

THE MAINE TROOP GREETERS WINTER NEWSLETTER



**Vol. 2 Issue 1
Jan - Mar 2013**

WELCOME NEW TROOP GREETERS

Jennifer Pictou 10/12

Bill Aston 11/12

Steven Vachon 11/12

Ken Vaillancourt 11/12

Sam Winchester 11/12

Daniel Chase 12/12

Emily Zurcher 12/12

Happy New Year and welcome to the winter issue of our Maine Troop Greeters Newsletter. As always, your comments and suggestions are appreciated, especially comments as to what you would like to see in future issues. Flight activity continues to be down and sporadic, but this should be no reason to lessen our enthusiasm to greet flights.

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

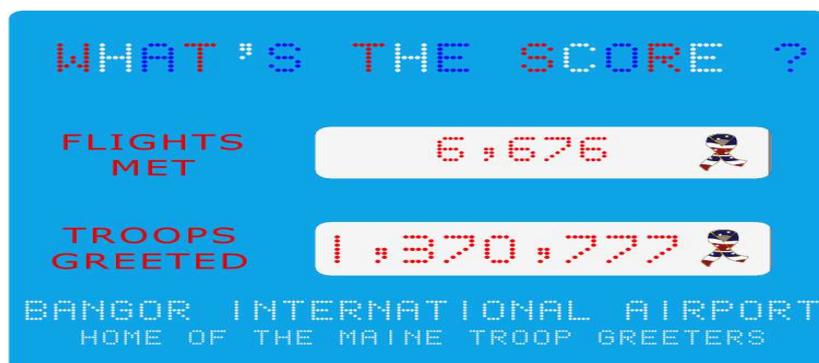
My year as your Chair ends Dec 31st. I've been pleased with the support you have given me. The support for our great men and women is known throughout the world. Even though we are having fewer flights, you continue to "**EXPRESS THE NATIONS GRATITUDE**" "as we should. Thanks.

You spent many extra hours working on the coin collection, the greeter room, maintaining phones, monitoring the room, keeping track of greeters, notifying greeters for flights, working with new members, and doing community relations work as well as shaking **TOO MANY HANDS TO COUNT**. Those of you who haven't given extra help and have time, you won't regret giving it for the troops".

Just a note, the airport had paid \$437,831 since 2003 just for our parking tickets! **PLEASE DO NOT ABUSE THIS PRIVILEGE! PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE MORE THAN ABOUT 30 MINUTES EARLY UNLESS YOU ARE A KEY PERSON AND/OR NEED TO DO WORK IN THE ROOM.** Flights usually arrive within 10 minutes of their confirmed time.

LET'S HAVE ANOTHER GREAT YEAR

Chuck Knowlen





Greeters' Profile

Born in south Brewer, Gerald (a.k.a. Jerry) Mundy had a taste of hardship at an early age when due to family circumstances he and his brothers and sisters had to be parceled out to foster families throughout the state. Eventually he returned to Brewer, and attended local schools until he dropped out, and lying about his age, enlisted in the Marines at the age of sixteen. Jerry served for two years, and upon his discharge returned to Maine to live in the Portland area, where he completed his high school requirements.

Shortly thereafter he began a life-long career as an iron worker erecting steel structures such as bridges, hi-rise buildings, and towers, a job which often requires working at high heights. For a person who admits to being terrified by heights, he remembers clearly the time when as an apprentice he had to install a lightning rod at the top of a TV tower 1619 feet high. Remember this was in pre OSHA days, and little if any safety gear was used. Later in his career, it was to be his fate to be foreman on a job, and be present when his brother Bill fell to his death. Additional misfortune entered his life with the death of his seven year old son Paul and the death of his wife Jewel four years later in a car accident. Jerry married his present wife Anne in 1995.

In 1991 Jerry joined hundreds of Bangor area residents in welcoming flights returning from Desert Storm. There was no Troop Greeter organization at this time, just a spontaneous response to the news of flights landing at B.I.A. When flight activity resumed in 2003, Jerry became a member of Maine Troop Greeters. He is one of our most faithful greeters and rarely misses a flight.

In 2009, Jerry along with two other Troop Greeters, Joan Gaudet and Bill Knight, were featured in the award winning documentary *The Way We Get By*. Due to the acclaim this film received, Jerry, Joan and Bill were invited to Washington D.C. a number of times and enjoyed a private screening at the White House and a private meeting with Vice President Biden. In addition they made a number of trips to Hollywood where the film was nominated for various awards including the Academy Award.

Jerry continues to be one of our most recognized Greeters



Bangor International Airport - The Beginning

History of the Airport - Dow Army Airfield 1942 - 1968

This is the second of a three part piece examining the history of the Bangor International Airport. This piece focuses on the airport as Dow Air Force Base. The third piece will focus on BIA as we know it today.

In 1942, Godfrey Air Field was renamed Dow Army Airfield, after 2nd Lt. James Frederick Dow. Dow a native of Oakfield Me. and a graduate of U. of Maine was killed in a mid-air collision during a training flight on June 17, 1940.

Due to its proximity to the Air Transport Command (ATC) North Atlantic air ferry route to the United Kingdom, the jurisdiction of Dow Army Airfield was transferred to Air Service Command (ASC) on February 28, 1942. Its mission became the servicing of long range B-17 Flying Fortresses and, later, B-24 Liberator heavy bombers and other combat aircraft prior to the aircraft being flown on the Great Circle Route to Prestwick Airport, Scotland, and other airfields in Northern Ireland. From there the aircraft would be modified for the weather conditions prevalent in Western Europe where they were flown by Eighth Air Force units on combat missions over Nazi-occupied Europe

After WWII, the base was drawn down and placed on standby status May 7, 1946. The field never went inactive, however, occasionally seeing ATC aircraft transit.

The new Dow Air Force Base was activated on January 1, 1951. The 4009th Air Base Squadron was assigned to the base to support the existing base facilities, and supervise the ongoing construction of the base facilities still not yet complete. The first use of the new airbase was during the Korean War with the Maine National Guard.

In November 1952, jurisdiction of Dow AFB was officially transferred from ADC to Strategic Air Command (SAC). Throughout the remainder of the 50's and 60's, Dow AFB saw many different units through the SAC. The final unit - the 397th Bombardment Wing - was deactivated April 25, 1968. As part of this deactivation, Dow AFB was closed. The city of Bangor purchased most of the base and opened it in 1969 as Bangor International Airport. The portion of the base not turned over to the city became the basis for the current Air National Guard Base and the Maine Army National Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility.

Information for this article was gathered from the Maine Air Museum and Wikipedia.

**LETTER OF
APPRECIATION**



BANGOR GREETERS

Recently my wife, daughter and I visited Paris, France. As expected, I spent time people watching as the ladies shopped. One evening, we were in a nice leather goods shop and a gentleman joined me on a sofa.

When he spoke English, I asked where he was from. He said Alabama, and I responded I was from Maine. He stated that he had been in Maine only once. While returning from serving in the military in Iraq, he landed in Bangor. I asked if he had seen the greeters," He said "Wow, did I ever."

Going down the receiving line while in uniform, a greeter, seeing his name tag, asked where he was from. The soldier named a town in Alabama.

The greeter asked whether he knew a man with the same last name and gave a first name. The soldier replied, "That is my father!" The greeter's reply was that, "One of my proudest moments was serving under your father in Vietnam in 1965." The soldier then told me that one of his proudest possessions now is a picture of himself and the elderly greeter taken at that time.

I almost came to tears, feeling proud of our military and the "greeters" of Bangor.

**Frederic Johnson
Waterville**

Letters to Editor, Bangor Daily News Nov. 12, 2012

T.D. Bank Donation

Troop Greeter Julie Bickford has been awarded a \$ 500 donation in the name of Maine Troop Greeters by her employer T.D.Bank. Julie was awarded this grant by meeting the banks requirement of performing 40 hours of volunteer work . Way to Go , Julie .

New Therapy Dog

Please welcome Queen Bee as the newest member of our Therapy Dog Corp. Queen Bee is a one-time racing greyhound whose career was shortened by injury. Owners Jerry Lyden and wife Nancy Nicholson obtained Queen Bee from a greyhound rescue group and have transformed her into the trained therapy dog she is today .Queen Bee looks forward to a long and happy career as a member of Maine Troop Greeters.

Our Financial Partner: Bangor International Airport

Without our partnership with B.I.A., there would be no Maine Troop Greeters organization as we know it today .Their financial contribution since 2003 is as follows:

Troop Greeter Room Rental	\$ 170, 800
B.I.A. staff support	\$ 124, 600
Parking Fees	\$ 437,831

Room Renovation

Congratulations to the Operations Committee for the outstanding job they did on the redesign and renovation of our room at the airport. The new set up allows for the display of hundreds of coins that otherwise would still be in storage . This talented group includes Valerie Leathers, Clayton Dodge, Steve Burgess, Deb Milner, Chuck Knowlen, Margaret Puckett, Roberta York, Jane Allen, and Cathy Czarnecki.

DATES IN MILITARY HISTORY

January 26, 1880: General Douglas MacArthur was born in Little Rock, Arkansas... MacArthur was appointed Commanding General of the United States Army of the Far East in 1941.

February 9, 1942: Congress pushes ahead standard time by one hour in each time zone .At the time it was called “ war time “ , today we know it as daylight savings time .

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**January 18th – Fund Raiser for Maine Troop Greeters
Snow Ball Dinner and Dance 5-9 PM., at Sunbury
Village....tickets \$12.00 each, call Cheryl Lare 944-5737 or
Deborah Wisdom at 262-9600 or e-mail
deborah.wisdom@holidaytouch.com**

**May 18th - Armed Forces Day 2pm.
Yes, we know this early, but mark your calendar for this event.**

THE MYSTERY MEDAL

Joe Bridgham unearthed this medal in 1971 roto-tilling his garden, and just recently rediscovered it while going thru some storage containers. His research reveals that this medal was given to U.S. Navy and Marine personnel for service in the Yangtze River Valley in China during the periods Sept. 1926 to Oct. 1927, and again for March 1930 to Dec. 1932. The story of its journey from China to Joe's garden remains a mystery.

