



30th Annual Symposium Elects New President

Mike Weeks

As we start our 31st year and step into the new millennium it not only excites me to see the many great changes that we have made within Our organization but also the many changes that we have made for the Navy. I often hear from the many different people and fellow shipmates from the different ratings within our great Navy that we, in the "AB" rating, are so very fortunate and they so admire our organization. I even hear requests for advice on how to best set up an association for their rating. I tell them they first have to become a FAMILY and then and only then can they have an association like the ABMA.

I would like to say that I feel very honored, humbled and proud be your President. It will be a job that I will not take lightly. We will have issues that confront us. We will even have issues that are not pleasing to us, but as a group,

an association and a family we can accomplish all.

Since we have all departed Virginia Beach and returned to our commands, jobs and homes, the officers and staff of Our organization have been busy preparing the forwarding letter to the CNO's office of all workshop Action Items, and coming out with the Monthly Action Item reminder letter to each organization that carried an Action Item away from the Work Shops. Our Website Administrator, Senior Chief Marco Estrada, has completely changed the look our website and added all the new up-to-date information. The Gulf Coast Chapter is already working very hard in preparing for our 2001 Working Group Meeting. As in the past, I am sure it will be a time remembered by all.

(Continued on page 3)

2000 Living Legend Announced

Congratulations to LCDR "Skip" Lopez for being selected as the 2000 ABMA Living Legend. He provided the following acceptance:

"Being recognized by one's peers is always an honor, but when your peers are Aviation Boatswain's Mates it is extra special! Thank you very much to the membership of the ABMA for honoring me as your Y2K "Living Legend." Sorry I

couldn't be there to thank you in person. A special thanks to the selection committee for finding me worthy of "Living Legend" status. I am also grateful to all my shipmates for helping make me worthy of selection. It would take a book to list all of you who contributed to the successes in my career. Thanks shipmates!

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Special points of interest:

- LCDR (RET) Skip Lopez named 2000 ABMA Living Legend
- Brook Gale recipient of 2000 ABMA Isabella M. Gillen Memorial Scholarship Award
- New ABMA Chapter in Texas
- AB Appreciation Day/Old Timer's Day 16 November 2000
- 2000 Board of Directors Agenda Items

2000-2001 ABMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

CDR Mike Weeks

E-mail: president@abma-usn.org
OR talk2weeks@sprintmail.com

TREASURER

ABEC(RET) Stoney Burke

E-mail: abmastoney@aol.com
OR rburke@cdi corp.com

PAST PRESIDENT

ABCM(AW) Lanny Vines

E-mail: abma30th@hotmail.com

ONE YEAR MEMBERS

ABCM Rick Tick

E-mail: rtick@msn.com

ABHCS(RET) Keith Burt

E-mail: kburt@medi aone.net

THREE YEAR MEMBERS

ABECS(AW) Wally Hamaker

E-mail: hd84fxe@aol.com

ABHCS(AW) Marco Estrada

E-mail: webmaster@abma-usn.org

VICE PRESIDENT

LCDR Jimmy McLaughlin

E-mail: vp@abma-usn.org
OR jimclau@aol.com

SECRETARY

Marie Vines

E-mail: secretary@abma-usn.org
OR vmvines@hotmail.com

LIFE MEMBER

CDR Robert Gillen

E-mail: abldocdr2@cs.com

TWO YEAR MEMBERS

CDR Tony McFarlane

E-mail: CDR-anthony.mcfarlane@cnet.navy.mil

CWO4 Tim Dodson

E-mail: airbosn@yahoo.com
OR dododson@picusnet.com

1999 AB OF THE YEAR—EAST COAST

ABH1(AW) Gregory Curl

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1999 AB OF THE YEAR—EAST COAST

ABE1(AW) Dennis Prazeau

E-mail: dpraze@lincoln.navy.mil

Treasurer Report—Stoney Burke, ABEC (RET)

Another fine symposium. The Tidewater Chapter did it again. A lack of Carriers (except USS NIMITZ, USS ENTERPRISE and USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT for short periods) allowed the Gator Navy to again perform in a stellar manner.

What a fine group of sailors. A great big BRAVO ZULU to all. I had a GREAT time. Thanks to all who kept me in their prayers. I did not think I would make it to Virginia Beach, but I did and continue to make good progress. Since the symposium, a couple of things in my life have brought both sadness and happiness.

On the sad end, we lost Jeanne Bulvanoski. A second mother to me; she lost her battle with cancer. She was an ABMA Life Associate member. The love of her life, Charles, is also a life member. I'll miss you Jeanne!! God Bless.

During September, I traveled to USS HARRY S. TRUMAN and to the "pinning" ceremony of now ABEC Johan "Charlie" Mansson. It gave me great joy and admiration to pin those anchors on with Charlie's new wife, Kim. Congratulations to all new Chiefs! You

done good!!

Now on to Pensacola and in 2002, back to Silverdale, Washington. Please note date change, due to hotel schedules, for the Pensacola Symposium. We normally schedule for the first week of August. This time it will be mid-July. I'm looking forward to Pensacola, have always had a good time there. Again, many thanks to Jimmy McLaughlin, Tony Spires, Terry New and myriad of folks for an outstanding symposium. Safe launches and recoveries for the upcoming holiday season!!! All my best to the best.

ABMA Annual Financial Statement **1 July 1999—30 June 2000**

Checking Account Balance	\$ 6022.85
Scholarship Fund	<u>14589.98</u>
Net Worth	\$20612.83

Membership Information— Wally Hamaker, ABECS (RET)

I want to thank the Tidewater Chapter for their hospitality during this year's symposium. As expected, it was very well organized and professional.

As I reported in the last newsletter, we took a hard hit in membership—people who failed to renew their dues. I am happy to say that we have 123 new members from the symposium. And I have processed 17 new memberships since the symposium; keep the memberships coming, including all renewals. We currently have 801 annual members considered in good standing (dues not over three years past due). That sounds good but numbers are deceiving. Of those 801 annual members, only 236 are paid up to date for 2001, 340 members for 2000

and 225 members for 1999. So the next group dropped will be everyone that has not renewed since 1999. So not only do we need new members, we also need timely renewals. Only those with current 2001 memberships will receive a newsletter. So let's get the word out.

I am also working on an electronic database of the complete annual and life membership roster from the beginning of this association. Once completed, I will forward to our webmaster for inclusion on the web site. The info will include membership number and name only.

Well I have taken up enough of your time. Once again, for Tidewater ABs, thanks for an excellent symposium. See everyone in Pensacola.

30th Annual President

(Continued from page 1)

I would be negligent if I did not mention the many thanks and gratitude for the Tidewater Chapter for OUR recent and "Outstanding" working group meeting in Virginia Beach. In talking with many of the Tidewater Committee Members they can only say they had a great time putting it together, but it was a lot of work and they

are glad it is over. Again Thanks for all the hard work and thanks for the memories.

Before I conclude I would again like to say that I appreciate your trust and confidence and will do my best in carrying on with pride and tradition of OUR AB Association.

Scholarship Recipient Announced

Brook Gale, daughter of LCDR Brian and Debbie Gale, was awarded the 2000 ABMA Isabella M. Gillen Memorial Scholarship Award. The ABMA would like to congratulate her again.

National University's Scholarship Committee selected Brook on her academic traits and her involvement in school and community affairs. Brook succeeded in maintaining high scholastic averages even with the many moves and many schools as a military children often do. Her dedication and persistence is admired and the ABMA is very proud of Brook and wishes her continued success in pursuing her educational and personal goals.

Brook provided the following to all members of the ABMA:

"I want to write and personally thank each and everyone who made it possible for me to win the ABMA Scholarship. I am attending Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario, Oregon. I am taking all of my basic courses here and then will move on to another college later on.

My heart goes out to children who have been in an abusive situation, and so I decided I wanted to counsel children. I'm now taking a psychology class along with



*Congratulations
Brook Gale—2000
ABMA Scholarship
recipient!!*

the basic classes needed. Since my parents are buying my car for me, I wanted to pay my own way through college. I'm currently working as an assistant manager at Taco Bell in Fruitland, Idaho. I work nights so it doesn't interfere with school. Your scholarship helped take the burden off and I greatly appreciate it. I'm glad that there is a compassionate group as all of you. Thanks again." Brook Gale

We would also like to thank the following special people for their generous donations to the scholarship fund:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| • Lakehurst Chapter | \$300.00 |
| • CDR Bob Gillen | 200.00 |
| • LCDR Rich Pitt | 100.00 |
| • American Safety | 217.00 |
| • Mike and Mary Brockman | 25.00 |

We truly appreciate all donations. Remember donations are fully tax deductible.

Start working on 2001 applications. Applications are available now on the website or by contacting me or our National Secretary, Marie Vines.

1999/2000 President Bids Farewell

Lanny Vines

Iwould like everyone to know that the opportunity to serve as your President for the past year is probably the pinnacle of my Naval career. I have been honored for the past 31 years to work with the greatest people on earth — ABs. As we grow larger and stronger, we must continue to bring our younger ABs into the association and nurture them as our predecessors did for us.

Congratulations to President, CDR Mike Weeks and Vice President, LCDR Jim McLaughlin and the newly elected members to the Board of Directors, Marco

Estrada and Wally Hamaker. I know you will all continue to focus on making the ABMA stronger.

At the recent symposium, your BOD worked on 23 administrative agenda items and are published in this newsletter. Our Workshop Coordinators again facilitated very productive working groups and I want to thank everyone for their input and hard work. A great big THANK YOU to everyone who participated. I look forward to another great symposium in Pensacola next year and look forward to seeing all of you then.

2000 Living Legend Announced

(Continued from page 1)

I must also confess I survived until retirement only through the careful nurturing of my wonderful little Limy wife. Evie was, and is, always there when needed. She is my best friend, my lover, and at times a pain in the behind, but without her I wouldn't have the proverbial pot or window. Thanks "Ducks," I love you!

I've always been proud of being an AB and I am very proud to accept the honor you've bestowed upon me. This award makes up for all the bumps, scrapes, cuts, bruises, broken toes, skinned knuckles and long hours accompanying life as an AB. Thanks again and hope to see you in Pensacola next year. BT

Chapter Reports

TIDEWATER

By LCDR Jimmy McLaughlin

Fall Greetings from the Tidewater Chapter. We have settled back into a normal routine after the hustle and bustle of hosting a symposium. We really enjoyed having you visit us. Many thanks to all of you for your support. The symposium sparked the interest of many young ABs in our area; we hope to harness that interest while it is still fresh by keeping these young men and women involved in our chapter. They really did a superb job during the symposium and had a great time doing it.

Events in the planning stages right now are a Fall Picnic and an AB Christmas party. Details for these events will be on the ABMA website once confirmed.

We recently had a few retirements in our area, LT Randy "Frenchy" Formy Duval, ABCM Jose Torres, and ABECs Dewitt Dorsey all retired from COMNAVAIRLANT. We wish them the best and thanks for their many years of service to the AB community.

If you are ever in the Tidewater area and want to look up an old friend stop by and see me at CNAL, I know where to locate most of the AB's of our area. On behalf of the Tidewater Chapter, I wish you all a happy 2000 holiday season.

FAR EAST

By ABCM Tony Steocker

President—CWO2 William L. Robinson

Vice President—ABH3 Lester Long

Secretary—ABEC Kenny Tomlin

Treasurer—ABHC Patrick Halinski

This past few months we have been busy with a number of things. NAF Atsugi had their annual Wings Air Show. We had a little booth to promote the ABMA to the Japanese and to sell food and drinks to make a little money for our Christmas party, which is always a big success. When Friendship Day came to Yokosuka, we were there and the Japanese always have a lot of questions about carrier aviation. Not to mention we all made some new friends. The HAWK is getting underway 26 September for about two months and we will be showing the flag in Pusan, Korea and Otoro, Japan. We're all looking forward to this as we have been in port too long.



GULF COAST

By ABH1(AW) Greg Curl

President — ABH1 Greg Curl

Vice President — CWO4 (ret)

Danny Woods

Secretary — Virgle Culberson

Treasurer — Denise Ross

The Gulf Coast Chapter, Home of the AB Schools, is proud to say we will be hosting the 2001 Symposium. We enjoyed the successful symposium in Virginia Beach.

On the local scene, we enjoyed our recent family picnic at Blue Angel Park and the semi-annual AB Jamboree held in October. These are great opportunities for ABs to get together and have a good time.

On November 16th, we are hosting AB Appreciation Day at the schoolhouse. Tours, food and fun will be available, so please join us.

Remember if you are in Pensacola the third Thursday of each month, drop by and visit us at the Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 22. Our meetings begin at 1900.



CENTRAL UNITED STATES/WEST TEXAS CHAPTER

President- Randy Stroman
Vice President- Brian Gaffney
Secretary- Eric Tomczak
Treasurer- Bonnie Wilson

We just started our ABMA Association a few months ago. We are currently in the process of having

our chapter flag made and developing a website. We currently have 10 member and are in the process of getting our students involve with the association. The Central U.S. Chapter is located in San Angelo, Texas at Goodfellow AFB.

Newsletter inputs are due to secretary@abma-usn.org
NLT

1 October

1 March

Make this your newsletter!!



Northwest Region AB Report

NORTHWEST

LT(Ret) Mike Yaskin

There are lots of things going on here in the great Northwest. We had a great summer with plenty of sunshine and little rain. This all equates to a lot of yard work but plenty of time to have a local cook out at the lake over the 4th of July weekend with the help of CVN70 Air Department and area retirees. We had a good turn out. Many had the opportunity to meet some new faces and get to see the older ones. There was even a couple surprise visits by some out-of-towners on travel. Some thought it was coincidence; others thought it had to be planned.

The crew of CVN70 did a super job and many thanks go out to them.

Speaking of CVN70, they are completing their DPIA and cranking up the training/drill routines. There are quite a few turnovers and plenty of holes to fill. They are mid-way through an ALRE validation effort and much is being learned along the way. Many tasks are in work and they are well on their way. We hear there were a lot of smiling faces during the ships Post-DPIA weekend in Victoria B.C. as part of sea trials.

While CVN72 had its growing pains, all information passed through the grapevine to date makes it appear as though they are doing well and exceeding expectations. Our best wishes go out to the crew and

families as they continue to meet carrier commitments. 72 completed the first ever ALRE and ALRE Support configuration validation with huge success helping to get the CO-SAL and parts they need aboard ship.

On the home front, Naval Station Everett is seeing lots of new construction and base facilities are always improving.

Things are quiet as usual up at Whidbey Island except for the occasional roar of a Prowler.

The 2002 Symposium is starting to take form and negotiations with the Silverdale Hotel are progressing well. We have our work cut out for us but things are looking good.

AB Appreciation Day at AB Hall of Honors

Val Cumberbatch

The Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC), Air Training Department, Pensacola, Florida in conjunction with the ABMA Gulf Coast Chapter cordially invite all ABs within "hailing" distance to join us at the Curry Complex November 16, 2000 for a day of fellowship. This is an opportunity for ABs, old and young, to get together, renew friendships, form new ones, tell sea stories, tour the training facilities, and see our

new toys (training devices). We also have planned a dedication to a couple of deserving shipmates, make a

16 November 2000

0845-1400

NATTC Pensacola FL

presentation or two, have a cake cutting and of course serve some chow. We will start the day at 0845 with

coffee and donuts in the Hall of Honors. We look forward to seeing y'all.

"Hailing" distance is defined as within driving distance of Pensacola. Mileage is not important.

POCs:

AB School Admin:

850-452-7600/7601/7609.

DSN: 922-7600-7601-7609 or

Sarah Moore: 850- 994-5063

ABMA Historian Appointed

Vic Pinion

I thank the ABMA Board of Directors for appointing me as the Association's Historian at the 2000 ABMA Symposium at Virginia Beach. I will do my best to do the job justice.

I welcome the advice and help of anyone who has the desire to help shape this new ABMA position.

My ideas include:

1. Getting and maintaining a permanent record of ABMA workshop items each year.
2. Getting the "sea" stories from individual ABs, of accomplishments that they are proud of achieving during their careers.
3. Providing written copies of ABMA developmental history to the

AB Hall of Honors, and to members at each symposium.

In order to do each of these things, I need the active help of my fellow ABs. Please submit your ideas, stories and inputs via email to vyklyn@icx.net, or mail them to me at Vic Pinion, 1825 Glade Springs Road, LaFollette, TN 37766, or phone me at (423) 566-1952.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

1-4 AUGUST 2000

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Determine if E4 and below (and spouses will be subsidized for banquet tickets. Motion made and carried to continue to discuss this at the first BOD meeting at each symposium. Ongoing.
2. Request for inclusion of the ABMA Isabella M. Gillen Memorial Scholarship Fund in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) still has not come to resolution. Treasurer will finalize with submission of IRS Form 990 for CFC approval. Item open until CFC decision is made.
3. Feasibility of AB artifacts being placed in The Smithsonian Institution. Motion was made and carried to close this item since the ABMA Hall of Honors would be the appropriate place for artifacts. Item closed.
4. Officer duty updates tasked to each individual BOD member. Inputs are due to the Secretary 01 February 2001.
5. Website guidelines were completed, approved, and posted on ABMA web page. Item closed.
6. AB Hall of Honors curator tasked with researching each item for validity prior to entering an item to the Hall of Honors. Director, AB School briefed that one of the duties of the designated "collateral duty" curator will be to ensure each item is appropriate review. Some current items need to be reviewed by some of the "old timers." Item closed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Funding for East/West Coast ABs of the Year. Motion made and carried to see if NAVAIR will include in the announcement message that each TYCOM should pursue funding and encourage funding at the lowest level. ABMA funding is to be pursued as the last option. Item closed.
2. Motion made and carried to post criteria, guidelines and selection criteria for ABs of Year on the web. In addition, the Secretary will send a packet to the four TYCOM representatives annually just after the NAVAIR message is release to ensure the most current information is being used. Item closed.
3. Motion made that guidelines and standard procedures be created for establishing new chapters of the ABMA. A line item will be included in Admin Policy that prospective chapters must provide a letter of intent to establish a local chapter to ensure proper guidelines are following. The Secretary will provide a welcoming package, followed by appropriate recognition at the next symposium and on the web. Item closed.
4. Motion made recommending vendor business cards be placed on the web as appreciation for continued support. Motion made and carried that the Vendor Coordinator send a letter to each vendor addressing ABMA proposal to put a hyperlink to their website. Vendor Coordinator has for action.
5. Motion made to establish an ABMA Blood Bank for AB families

in need. Motion made and carried that this would be too much of an administrative burden. ABs continue to take care of each other and if an AB is in need of blood, post it on the web for donations. Item closed.

6. Motion made and carried to create a page on the ABMA website for "ABs in the News" to recognize personal achievements of ABs worldwide. Page has been created. Anyone with input should forward to ABMA President. Item closed.

7. Naval Aviation Musuem requested a \$25,000 donation for the bronze statue of an Aircraft Director in front of the museum. Motion made and carried that due to ABMA financial constraints, ABMA could not support at this time. Item closed.

8. Motion made to change symposium dates to start on Tuesday and wrap up on Saturday with the banquet on Saturday night/picnic on Sunday due to many retirees not being able to attend. Approval not gained—no change will be made current Tuesday to Saturday schedule. Item closed.

9. Motion made to use remaining E4 and below banquet donation monies each year for ABMA operating costs. Declined. Motion made and carried that excess E4 and below subsidies will carry over for future banquets. Item closed.

10. Donations collected for a proposed "Crash Memorial" remain in the ABMA operating budget. LCDR Persutti will reenergize donations and establish an account

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

1-4 AUGUST 2000

(Continued from page 7)

separate from the ABMA and provide a letter of intent to continue the memorial prior to ABMA releasing funds. LCDR Persutti for action.

11. Due to logistics, time, and coordination, the current Hall of Honors Curator requested ABMA appoint a new curator. Motion made and carried that the Director of AB Schools assume the AB Hall of Honors responsibilities and curator duties be assigned as a collateral duty to a senior member of the AB School Staff. Item closed.

12. Motion made and carried that the AB School construct a wall in the Hall of Honors to honor Living and Posthumous Legends, Past Presidents and ABs of the Year. LCDR Cumberbatch for action. This will require the assistance of all ABs to provide pictures and bios. Please call 850-452-7600/1/9 or DSN 922-7600/1/9. Item closed.

13. Motion made and carried that all Living Legends be presented a blazer patch similar to the ABs of the Year and Past Presidents. Item tabled—Lanny Vines has for action to find a vendor for patches.

14. Motion made to present Maroon

Blazers to Living Legends. Item tabled for more research and until funding is available.

15. Motion made and carried to appoint an ABMA Historian. CWO4 Vic Pinion volunteered and was appointed. Historian will provide proposed duties and responsibilities to BOD for approval. Item closed.

16. Recommendation received to discontinue the peripheral rating-specific workshops occurring throughout the year. The future of the ABMA Working Group Symposiums and funding are in jeopardy due to these additional conferences (e.g., fuels, firefighting, ALRE, etc.) Motion made and carried that item be closed. Even if funding is not available, personnel can continue to forward agenda items to TYCOM and provide input as necessary to ABMA Symposium. Item closed.

17. Motion made to give a plaque to the top three ABMA membership recruiters on the East Coast, West Coast, and shore. Motion declined; ABMA will continue to provide only three recruiter plaques regardless of duty location. Item closed.

18. Motion made and carried to present an ABMA plaque to the French

Ship Charles DeGualle. Presentation was made at the general assembly. Item closed.

19. Motion made for ABMA to invest in a credit card machine for merchandise. More research is needed. Item tabled—Stoney and Marco will investigate legality and costs. Item open.

20. Motion made to upgrade of the ABMA website capabilities to Windows NT. Item tabled—Stoney and Marco will research; limited to \$250. Item open.

21. Motion made to place a form on the ABMA website for inputting workshop agenda items. Submissions could then be consolidated for symposium work shops. Item tabled—Mike Weeks and Marco Estrada will research. Item open.

22. Motion made and carried to change format/appearance of ABMA website. Marco Estrada will make changes gradually. Item closed.

23. Motion made to allow additional vendors (e.g., jewelry, plaque, etc) to set up tables outside the general assembly area for a donation of \$300. Item tabled—Mike Weeks to research. Item open.

AVIATION BOATSWAIN'S MATES ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION <small>(Please print or type all information)</small> Make check or money order payable to ABMA and mail to Wally Hamaker, 9280 Los Coches Road, Lakeside, CA 92040			
NAME _____			RANK/RATE _____
<small>LAST</small>	<small>FIRST</small>	<small>MIDDLE INITIAL</small>	
MAILING ADDRESS _____			
CITY _____		STATE _____	ZIP CODE _____
HOME ADDRESS _____			
CITY _____		STATE _____	ZIP CODE _____
WORK PHONE _____		HOME PHONE _____	

Secured Flight Quarters

I am convinced, our Father, that your fondest feelings are reserved for the least pretentious and most genuine of us. I am sure that Aviation Boatswain's Mates are some of your favorites. Certainly Aviation Boatswain's Mates have yet to find the virtues of humility, or soft-spokenness or gentleness...they do lead with their jaws...and seem always ready to fight than to switch. They can be singled out by their red eyes, and by a grubbiness, which is a mark of their trade. But their wills match their strong backs...and their love of each other is a wondrous thing to behold. They are the salt of the deck...and their saltiness is honest and open...and they are uniquely your sons. We are grateful to them...as you love them specially, we mark them particularly tonight. Bless them every one...and forever keep them from harm and hurt. In Christ's name...Amen.

R. W. Bedingfield, Chaplain (USN)



Mrs. Jeanne Bulvanoski, wife of Charles Bulvanoski
 ABE2 Marvin P. Miller
 Mrs. Marlyn V. 'G.G.' Snyder, wife of ABHC(RET) Bud Snyder



"We, who remain to carry on, should not think of our shipmates as departed from us,
 but rather as having been transferred to a celestial ship or station, where we hope
 all of us may be shipmates again."

TYPE MEMBERSHIP	Life	Annual	Associate Life	Associate Annual
	New member		Renewal	
MEMBERSHIP FEES	ANNUAL	\$12.00 (Plus \$2.00 entrance fee)		
	LIFE — Ages:	45-below (\$110.00)	45-50 (\$100.00)	51-55 (\$90.00)
		56-60 (\$75.00)	61-65 (\$60.00)	66-above (\$40.00)
	REINSTATEMENT	\$14.00 (indicate old card number) _____		
	ANNUAL RENEWALS	\$12.00 per year		

2001 ABMA Symposium
16-21 July 2001
Reservation Form

This application must be received by June 15, 2001
Rate: \$80.00 Single or Double Occupancy
Active duty with ID: \$65.00 per night
(plus 7.5% Florida Sales Tax and 3% Escambia County Occupancy Tax)

Crowne Plaza Pensacola Grand Hotel

200 East Gregory Street
Pensacola, FL 32501
FAX: 850-432-7572



Convention: Aviation Boatswain's Mates Association

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Phone: _____

Arrival date: _____ Arrival time: _____ # of nights _____ Rooms required: _____

Adults: _____ Children: _____

First night's minimum deposit required to confirm accommodations. Refunded if cancellation notice is received 72 hours before check-in. This is a discounted rate and no other discounts will apply.

In lieu of deposit, we will accept guarantee with your American Express, MasterCard, Visa, Discover Card or Diners Club.

Type of card _____ Card # _____ Exp date: _____

Signature: _____

Please circle one: Single Double Additional persons: _____

RESERVATIONS WITHOUT A GUARANTEE METHOD OF PAYMENT WILL BE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION. NON-GUARANTEED ROOMS WILL BE HELD ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS ONLY.

The Hands That Allow Pilots to Fly

Lindsay Tozer—Staff Writer for Northwest Florida Daily News, March 29, 2000.

Here, in the largest nutshell I've ever attempted, is what an aircraft carrier meant to me on Friday before we landed on the USS George Washington:

- The goal of my flight-student brother-in-law.
- The place my father loved most.

This maze of blue halls. Head-level pipes and shin-level doorways aptly nicknamed "knee knockers." Ladder after ladder after ladder.

I didn't get it, the draw of the carrier.

A speck in the middle of the Gulf of Mexico.

A floating city: population 5,000.

Six months at sea, missing birthdays and anniversaries and home.

It must be about the flying, I reason.

It must be about the pilots.

I arrive already impressed by the pilots I have yet to see take off and the pilots I have yet to see land.

Sure, I notice the colored shirts on the flight deck, the men and women known by the initial scrawled on the back of their turtlenecks, their faces hidden by the helmet and the goggles they wear.

Purple shirt, F on the back—fuels guy.

Green shirt, C on the back—works the catapult.

Brown shirt. White shirt. Yellow shirt

I glance at them running around the deck and write them off as "Not the Pilots."

The air is hazy and thick with the smell of jet fuel.

And it is hot.

I am quickly distracted from the crews by how annoyed I am with myself for wearing long sleeves.

And the colored shirts go on, standing and crouching around a Navy

"Those men and women on the flight deck, nameless and faceless... they are the backbone of something larger than themselves."

fighter, waving their arms in a manic sign language.

I find myself wondering how these 19-, 20-, 21-year-olds got conned into signing up for this.

And the afterburners flare and the air gets the oily, wavy slick of fumes.

And, for a blip in time, everything is still.

And the jet lurches off the flight deck.

And I fell stupid.

Stupid and sheepish and arrogant.

Because it suddenly crystallizes.

No in words and not on paper.

But in your gut.

You, the one who needs a minute to think when asked to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

In that blip, you feel powerful and important and ridiculously patriotic.

And you're just an onlooker.

My father was a carrier pilot.

A-4. Yankee Station. USS Hancock. F-8 Kitty Hawk. LSO. NAS Lemoore, Alameda. A-7. Kingsville.

Pilots get all the glory. Everybody knows that.

I know that.

But it's the colored shirts left to turn away from the blast of the afterburners and do it again.

These men and women on the flight deck, nameless and faceless, who scurry to the next fighter.

In a way overlooked by the press and the movies and the hero machines, they are the backbone of something larger than themselves.

Larger than any of us.

And it doesn't fit neatly in a newspaper: Or in a photograph.

It is a fleeting, elusive rush.

Found on an aircraft carrier or some crumbling, foggy, cold airstrip overseas.

And that is what brings them back.

And that is what makes them stay.

And makes men and women take the lousy pay and the long hours and the separation and no glory.

For that moment, that blip.

And it is about the pilot when those colored shirts ready a fighter to slam off the deck.

Because it is their hands that allow those in the cockpit to touch the fact of God.

HISTORY OF THE AVIATION BOATSWAIN'S MATES

The rating of Aviation Boatswain's Mates (ABM) was established 6 September 1944 and promulgated to fleet personnel on 14 September 1944 by BUPERS Circular letter 268-44.

Approval for the Aviation Boatswain's Mates rating badge was granted 30 November 1944 by BUPERS Circular Letter 363-44. Also approved by the same letter was the badge for the rating of mailman.

The Bureau of Naval Personnel training bulletins were published monthly throughout the war years and beyond. The 15 December 1944 issue (issue number 14925) listed the following training schools:

- Naval Aircraft Factory, Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Catapult and Arresting Gear Training for Officer and Enlisted. Length-Four Weeks

- Manchester, Washington, Naval Station, Middle and Orchard Point Carrier Gasoline Systems Training for Officer and Enlisted. Length-Two Weeks (Started 20 November 1944)

Rating qualifications for Aviation Boatswain's Mates were first printed and promulgated in change number four to the BUPERS manual in February 1945.

**ABMA LOGO MERCHANDISE
MOST MERCHANDISE CARRIES THE ABMA LOGO**



All profits from merchandise sales go to the Aviation Boatswain's Mates Association.

Sew on patches (ABMA logo) _____	\$ 4.00
Blazer patches (ABMA logo) _____	9.00
AB Wings (gold plated) - 2" size only _____	8.50
Window Decals (ABMA logo) - attach to inside of window _____	1.00
Cook Books _____	3.00
Beer Steins (ABMA logo) _____	7.00
Sports Water Bottles (ABMA logo) _____	2.25
Koosies (ABMA logo) _____	2.00
Golf Shirts (embroidered in pocket area with Gold wings over Aviation Boatswain's Mate (AB) _____	18.00
T-Shirts (embroidered in pocket area with Gold wings over Aviation Boatswain's Mate (AB) _____	14.00
Ball Caps (ABMA logo) Cotton Caps AB Green, Yellow & Light Blue _____	5.00
Ball Caps/Sleek styling (Black w/gold, green, purple or red wings) _____	15.00
Ball Caps/Sleek styling (Stone Wash Green w/green wings) _____	15.00
Ball Caps/Sleek styling (Tan cap/green bill & button w/gold, red, green or purple wings) _____	15.00
Ball Caps/Sleek styling (Stone Wash Green w/Gulf Coast Chapter/gold wings) _____	16.00
Short Sleeve Denim Shirt (M-L-XL with blue, gold, purple, red or green wings) _____	22.50
Long Sleeve Denim Shirt (M-L-XL with blue, gold, purple, red or green wings) _____	23.75
Long Sleeve Black, Crewneck Pullover (XL with blue, gold or green wings) _____	17.50
Muscle Shirts (L or XL with purple or green or gold wings) _____	12.50
Navy Sweat Suit Sets (M-L-XL with gold wings) _____	28.00
Bumper stickers (various sayings) _____	Free with purchase!

ABMA LOGO MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

All profits from merchandise go to the Aviation Boatswain's Mates Association.

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ABMA Merchandise Coordinator
5936 Starlite Lane
Milton, FL 32570

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3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					
Merchandise Total					
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Total amount enclosed					

FOR SHIPPING & HANDLING:
If total is \$1.00 - \$5.00.....add \$1.00
If total is \$6.00 - \$20.00.....add \$2.50
If total is \$21.00 - \$50.00.....add \$4.50

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Happy Holidays everyone!



AVIATION BOATSWAIN'S MATES
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Evening Prayer

I am convinced, Our Father, that your fondest feelings are reserved for the least pretentious and the most genuine of us.

I am sure that Aviation Boatswain's Mates are some of your favorites.

Certainly Aviation Boatswain's Mates have yet to find the virtues of humility, or soft-spokenness or gentleness... They do lead with their jaws... And they seem always more ready to fight than to switch. They can be singled out by their red eyes, and by a grubbiness which is a mark of the trade.

But their wills match their strong backs... And their love of each other is a wondrous thing to behold. They are the salt of the deck... And their saltiness is honest and open... And they are uniquely Your Sons [and Daughters.]