

# White Oak Laboratory Alumni Association, Inc.

## The Leaf

VOLUME X ISSUE 11

PROUD MEMORIES

Spring 2008

- Events \*
  - \*NOL Lunch 2nd Mon @Golden Bull in Adelphi
  - \*WOLAA Annual Luncheon at Golden Bull in Gaithersburg, Fri. 16 May 2008 @1100.
  - \*Holiday Luncheon Dec, 2008. Details TBD
  - \*WOLAA Night @ Strathmore. Details TBD
  - \*Florida Reunion in Dade City, 2009. Details TBD

***11 September 2001.....GOD BLESS AMERICA!***

WOLAA Web Site: [www.wolaa.org](http://www.wolaa.org)

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### *News from WOLAA*

**\*Correction.** The Winter LEAF contained the Oral History, "Packaging and Handling Group Oral History." The author was Lowell Rau, Code 7901, PM for Packaging, not Jay Scalise. The LEAF's sincere apology to Lowell.

**\*WOLAA Annual Luncheon.** THIS IS A HEADS UP; SO MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!! The luncheon will be on Friday, 16 May 2008 at 1100 in the Ball Room of the Golden Bull in Gaithersburg, MD. The menu entrée will have three choices: Crab Cake, Prime Rib, and Chicken Supreme. Dee has kept the cost to only \$22 a person. The WOLAA store will be open and managed by Dee and Marie; plan to buy our "cool" new T-shirts for just \$7. They come in three colors: Gray, Tan, and White. A VERY brief business meeting will be help. The Board members with terms ending in 2008 are: Bernie DeSavage, Wayne Hopkins, John Tino, and Dee Zook. If you would like to be on Board, email or call John Tino. We are still desiring an alum who would like to be President of WOLAA—now or in very near future. NOTE: luncheon flyer will be sent to you on 10 April.

**\*Florida Reunion.** Ken and "JJ" Caudle hosted the reunion on 7 March at their Lake Jovita Club House in Dade City. Twenty alum enjoyed great food, sensational setting (overlooking beautiful golf course), and most importantly great visits. Several attended for the first time and folks came from all over FL and even MD. Event was enjoyed so much that it was decided to return to Dade City in early March 2009.

**\*Supplements.** We have eleven supplements or tributes in this LEAF. Many interesting articles and oral histories of products and people at the WOL. I apologize for the cut and pasting I did to provide you this information.

**\*Membership.** Our 2008 membership drive is going well. We have a total of 222 annual members; 90 lifetime; and 221 three-year. This provides a total of 533 members coming from 481 households. In Mid-March, we sent 208 reminders to alum who have been previous members. Hope to get ~20 renewals.

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- The LEAF is published quarterly by the WOLAA, Inc. for its members.

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- Editorial Staff:
    - John Tino
    - Lowell Rau
    - Bob Barnet
    - Frank Koubek
    - Dr. Art Delagrange
    - Dr. Ken Lobb
    - Dr. John Scarzello
    - Ray Mingee

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WOLAA, Inc  
PO Box 1002,  
Olney, MD. 20830  
Phone (301) 439-3140  
E-M: [mrspat218@aol.com](mailto:mrspat218@aol.com)

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**\*Missing Alum Update.** We did really well in finding some of our 70+ missing alum. Supplement A on page S2 gives an update of our list. Information on 16 people was provided to WOLAA. Some are ill and cannot participate in WOLAA. Three unfortunately are now deceased. So there are still over 50 on our missing list. Do your address book search and give us a “shout-out” with their new addresses. We had input from Joyce Walchak, Dana Hesse, and Hal Pazourek with 2 new addresses. Jerry Forbes provided us with three new addresses and will receive a new WOLAA T-shirt. Thank you to all who gave us input.



**\*Historical Preservation.** We are getting close to having a Proud Memory at the WO site. Jim Proctor, Dee Zook, and John Tino met with GSA/FDA/Contractor folks in early March, and things are moving. I have summarized this meeting in Supplement B on page S3; please take the time to read it. WOLAA Board and Historical Preservation Committee Members (George Hamlin and Ed Whitman) are meeting on 26 March to determine pictures, models, papers, etc to use in exhibits. But, more importantly to begin the definition and theme of the exhibits. If anyone would like to join this committee, please contact WOLAA. One issue we are disappointed about is the delay in assessing the condition of the fireplaces, wood, etc which was saved from Building 1 and the auditorium. I encourage you to drive by the WO site and see the progress being made to the entrance and Building 1 Restoration. One humorous item; the contractor began to move the NOL flag pole to its new location but dug down over 25 feet and was still observing the concrete “footer/foundation” for the pole. They even believe they are hearing voices from the other side of the earth.

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## Book Review Johnny Grams.

Mjt

Lots of reading this quarter but all novels. Using PG library in Beltsville so have found a lot more of the books written by Father Greeley. However, on our visit in FL with John and Sue Parkerson, John gave me the titles of three books for your consideration. Will likely have to try library or Amazon.com as books written several years ago: “The Elegant Universe” by Brian Greene: Vintage Books, 2000 (Big Bank and more). “Longitude (Problem of His Time)” by Dava Sobel: Fourth Estate, 1995 (Latitude by shooting stars, but early sailors got longitude by time, so clock key; this is story of a very accurate clock). “Fermat’s Last Theorem” by Simon Singh: Fourth Estate, 1997. Our thanks to John Parkerson.




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## Ramblings of a Senior

Mjt

**\*Emily Is Now Mandy.** The Ramblings in the Winter LEAF described our joy with Emily, which was the name for the voice in the GPS of our rental car. Our son and his family recognized the need for his aging parents to have a GPS. We now have a Tom-Tom GPS, and its voice is named Mandy. It has been great and is saving our marriage. Had a few doubts over Mandy’s routing when we were in Williamsburg recently; but Pat encouraged me to trust Mandy. We made many turns but arrived right at our desired destination. The invention of the century as far as Pat and I are concerned.

**Car Insurance.** When I turned 50, AARP sent me membership forms; so I joined. They then convinced me that their car insurance was the best. I filled out a long form and mailed it in. Their irritating answer was that I was not insurable as I drove too many miles in a year. Well, Art Delagrange had a similar irritating scenario with his insurance company. He took a very creative and enjoyable approach to his dilemma. His article on going fast to show he could still drive is provided in Supplement C on page S5. It will “make-my-day” of everyone who are considered “Seniors” by society based on age.



## Oral History

**\*105mm Plastic Cartridge.** Supplement D on page S9 contains another very interesting oral history about plastic lab; Bob Barnet and Frank Koubek are the authors. Our thanks to them for stimulating the development of WOL's oral history.



**\*Wind Tunnel.** Dr. Ken Lobb prepared a very interesting note to Bob Voisinet which adds to the oral history of the wind tunnel. His note appears as Supplement E on page S12. On page S14 is a very interesting visual that Dr. Lobb used when appearing before Congress to justify the need for the new wind tunnel. Dr. Lobb wrote the following to me: "First, let me say how much I have enjoyed reading the "The LEAF" for the past number of years. You and the rest of the Editorial Staff are doing a great job. Unfortunately, some of the news is not so good. I was particularly saddened to read about the passing of Gene Beach. He was a super guy!

Now, on the purpose of the email. I would very much like to receive a copy of the "Wind Tunnel Oral History Booklet," put together by Bob Voisinet. His earlier articles have been quite interesting. It is obvious that Bob has worked hard to bring together some of the historical fact, and with that in mind I thought I would like to read the booklet and perhaps send Bob some other information to add to his data base. For example, very few people know the true early history of the design of Tunnel No. 9 and why it was built at NOL. Then too, what were the big contributions made with Tunnels No. 3 & 4, and how did Tunnel No. 8 come about. I was a very close friend of Hermann Kurzweg (The leader of the "German scientists"), and Tunnels 1&2 were his babies. We worked on many consulting projects together—outside the Navy and NASA. I recall so clearly some of the interesting stories about his role in development the V2 missile. In any case, I would very much like to receive a copy of the booklet.

John, I often think about the studies we worked on together. (Editor Note: Mk 48 torpedo and Tomahawk Blue Ribbon Studies—after serious development issues had occurred) We made some real contributions and I know our teams really helped the Navy."

**\*Fort Monroe.** Previous issues of the LEAF raised the issue concerning the status of the WOL facility at Fort Monroe. Mike Stripling wrote, "Barbara and I were at Ft. Monroe last Spring to watch the tall ships sail into Hampton Roads. The NSWC facility did not appear to be open; but it certainly has an impressive view." Ray Mingee sent John Scarzella the following note: "Sending you the latest on Monroe and a news clip on the Swift. It will not come back to Norfolk as the contract is about to expire. The Navy will get a newer model. If the price to close Ft. Monroe keeps going up, the Army may have to keep it after all." Ray, who is the retired Assistant Facility Manager of the Ft. Monroe WOL Facility, sent me the following: "The LEAF was wondering about Fort Monroe and what was happening here. This [information attached] is the latest, and it might be getting too expensive to close. The typical government low bid to close is really in the big bucks, and in reality, this number is still rising, John, read the article and you can form your own opinion. The provided information and interesting comments from John Scarzella appear in Supplement F on page S15.

## Features.

### \*Alumni Updates

**-Wind Tunnel Update.** Supplement G on page S18 provides information provided by Dan Marren, current manager of A/F tunnels at WO. The first describes their contribution to system on USS Lake Erie, which shot down the satellite over the Pacific; and the second page notes one of the astronauts on last space shuttle flight had a tour in the tunnels as a young officer.

**-Bill Reams** wrote, "I sent my last LEAF to Jim Radford, who now lives in Columbus, NC. Jim sent me the attached pictures and the address for Joe Mobley after reading in the LEAF that Joe's name was on the missing alum list. The picture of the Mk 48, shown in Supplement H on page S20 was taken at Solomons.

June and Jim are enjoying NC. Their daughter, Carole, and her family live in Oregon. Their son, Jim, and his family live nearby in NC, so are able to visit more often. Gail and I had a really enjoyable phone conversation with them at the end of January. Note: Jim Radford is a ME and worked in U10. He was one of the lead ME's on the Mk 48 torpedo.

**-Digital TV's.** With plasma, HD, digital, flat screen, etc joining our vocabulary for TV sets, I am totally confused. Bernie DeSavage wrote, "Discussion on digital TV age is a good subject for an article. We have one TV that is not hooked to cable, and I've already requested a coupon. The web site will include a list of where the converters will be available for purchase. Each household can request two coupons. Catch is they expire 90 days from issue." The industry converts to digital from analog broadcasting on 17 February 2009. So lots of time. It is my understanding that if you are hooked to cable or satellite TV with your sets, there is no issue. Just, as Bernie, if you have a TV in kitchen, or wherever, which is on a roof antennae or "rabbit-ears," you do have an issue. To minimize the cost to homeowners, the federal government is issuing coupons to subsidize your cost for the converters. When buying a new TV, you should make sure it is digitally compatible. The next issue of the LEAF will have a more detailed article.

**-NOL in Wikipedia.** E. G. Powell wrote, "There is a NOL entry in Wikipedia on the internet. Because of the archival qualities of Wikipedia, it seems like a good idea for a lot of the WOLAA stuff to be transferred over there. Doing this would presumably require some sort of editing and permission from the oral history authors. Please circulate this idea and see if there is any interest. Anyone can edit existing Wikipedia articles. It is necessary to set up an account (free to all) in order to initiate new articles." Note: George Hamlin and I have reviewed the Wikipedia NOL write-up, and it is in serious need of additions and corrections. I had planned to do a draft for George to edit; but just didn't get to it. Hope we can use some of material WOLAA developing for Historical Preservation. Oral history add to Wikipedia sounds like a great idea; what do you all think????

**-Dahlgren Employees ID Theft.** Recently, a person who worked at DL was informed by PA police that a person was buying a big-screen TV at Sears using the DL employees credit card. The ID thief when arrested had two pages of a 1994 NSWC/DL report with ID information; the pages contained 100 names starting with "Bow" and ending with names starting with "Bre." DL does not know how the report was lost, and do not know if other pages are out there. For clarification about your records, call (800) 352-7967 from Mon-Fri from 0800-1600. Some one from the DL Employees Relations Staff will contact you. You are also recommended to have a credit report done and carefully monitor accounts. This occurred in early January 2008. The article implied the missing report was for people employed at NSWC/DL in 1994. While I retired in 1993, it wasn't clear if all my data would have been removed from such reports. To be safe, call the number.

**-Dr. Carl E. Mueller.** Carl sent me an article from the newspaper in Crossland, TN. Carl has been very involved in economic development of Cumberland County. He has worked to start a science and technology incubator at Roane State Community College. The picture shows Carl holding the resolution from Crossland's government which established the incubator. The investment for the entrepreneurship in the county is over several million dollars. The resolution contained:

"Whereas, Dr. Carl Mueller, Crossville's bio-technology advisor, is to be commended for his major role in involving Crossville and Tennessee's intellectual infrastructure so as to begin to link assets together in a spirit of entrepreneurship and quality of life leading toward these partnerships and alliances."

Our congratulations to Carl for his involvement in his new community in TN.

**-Stanley Jashemski.** George Stathopoulos found an interesting article on Stanley. It appears a writer was doing a book review and included an accomplishment by Stanley. When he was 19, he proposed a proof for Pythagorean Theorem; the youngest person to do such. The write-up from George and the newspaper is in Supplement I, page S21. Stanley worked in U42 in the 200 area on mine projects.



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**\*Deceased Alumni.**

-Please inform Houston Cole of any information you have about deceased alumni; phone is (410)489-2977 or email/write WOLAA.

-**Bessie Mae Williams.** See Tribute to Bessie in Supplement J, page S22

-**Ralph A. Alpher.** See Tribute to Ralph in Supplement K, page S23. Alpher was a physicist at NOL. While at GW, he published work on theory of "Big Bang." He died at age 86 on 12 August 2007. His wife, Louise, died in 2004. He is survived by his son, Victor Alpher, of Austin and daughter, Harriet Lebetkin, of Danbury, Conn; and two grandchildren. Information on Ralph was provided by Gordon Riel.

-**Lou Helen Stickel.** Lou died several years ago of Parkinson's disease. Lou was the head of the typing pool at NOL in the 50's-60's. Sylvia Humphrey provided this information.

-**George B. Greene.** George's wife Barbara provided the following information, "My husband passed away on 5 November 2005. He started working at NOL on 12 October 1939 and retired on 26 December 1980. George then worked at NOL as a subcontractor until 1994. During his 53 years at NOL, he was a member of the Golf Club and Archery Club. We participated in other activities at NOL including the Friday night movies. George enjoyed working with fellow employees at NOL and looked forward to every day he was there." He worked in the Missile Dynamics Branch in Building 411.

-**Bob Ryswick.** We received word that Bob died in 2007; no other information is available. Bob headed up a team in U42 which did all the minefield data re sensors and warhead effects for the Fleet.

-**Jim Russell** We received word that Jim died in 2007; no other information is available. Jim worked in the Product Design Branch of E Department.

-**Mary Collard.** Mary died at her home in January 2008. She had retired from Carderock in February 2006. She worked in security at WOL and Carderock. Her daughter Linda works at Carderock. No other information is available.