

# BOSTON RETIRED PILOTS ONE CLAW

WINTER-92

ISSUE # 2

This is the second edition of the Boston Retired Pilot's Quarterly Newsletter. We may be retired but still enjoy fly-ins and want to know the up to date information that will effect us as retired pilots and soon to be retired.

- **ONE CLAW The Name**

Where did the name **ONE CLAW** come from? The **Lobster** is the name of the monthly newsletter put out by the Boston Chief Pilots office. We were asked to try a sometime maybe quarterly letter to the retired Delta pilots in New England. Seemed only proper that Lobster of some sort should apply. What better name than **ONE CLAW** the crusty *old* Lobster? We may be retired but we can still get around. Keep the cards and letters coming because we need a communications network. Big "D" is quite large and the only way we can keep in touch or communicate is through a written newsletter of some sort, **ONE CLAW** can be the center for information.

- **Yellowbird Cruise**

The cruise through the Panama Canal commenced on the 20th of September, in Long Beach, CA and ended 14 days later in Montego Bay. The cruise was enjoyed in spite of a few setbacks, oil containment ring around the ship before we left the dock at LA, no leak just a 6 hour delay that caused the cancellation of the Puerta Vallarta stop, disappointed many. A little excitement at Manzanilla, 200 feet of anchor had to be winched in by rope 10 feet at time, another small delay. The stops at Acapulco and Costa Rica were enjoyable. The trip through the Panama Canal was outstanding. The history of the 75-year-old Canal with picture and all problems that had to be overcome is one of the wonders of the world. Fact: there has been more earth removed updating the Canal than was removed during its construction.

- **Delta Telephone Tree**

We of the retired group have swelled to almost 150 in New England and are growing each year. There was at one time a phone system, but it seems to have broken down since Jack and Elaine have moved South. Pete Kallander and Bruce MacGilvra have suggested that we need a new phone tree. The newer retired will be responsible for calling the older and more mature retired. To get this off the ground we will start with; Pete Kallander (508-485-2328), Bruce MacGilvra (508-897-7056), George Chaudoin (603-642-5368), Ray Curti (603-742-7628) and Jack McWalter (508-369-6352). Each of the above will start with five calls and so on down the list.

- **October 13th Fly-In**

Fly-In at the scenic North Ashland, NH Airdrome (N43 44.4, W71 40.0) was attended by 30 pilots in ten aircraft. The weather cooperated again and gave us a spectacular day. Bill Grady and Al Speckman were gracious hosts as always and the return performance of Bill Alby A&E cook extraordinaire made for a wonderful and relaxed cookout of hamburgers and chicken. Attending this year were Bob Lebewohl in his Stearman, Bob brought a very cold Boston Chief Pilot, Roger Green, (glass cockpit pilots need to remember long pants and gloves), Don Champagne arrived in his Aeronca with Bob Patrick and Don's ever present pet gorilla. Dave Bushy Boston Asst. Chief Pilot in his 175 flew Paul Heckard retired Boston Chief Pilot to the Fly-In. Lou Fradette arrived with Pete Kallander in Pete's Lake, Norm Houle in his PA 28 brought in John Stumpf, and John's first light airplane rode since 1945 without a parachute. A second Stearman flown by Ted

Roberts Jr. brought Dad Ted Sr.; Carl Beatrice flew his 172 and was accompanied by Chris Johnson. Ken Magill arrived in a 182, as did George Chaudoin in his 182 with passengers Dave Hancock and John Paulson. Ralph Hackley was flown in by Bill Donahue in his Cessna 337, Frank "Mac" McKowen arrived in his just completed Fairchild F-24 and gave a ride to the former Fairchild owner Bob Smythe, who received not only his Commercial but also his Instrument rating in this very Fairchild many moons ago. The last to arrive in his sparkling Cub was John Fleurent, John gave us a short but colorful air show. Those that arrived by other means were, Lou Balestra, John Roquet, Norm Abare, George Voedisch, Paul Donaghue and Carl Higginson. The great picker of Fly-In's returned to the great secret weather map and has selected May 18th 1993 with a snow date of May 20th, my the clear skies be with you. The number attending keeps growing and so does the guessing for the food supplier. Those that plan to attend the May Fly-In be sure to call Bill, Al or Bill at 603-536-9808 with the number in your party. Thanks so much for attending and have a safe ski season.

#### • Help For You or Someone You Know

A friend of mine spent forty years at sea in a very responsible position as chief engineer of a very large ship. Never drank while on duty and only occasionally drank socially at appropriate times. After he retired and had excess time on his hands he started to drink more "socially". Within a very short time he was drinking daily and in less than two years had two DWI's. His life fell apart. He nearly lost everything he had worked so hard to obtain. Fortunately his company had a program to help those in trouble with alcohol/drugs and he is living a sober, clean life today. He tells me how insidious alcohol crept up to him.

Since you retirees no longer have to worry about eight hours bottle to throttle any more perhaps you as a past aviator of Delta might be able to identify with this story.

The same group, Delta Pilots Assistance Committee that helps active pilots is available in Boston to help, if needed, by retired pilots. The

same 28-day recovery program is also available through Delta.

We have a "Bird's Nest" in North Hampton, NH that meets every Tuesday night at 2000 in a barn full of aviation memorabilia for pilots with alcohol problems. For further information on "the birds" or information on help available to you or your family or another retired pilot.

\* HAVE YOU ever felt you ought to cut down?

\* HAVE YOU ever felt Guilty about how much you drink?

\* HAVE YOU or anyone near you gotten Annoyed when you drink.

\* HAVE YOU had to have an Eye opener to get going?

Contact; **Barry Watkins (603-778-8629)** or **Mike Lloyd (508-428-7369)**

#### • Lump-Sum Distribution

Pilots who elected the lump sum option have met with Mr. Tom Livergood, Personal Financial Services and Mr. David Keller, Investment Manager, Harris Trust and Savings Bank of Chicago. The first meeting in October was to access the program presented by Harris Trust. Those that selected Harris Trust to handle their lump sum distribution met again with Tom and David to discuss individually the ins and outs of investing for the future as well as planning for future taxes and income. Hope everyone had a chance to read the latest ALPA on Pension Lump-Sum; we are right on with our fee schedule.

#### • Yellowbird Fly-In

The annual Yellowbird fly-in and hanger party at Bill & Dot Donahue's was held on the 10th of September. The party was attended by 131 from CA., FL, GA, MD, MA, NY and NH, with 6 aircraft flown in. See you again next year at the Donahue's.

#### • Retirement Class of 93

Call the Chief Pilots Office (617-561-2563) for time and dates of the new retirees for their last touch down. You remember yours; why not meet one of the new retired at theirs.

Class of 93, J. B. Conley, 27yrs Jan; M. H. Keefe, 34 yrs Jan; D. E. Ross, 35yrs Mar; J. P. Fleurent, 26yrs Mar; R. F. Gosselin, 27yrs Jun; C. A. Beatrice, 28yrs Jun; W. F. Larson, 35yrs Jun; D.

D. Newkirk, 27yrs Aug; D. A. Callanan, 25yrs Oct; J. O. Dellamorte, 27yrs Oct; R. B. Appel, 35yrs Nov.

- **Delta Retirement Gala**

On November 6, 1992 a Bi-Annual retirement gala was held at the New Boston Vista Hotel in Waltham, MA to honor 24 pilots who had reached the magic 60th birthday or had decided they had enough flying for one career. Those attending as honorees were; Bill Becker, Bill Bronson, George Chaudoin, Ray Curti, Ron Cutliff, Bill Duffy, Bill Dustin, Bob Fraser, Bob Fraser, Paul Heckard, Pete Kallander, Arnie Kenneson, Norris Marston, Bud McLellan, Dick Mullany, Charlie Parrott, Bob Patterson, John Paulson, Howie Pennock, Mo Picard, John Riffle, Larry Schlumper, John Wojas and Rich Zilm. Jack McWalter had planned on attending but was unable due to the serious illness of his wife. Speakers this year after dinner was the ever-welcome Pat Malone who did her usual sterling speech. Our Senior Vice President of Operations, Captain Harry Alger who had a "told you like it is" speech, followed her. The Big Band sound of Soft Touch finished the evening to a full dance floor. Plans are already underway for our 1994 party to be held at the same place in early November. In all we had 231 guests attending and we're looking forward to our next retirement party in 1994. DJ

- **Who has a computer.**

Pete and George still use 'American Online' a commercial network with good results. They have only one problem. No one has yet come forward and admitted that they either have or are slightly interested in computers. We still have back issues of the Boston Pilots monthly "Lobster" but have not come up with an efficient way to distribute them to the retired pilots. The Fly-Ins have helped.

- **Delta Golden Wings**

The 1992 Reunion was held the 11th to 14th of October in St Louis, Gateway to the West. A lot of bull and air stories were pass around of the good old days. No one attempted to flying

under the arch. The next year's 25th anniversary will be held in Atlanta.

- **Sanford group meets**

December 1st, six Delta pilots met for lunch. Visited Bill Harmon's hanger to see his Cessna VC 78 (Bamboo Bomber) on floats, may be the only one in existence. Four aircraft were flown in with Bob Smythe, Dave Hancock, Norm Houle, Rich Zilm, Dave Newkirk and Mo Picard. The suggestion by Norm Houle that during the winter months, on the 2nd Tuesday of Nov. Dec. Jan. Feb. Mar. and Apr. we have lunch at 1100 at the Sanford Airport Restaurant. Great idea. See you at lunch.

- **Letters and Other Information**

Fred Stanwood informs us he is in the same family home since 1928 in West Falmouth and was unfortunately in a bad car accident last year. Fred is also a member of the triple by-pass club. Dick Grahn is moving to Orlando area. Dick Hill's son works in Falmouth and his daughter runs the Falmouth Yacht Club. F.S. The Gitzus and Stump's departed New York on 20th of September for a 15-day tour of Scandinavia. Spend 4 days in Denmark took the ferry to Sweden for a couple of days then 5 more days in Norway. Two days in Oslo and it was back to NY and the Shuttle to Boston. Great experience but remember next time, half the clothes and twice the money.

Paul and Peggy Quilty were in Chicago for a reunion of the 368th Fighter Group, Paul's P-47 WWII group. J.S.

- **Delta Wives Christmas Party**

December 5th was the date that Norm and Kay Houle opened their home for the gathering. A total of 24 came; Scott and Wene Houle, Norm and Windy Tremblay, Carolyn Newkirk and Mickey Higginson were in attendance, some of the active members still have to wor, wor, work. The couples included, Graf's, Hancock's, Donahue's, Chaudoin's, Picard's, Robert's, Farrey's, and the supperized birthday boy John Gitzus, 71 Years young, and wife Ginny. More than a few old, you should have been their,

stories that get bigger and better each time they are told.

- **Prescription Drugs**

Effective January 1, 1993, we the retired group will have to join all other Delta employees in having prescribed maintenance medication filled by, Caremark, 625 Barclay Boulevard, Lincolnshire, IL 60069-4310. If you have any questions call Caremark at; 800-831-4440, or

Delta Insurance at 800-325-6572 during working hours. This new service will save all of us a great deal of money.

- **Final Flight**

This is the most difficult part of any newsletter. Shirley, wife of Jack McWalter died unexpectedly the first of November. Our payers are with Jack and his family. Pappy Wheeler was 86 when he died the 1st of January.

From:  
ONE CLAW  
Retired BOSTON Delta Pilots  
156 Beach Plain Road  
Danville, NH 03819

TO: