facebook:** News and information for everybody. Also available in [Spanish](#).
- **Instagram:** The IRS Instagram account shares taxpayer-friendly information.
- **YouTube:** The IRS offers three video channels -- [English](#), [Multilingual](#) and [American Sign Language](#).
- **LinkedIn:** The IRS shares key agency communications and job opportunities.

The agency continues to increase multilingual outreach on social media. For example, IRS has created individual Twitter Moments in six languages, highlighting key messages in [Spanish](#), [Vietnamese](#), [Russian](#), [Korean](#), [Haitian Creole](#) and [Simplified Chinese](#).

The IRS also has a free mobile app, IRS2Go, where taxpayers can check their refund status, pay taxes, find free tax help, watch IRS YouTube videos, and get daily tax tips. The IRS2Go app is available from the Google Play Store for Android devices, or from the Apple App Store for Apple devices. It is available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Taxpayers should not reply to an IRS direct message on social media asking for personal or financial information. These are common scams that try to lure taxpayers on social media platforms or with unsolicited emails, texts, or calls.

Get automatic updates by email

The IRS e-News subscription service issues tax information by email for many different audiences. It provides tips, tools, and helpful materials of interest to taxpayers and organizations. The IRS offers subscription services tailored to tax exempt and government entities, small and large businesses as well as individuals. The service is easy to use. Anyone can sign up by visiting IRS [e-News Subscriptions](#).

November 11th



November 25th



In Person Meetings
Resumed June 2021
Calendar of Events 2021

Jan 14	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Jan 29	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Feb 11	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Feb 26	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Mar 11	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Mar 26	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Apr 15	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Apr 30	Chapter Monthly Meeting
May 13	Heritage Leadership Meeting
May 28	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Jun 10	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Jun 25	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Jul 30	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Aug 27	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Sep 16	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Sept 24	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Oct 29	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Nov 19	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Dec 9	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Dec 17	Chapter Monthly Meeting (Potluck)

Food Bank Schedule For 2021

Cash donations collected at each monthly meeting to be given to a different food bank each month.

January	Highline	Heinz Gehlhaar
February	Bellevue	Doug Hoople
March	Federal Way	Lonnie Stevenson
April	Maple Valley	Vaughn's
May	Kent	Melinda Stubbs
June	Auburn	Martha Battles
July	West Seattle	Heinz Gehlhaar
August	Tacoma	(open)
September	Renton	Eleanor Skinner
October	White Center	Heinz Gehlhaar
November	Des Moines	Lonnie Stevenson
December	Issaquah	Eleanor Skinner

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**Don't Forget to
Report Your Hours!**

Bluebills Heritage Chapter Meeting



“Chapter Christmas Potluck”

December 17, 2021

Social 10:30AM, Potluck 11:00AM



Note: No Chapter Meeting in November, Happy Thanksgiving

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

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 1K-B02, Seattle, WA 98124
Email to bluebills@boeing.com or bring to Bluebills monthly meeting