

THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND **NEWSLETTER**

MOAA-SOUTHERN MARYLAND CHAPTER
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March 2010

The River's Edge

The Chapter Board of Directors recently met for lunch at the River's Edge Catering and Conference Center at NAS Patuxent River, and we were all very impressed. The new building is beautiful and the food was great. Lunch is served Monday through Friday, 1100 until 1300. You can have the buffet or order off of the menu. The buffet is \$8.50 for non-members, or \$7.00 if you a member. Dinner is served on select Wednesday evenings. For example, there will be a St. Patrick's Day Buffet Dinner on 17 March from 1730 until 1930. Call 301-342-3656 for all of the details and for reservations.

To get to The Edge, enter NAS Patuxent River through Gate 1. Go down the hill to the traffic light (which is Cuddihy Road). Turn left. Cuddihy Road will end at Tate Road. Turn left. Go to the end of Tate Road to the River's Edge.

The Edge is not an Officer's Club. It is open to anyone who has access to the base.

Welcome Aboard

CAPT Christopher H. Flood, USN joined our chapter in February. He was already a member of national MOAA. CAPT Flood is currently serving and is assigned to NAVAIR. He and his wife Tina reside in Leonardtown.

Annual Dues

Our annual dues renewal campaign is about to wrap up and most of you have already renewed. If there is "09" under your name on the address label of this newsletter, please send in your dues as soon as possible. Dues are still only \$15 for Regular Members (active duty, retired and former officers) and \$5 for Auxiliary Members (surviving spouses of deceased officers who would, if still living, be eligible for membership). We don't have a "Lifetime" membership program like national MOAA does, but if you would like to pay your dues a year or two in advance, that would be greatly appreciated. Please remember that dues are our only source of funds, and we thank you very much for your support of our chapter. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Chapter Secretary, Tom Smith, at (301) 475-3694 or rotorhead99@md.metrocast.net.

Chapter Meeting

Our next Chapter Meeting will be held on Saturday, 13 March, at D. B. McMillan's Pub and Grille (formally Perkins Restaurant, formerly Petruzzi's Bistro) in the Wildewood Shopping Center.

Our guest speaker will be one of our own Chapter Members, LtCol J. P. Sherkus, USAF-Retired. He will talk about his attaché duty in the former Soviet Union and in the Ukraine, and the training that is required for attaché duty. This is a very different kind of presentation than we normally have, and it promises to be very entertaining and informative. LtCol Sherkus' full biography is on the next page. The rest of the details of the luncheon are on the last page of this newsletter.

The Mail Order Pharmacy

The Mail Order Pharmacy (TMOP) is a big cost saver for TRICARE, which helps keep medical costs down. Here are four reasons to use TMOP:

Cost: Currently, medications that cost \$3 for a 30-day supply at a local pharmacy can be ordered by mail. You can get a 90-day supply for the same \$3 price through TMOP. Second-tier medications are \$9 for a 90-day supply through TMOP, and non-preferred drugs are \$22 for a 90-day supply. There are no shipping charges.

Convenience: You can fill your prescriptions at a military treatment facility (MTF) pharmacy for free. If the facility is close to your home, this might be a good choice, but many of you must travel a good distance to reach an MTF. Calculating gas and car expenses as well as a driver's time and energy might make free medications more costly than with TMOP.

Enrollment: It's easy to enroll. Call (877) 363-1303 or visit www.expressscripts.com/tricare. You must send them written prescription(s) from your doctor(s) to begin enrollment.

Renewals: With TMOP, you can set up an automatic renewal process for a year with all medications, except those labeled as controlled substances, renewable in 90 day increments. When an annual renewal is needed, TMOP can contact your doctor and will accept his or her fax. You may also mail a renewal prescription to TMOP. MTFs do not accept faxes; you must hand carry the paper script to them. TMOP gives you peace of mind that you will continue to receive your medications on time.

Find out more information about TMOP at your local MTF or by using the Web site or phone number noted previously. With all these great reasons to use TMOP, what are you waiting for? Make it easier on yourself and let your fingers do the walking — online or on the phone.

Lt Col John P. “JP” Sherkus, USAF-Retired

JP Sherkus was born in Rochester New York where he lived until being drafted into the Army in 1972. Upon receiving his induction notice, he enlisted into the Air Force and reported for duty at Lackland AFB TX. He was commissioned a 2nd Lt in 1973 and reported to Mather AFB CA for undergraduate navigator training. After graduation and then completion of basic KC-135 training at Castle AFB CA, he was reassigned to the 904 Air Refueling Squadron where he served until 1978. He was then transferred to Plattsburgh AFB NY where he served as a flight instructor, evaluator, and Air Operations Officer until moving again to Castle AFB CA. At Castle he served as Chief of KC-135 Navigator Training at the Central Flight Instructor School. He further served as a flight commander/assistant operations officer at the 93rd Air Training Squadron until departing for the Attaché Training Program (ATP) in 1988.

After ATP and Russian Language School, JP served as the assistant and principal Air Force Attaché to the then Soviet Union in Moscow, Russia. Departing literally the day before the coup attempt in August 1991, he was the last U.S. military attaché to leave the Soviet Union. The day after he departed, the Soviet Union collapsed.

JP spent the next year and a half teaching at the Joint Military Attaché School (JMAS), Defense Intelligence Agency, in Washington DC. In 1993, he was assigned as the Defense and Air Force Attaché to the Republic of Ukraine, where he served until 1995 as the first U.S. Defense Attaché in that country.

Returning to DIA after this assignment, he served as an instructor, seminar leader and chief of training at the Attaché School. He retired in 2000 after serving for over 28 years in the USAF. Remaining at JMAS as a civilian, he served as the Chief of the Attaché Training Program until 2006 when he became the Chief of Standardization and Evaluation for the entire school. JP completed a Masters of Education in 2008 and returned to JMAS as the Chief of Special Programs and senior instructor, where he works today.

JP is a Master Navigator with over 4000 hours in the KC-135. He has a Bachelors of Science in Biology from St John Fisher College, a Masters of Aviation Science from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and a Masters of Education from the University of Maryland, College Park.

He and his wife Phyllis of Sacramento CA have been married since 1974.

Chapter Meeting

Our next Chapter Meeting will be held on Saturday, 13 March, at D. B. McMillan's Pub and Grille in the Wildewood Shopping Center. Social hour will begin at 1130 and lunch will be served at noon. We will have a choice of thinly sliced round of beef topped with provolone on a hoagie roll with au jus for dipping, or grilled chicken breast topped with Irish style bacon, tomato and provolone on grilled Ciabatta bread with a side of roasted pepper aioli, or DB's Reuben corned beef and pickled cabbage with Reuben sauce on Ciabatta bread. All sandwiches are served with a choice of fries or petite salad. Coffee or tea is included. The cost will be \$14.00 per person. Please make your reservations by Wednesday, 10 March to:

John LeRoy at leroypac@comcast.net or (410) 257-0439, or
 Jack Fringer at jackfringer@chesapeake.net (410) 326-0486, or
 Tom Smith at rotorhead99@md.metrocast.net or (301) 475-3694.

*****BOARD OF DIRECTORS*****

The Board of Directors will meet
 at 1100, 13March, at D. B. McMillan's.

<p>Non-Profit Organization U. S. Postage Paid Leonardtown, MD Permit No. 33</p>
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Military Officers Association of America
 P. O. Box 84
 NAS Patuxent River, MD 20670

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