

THE MAINE TROOP GREETERS

FALL NEWSLETTER



Vol. 2 Issue 4
Oct - Dec 2013

WELCOME NEW TROOP GREETERS

Anthony Campbell 7/6/13
Suzanne Delfin 7/11/13
Shawn Jernigan Jr. 7/9/13
Nicole Jordan 7/12/13
Cass Martin 7/2/13
Adelah Mishio 7/1/13
Marion Morse 7/8/13

Roland Boyce 8/31/13
Emmett Butts 8/24/13
Lyle Grindle 8/8/13

Maxine Cray-Willis 9/13/13
Alecia Fisher 9/10/13
Melva Smith 9/10/13
Kerry Spofford 9/13/13
Pam Spofford 9/13/13

JUNIOR MEMBERS

Leah Boucher 7/8/13
Kerrie Jordan 7/12/13

Welcome to the fall issue of the Maine Troop Greeters Newsletter. Yes, summer is over, and as is usually the question, where did it go? I saw a pick-up the other day with a plow attached, so the seasons have officially changed. No matter the season, summer or fall, the mission of Maine Troop Greeters remains the same.

OUR MISSION The mission of The Maine Troop Greeters is to express the Nation's gratitude and appreciation to those Troops going overseas for a safe return and for those returning, for a joyful homecoming and to make their (hopefully brief) stay in Bangor as comfortable and pleasant as possible.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE: Another year is closing and our Troops are still on the move. They are still amazed to see us, particularly in the middle of the night. When you look them in the eye, have a firm handshake and a smile, you make them feel very special! I praise the way you are conducting yourselves. Daily, new folks want to join us in our mission. The number of Troops passing through may be down and that's good; however, whether a flight has 1 or 350, each trooper is important.

Remember little actions speak loudly, such as when one of you left a dollar on the lunch counter to help the Trooper behind you pay their bill!

Hang out with your peers, help us make things BETTER not Bigger! Run for the Board or join a committee and, Please come to the Troop Greeters' Annual Meeting this Nov.23.

Chuck Knowlen

LETTER OF APPRECIATION: Post card sent to Troop Greeter, Lou Horvath, received week of Sept. 30th.

Lou, it was great to meet you a couple of weeks ago when our battalion came through Bangor airport on our way to Afghanistan. I can't begin to tell you how humble we all were to see the outpouring of support from all the veterans and other good people of Bangor. Thank you, and all the others.

Navy Senior Chief, Jeff Wolstein



GREETERS PROFILE:

Don Gallupe, born in Brewer and raised in Bangor has lived his entire life in the community. One of eight children, Don and his four brothers all served in the Army. His older brother Arthur died fighting in southern France in World War Two. Don served in the Army Air Corp during WWII, and was sent to Australia and eventually onto New Guinea. It took his troop ship forty two days to travel from the U.S. to Australia with passage thru the Panama Canal. This trip was an adventure on its own with a ship filled with rowdy shipmates, an enemy sub scare, an engine breakdown, and the equator crossing ritual known as the “shellback ceremony”.

Shortly after the war, Don’s parents took over the management of a lodge on Schoodic Lake. Don and his family have always had close ties to this area, where as a youngster he and his four brothers and three sisters would spend their summers at a rented cottage on the lake. Upon returning from the service, Don obtained a class A certificate as a Maine guide, and guided fishing trips from the lodge for many years. He can tell many tales from these days including one of getting lost and when finally found having to have his boots cut off from his feet. Along the way, he earned a business degree, began a life-long career in banking, married his wife of sixty three years Patricia, and began to raise a family.

Don comes from a musical family and was introduced to the harmonica in the fourth grade, which every once in a while he will bring to the airport and serenade his fellow Troop Greeters. Don and Pat have been Troop Greeters for many years and attend as many flights as they can .Don has been a board member and continues on at this time as a member of the Membership Committee.

Each newsletter, we’d like to feature a **New Troop Greeter** with a short Q & A. If you are new to the group and wouldn’t mind a few quick questions. Please contact the Membership committee

This month, we’d like to introduce Sarah Rodier from Lagrange. Sarah is an Army Guard Veteran currently serving with 1136th Transportation Company. Welcome Sarah!



Q: What do you enjoy (or miss) the most about serving?

A: I love driving the big trucks, firing the weapon systems, the comraderie, traveling, and serving my country.

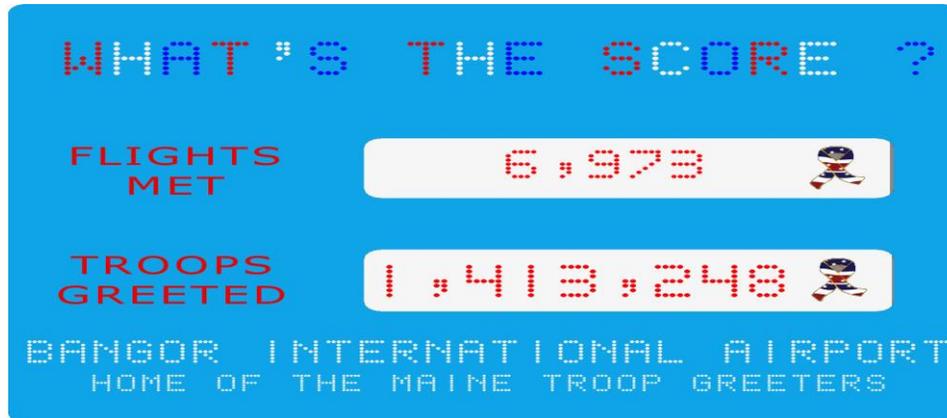
Q: What do you enjoy most about greeting our troops?

A: I enjoy seeing the smiles and surprise on the troop’s faces and the stories they have to tell. I think it is so cool that I have something in common with every single troop that gets off that plane. We all wear the uniform to do the same task; to serve America and our loved ones.

Q: What do you enjoy, what are your hobbies? Tell us about yourself.

A: Some of my hobbies are hunting, fishing (ice and open water), gardening, muddin’ with my lifted Ford truck (that I call black betty), being at camp, home, and spending time with my boyfriend Adam. My 2 MOST favorite things are riding my Harley Davidson and spending time with my 7 year old German Shepherd Therapy dog, Dakota, who is also a Troop Greeter. :-)

As of October 1, 2013



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Nov 11th, Veterans Day Parade 10 to 12 noon. Cheer on our Veterans. Meet at former Muddy Rudder restaurant to cheer and view parade.

Nov. 16th, Veterans Recognition Day, U. of Maine football game at Alford Stadium. Details Pending.

Nov 23th, Trooper Greeters Annual Meeting. 10 to 12 noon at Bangor Parks and Rec. bldg... Please plan on attending.

MAINE AIR MUSEUM EXHIBIT: Some time ago Maine Troop Greeters was approached by Bob Littlefield of the Maine Air Museum to have a Troop Greeter exhibit housed at the museum. While the exhibit will be placed in the museum, it will belong to Maine Troop Greeters, and will be available for display in the community. When we agreed to Bob's proposal, he and Hank Marois "chairman of the Maine Air Museum" took on the task of designing and assembling the exhibit, with the assembly step taking place in Hanks barn in Trenton. Hank and Bob report that the following groups contributed to the project:



Lowes, Brewer
World of Flags, Charleston
Staples, Airport Mall, Bangor
Owen Gray & Son, Brewer
Wade Wilson, Levant

Maine Air Museum, 99 Maine St., Bangor,

In addition, Troop Greeters Roberta York, Deb Milner, Cathy Czarnecki, and Paulette Buorngirno also pitched in to complete the job. As you can see by the photo, everyone did a great job. HATS OFF TO ALL!!

The exhibit will be on display at the Bangor Public Library for the month of November.

PAGERS: As was presented at the general meeting on Sept.14, the use of pagers will be discontinued on Dec. 31. The reason for this change is that the job of contacting Troop Greeters thru the pager system is a 24/7 responsibility, and it is asking too much for one person to handle this job. Since no one has volunteered to help out and share in this responsibility, we will end the use of pagers on Dec.31. Pager users should contact Bill Dean at 299-7977 or at wdean@yahoo.com to have their name and phone number placed in the call-em-all system. Do not contact airport personnel directly to have this change made.

RETIREMENT: Best wishes to Bob Peterson on retiring from St. Joseph Hospital after twenty three years of service. Along with his previous twenty years in the Air Force, Bob is looking forward to a life of retirement and relaxation.

IN SYMPATHY: Condolences to the families of the following Troop Greeters who have recently passed away:

Fred William Bean	June 25, 2013
Douglas Morris Jr.	July 7, 2013
Dana Chase	July 30, 2013
Elthier L. Sonia	August, 31, 2013
William Leslie	September 13, 2013

In addition to the above names, we would like to recognized the passing of Barbara J. Crawford, July 31st, 2010 and Carolyn L. Brown Barbour, Oct. 15th, 2012

WELCOME BACK: Troop Greeter Paul Martin had surgery this summer followed by a stay in the Maine Veterans Home .He is now back home, and is looking forward to resuming meeting flights at the airport.

SICK CALL: Bill Knight and Barbara Jewell are in the Maine Veterans Home, 41 Hogan Rd., Bangor. A card or visit would be appreciated.

CALLING ALL SNO-BIRDS: Please contact Bill Dean at 299-7977 or wdean@yahoo.com to have your call-em-all service discontinued when you leave for the winter, and restarted when you return.

LEADING THE WAY AT MAINE VETERENS' HOME: Maine Veterans' Homes awards employees each year that best represent the six core values. One of those core values is 'Lead the Way'. Lead theWay is helping the facility to shape the future of nursing home care.

Our own Troop Greeter, Allison Hernandez was awarded employee of the year for 'Lead the Way' in June 2013. Allison has assisted the facility to help shape nursing home care by ensuring that our veterans feel at home and by ensuring their daily routine continues at the facility. Maine Veterans' Homes is leading the nation in nursing home care for our veterans.

Allison's name was put in with others throughout the state of Maine. Allison didn't win for the State of Maine but we like to salute her for Leading the Way for our veterans.