



The Antarctic Society

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No. 2

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Antarctica and climate change	1	Robert H. Rutford, 1933-2019.....	8
Women in Antarctica: 50 years.....	2	Alfred N. Fowler, 1926-2020	9
Plateau Station retrospective.....	5	Antarctic Gathering, Mystic, 2021...11	
LANs in Antarctica	6	Memorial Gathering, Maine, 2020 .	12
Exploring Transantarctics by sledge .	7		

ANTARCTICA AND CLIMATE CHANGE GO BACK A LONG WAY

In 1980, the *Journal of Glaciology* published a “Correspondence” from Terence J. Hughes, a University of Maine glaciologist. Forty years later, Terry’s “The weak underbelly of the West Antarctic ice sheet” is prescient. Collapse of the West Antarctic ice sheet by surges of Thwaites and Pine Island glaciers into Pine Island Bay was the concept; Terry and George Denton in 1975 had done models by synthesizing existing field observations. Convincing fieldwork, however, did not exist in 1980. “New field data,” Terry conceded, “will justify improvements in the model.” Some of the new data would be decades in the future.

Now we have huge amounts of new data, collected by methods then undreamed of. Thwaites Glacier is not just in the scientific journals; it is headline news in the popular press. Those newly acquired data spelled the shift from a research speculation to some of Antarctica’s largest field projects ever.

When Terry wasn’t brilliant he was a nuisance. I was editor of the *Antarctic Journal* decades back. Terry sent me a paper way over length and full of irrelevancies. My cuts offended him to the philosophical core, and after a furious exchange I put some back. Terry may be the only glaciologist jailed in six states, protesting abortion. His scientific insights then influence glaciology now.

Terry traveled alone in 1966 and 1967 through Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas, was often enough in the Antarctic, spent most of his career at Ohio State and Maine. But he was born (in 1938) and died (in 2018) in the same spot, smack in the middle of South Dakota, where the Bad River enters the Missouri.

New subject. Important. Two Antarctic Society Gatherings are scheduled for this summer and next. Even at this early date, 30 people have signed up for the 4-6 June 2021 Gathering at Mystic Seaport Museum in Connecticut. A year before that, Paul Dalrymple will host commemorations for deceased Antarcticans in Port Clyde, Maine, on 18 and 19 July 2020: events begin with a service for Grace Macheimer at the Port Clyde Baptist Church Saturday morning, 18 July 2020. For more, turn to the last two articles in this issue of the newsletter. It’s your Society. Sign up now, and show up, for these events. We need to know you’re coming. We want to trade stories with you!

Guy Guthridge

Women in Antarctica: 50 Years of Exploration

by Kelly K. Falkner

I am delighted to be here at Ohio State representing everyone in the U.S. Antarctic Program, but especially, on this day, the women who conduct and support science in Antarctica.

Before I share thoughts regarding women in the Antarctic, here's some personal background. In 1969, when I was in elementary school in Concord, New Hampshire, we drank milk from bottles with caps made of waxed cardboard circles. Boys were allotted the lion's share of the playground for kickball; girls were confined to a small space just big enough for double dutch jump-roping. I found the situation unfair and, with friends, set out to address the inequity. We collected enough caps to make campaign buttons for every girl in the school. Inscribed on each button with crayon were the letters G.U.P., for Girls Unite for Power. We affixed the buttons to our clothing and gathered at recess to protest.



Milk bottles at Kelly's elementary school furnished protest buttons.

I can't confirm our protest did the trick, but by fifth grade girls could participate in kickball.

Preparing for this talk gave me the chance to reflect on the changes – social, legal, and otherwise – I have lived through. The 2018 movie “On the Basis of Sex” about Supreme Court Judge Ruth Bader Ginsberg, among numerous other works, underscores that it is important to know your history.

The legacy

Here's some. Admiral Richard E. Byrd was awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest U.S. honor, for pioneering efforts in Antarctica. He has my unmitigated respect for what he accomplished and inspired for our nation. Regarding women, though, let's look at Paul Siple's 1959 book *90 degrees South*, which captures the story of the building of the American station at the South Pole and of the 18 men who were the first to winter there.

Page 108 gave me a jolt. Siple recounts his journey with Admiral Byrd to join the first Deep Freeze mission in November 1955. “Early in December Admiral Byrd and I left by commercial plane to meet the Task Force in New Zealand. . . . When we stopped at Dallas, he was amused by girl pickets, aspiring the right to explore Antarctica, parading up and down the airport carrying signs that read: BYRD UNFAIR TO WOMEN.

This demonstration was inspired by a news story that quoted Byrd as saying Little America was the quietest place on earth because no woman had ever set foot there.

I wish Admiral Byrd were alive today to witness the fruit of his pioneering explorations AND to see how much of his legacy is being carried forward by women.

Byrd was not alone in his thinking about the female sex. Before women first took part in our program, they traveled to the ice as the wives of ship captains and explorers. In some instances, even they expressed

skepticism that women had any place on the ice. Writing about her 1947 adventures in *My Antarctic Honeymoon*, Jennie Darlington, the wife of a member of the U.S. Ronne Antarctic Research Expedition, lamented: “Taking everything into consideration, I do not think women belong in Antarctica.”

The first six women to arrive at the South Pole went on 12 November 1969, making history. If not for them, change would have come slower. Here’s background.

In 1961, only a couple of years after Admiral Byrd made his observations about the picketers, the Antarctic Treaty came into force and the U.S. committed itself to an active and influential science presence in Antarctica. The Navy was charged with logistics. At that point (I’ll put it kindly) mis-estimation of the capabilities of women was codified in Navy policies and regulations.

Institutional changes

The Navy, which had established McMurdo in 1956, was adamant in its refusal to allow women. The then young National Science Foundation and the National Academies jointly managed the science and did not initially challenge the Navy’s position.

Colin Bull, director of Ohio State’s Institute of Polar Studies, which is now the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center, felt otherwise. A renowned polar scientist who led the first university-sponsored team to Antarctica in 1958-1959 during the IGY, Bull tried for 10 years to include women in teams sent to the ice. The Navy refused. Bull shared his thoughts with the *Antarctic Sun*: “It was really utterly stupid, the whole thing, but we managed to bust it.”

It was agreed that a pilot effort would be undertaken, in 1969.

Announcement of an all-woman science team headed to Antarctica drew media attention, much of it reflective of the times, with headlines like, “Powderpuff explorers to invade South Pole.” Reporters asked, “Will you wear lipstick while you work?”

A ski-equipped airplane flown by the Navy took the women to the South Pole on 12 November. The Navy decided to make hay of the publicity. Rear Admiral D.F. Welch, the commander of the naval forces in Antarctica, escorted the six pioneers. All six women stepped off the cargo ramp at the back of the plane, arms linked.

Naysayers did not disappear. Women would waste research funds, it was argued, because they didn’t publish enough. Irene Peden sat in the cross-wires of that issue when she led a deep-field research team in Antarctica in 1970. She was told that if she screwed it up, she’d be closing the doors for women in Antarctica. She persevered: the *Antarctic Bibliography* lists nine research papers published 1966-1975 with I.C. Peden as first or only author and another nine with her as second or third author.

The policy remained that women deploying had to be married and accompanied by their husbands or go in pairs or groups. It took a university HRM specialist to point out to NSF that the requirement blocked its best-qualified individual, who happened to be female, from tending its science equipment through the austral winter at South Pole Station. NSF Office of General Counsel concurrence set in motion the basis for robust policy changes in the 1980s.

Today, too many female scientists are doing Antarctic research for me to name them.

If Admiral Byrd were to travel to Antarctica today, he might recognize the place, but he would not recognize the workforce. Roughly 34 percent of our support staff on the Ice is female.

Harassment

I’d be remiss if I did not raise the issue of harassment. An egregious case occurred in Antarctica more than 20 years ago but was widely reported 2 years ago. Response to this

incident and others has placed NSF at the vanguard of Federal agencies in addressing issues of gender, sexual, and other forms of harassment.

On 19 September 2018 NSF formalized requirements for research institutions to notify us of harassment situations so that steps could be taken to ensure that Federal dollars were not being used to perpetrate such harm.

(https://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=296610)

On 29 March 2019, NSF issued a dear colleague letter to highlight that NSF continues to support peer-reviewed research that advances fundamental knowledge about the nature and underlying dynamics of sexual and other forms of harassment.

(<https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2019/nsf19053/nsf19053.jsp>)

All hands on deck

The U.S. Antarctic Program has advanced a long way since six women first reached the South Pole 50 years ago. But the work isn't done. The women who integrated the USAP are mostly white. The U.S. polar community is still far from being as diverse as the Nation's population.

The STEM workforce cannot operate at full capacity if all qualified minds are not engaged and if workers cannot operate fully because they are stressed (e.g., through discrimination, toxic work environments, harassment). Our planet is facing "all hands on deck" problems, but all hands are not on deck. Those of us in the system must reach out so that others may join.

Two women currently aboard the International Space Station made the first all-female spacewalk in history on 18 October 2019. Both are polar alumnae: Jessica Meir, formerly a U.S. Antarctic Program researcher, worked with Paul Ponganis, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, to study the diving physiology of emperor penguins. She joined the space station crew in October 2019.

Christina Hammock Koch has been on the space station since March. She worked at Palmer and Amundsen-Scott South Pole stations and at Summit Station in Greenland. When she leaves in early February, she is expected to have set a record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman, 328 days.



On 12 November 1969 the first women to reach South Pole stepped off the back ramp of an LC-130. Fifty years later, Ohio State University commemorated the event with a seminar on women in Antarctica.



U.S. Antarctic Program veterans Jessica Meir and Christina Koch on the International Space Station.

To steal the title of a currently popular movie, these women inspire us to keep our sights "ad astra," *to the stars*. I wonder what Admiral Byrd would think of that?

Kelly Falkner, Director, Office of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, is one of 17 Antarcticans who gave talks on 17 and 18 October 2019 at the symposium Women in Antarctica, sponsored

by the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center, The Ohio State University. This article condenses Dr. Falkner's presentation. Peter West, Director, Polar Outreach, at NSF, "drafted it, and some of the punch was his brainchild," Kelly writes. The web site <https://byrd.osu.edu/celebrate-women> contains videos of the talks plus a panel discussion.

Plateau Station . . . Exploration in Isolation . . . a Retrospective Look

by Thomas O. Frostman

This past November Tom "Frosty" Frostman (Plateau Station '68/Frostman Glacier) and his wife Sam (Susan) were guests aboard *National Geographic Explorer* as it made its way from the Falkland Islands to South Georgia Island and the Antarctic Peninsula over a 3-week period.

This was Sam's seventh continent in their world travels. For Frosty, it was a coming home. Fifty-two years ago, as a newly christened meteorologist (University of Wisconsin), he was making his way to the high plateau of East Antarctica to join three other scientists and four Navy support personnel. He would winter at Plateau Station from late 1967 through early 1969 conducting scientific programs highlighted by micro-meteorology for the University of Wisconsin. His supervisor was Dr. Paul C. Dalrymple (OAE and current treasurer of The Antarctic Society), then employed (as was I) by the U.S. Army Natick Laboratories, Massachusetts.

Before setting sail with National Geographic/Lindblad Expeditions, Frosty had been invited to share his Plateau experience with others aboard ship. He called his talk "Exploration in Isolation," during which he shared stories of carrying out scientific studies in one of the most harsh environments on the planet. It was in July of 1968 that Plateau recorded a low temperature of -123°F , a record low for any U.S. reporting station. The

average temperature for July was -100°F . Plateau had 119 days with temperatures below -100°F , and it never got above zero. During 1968, Plateau experienced malfunctions with generators, had a major structural fire, and ran out of ketchup just after the last supply plane left in February.



The eight members of the 1968 wintering crew at Plateau Station. Frosty is second from left.

Frosty explained to his fellow travelers that the year at Plateau was not just an "exploration *in* isolation," it was also an "exploration *of* isolation," as the eight men had to manage their workload and their relationships during the long winter night, cut off from the rest of the world for 10 months, with some relief via spotty ham radio communication.

Frosty notes, "This return trip to the Antarctic afforded many opportunities for my wife and me to get up close and personal with the abundant marine life of the southern seas, acquire a new appreciation for the early Antarctic explorers, and enjoy a fabulous backdrop for our day hikes, cross-country skiing, and kayaking. What a sharp contrast to my 14 months on the plateau!"

Frosty and Paul have a paper in the 1971 volume Research in the Antarctic (American Association for the Advancement of Science, 768 pages), the first single-book report of Antarctic science since the 1957-1958 International Geophysical Year: "Some aspects of the climate of interior Antarctica" uses Frosty's Plateau Station observations in addition to then-new satellite data to confirm

the interior as a region of stability and the coast as subject to rapid change. Antarctica's cold, dry interior "can be a most pleasant habitational environment," they write, "removed from a great unpleasantness, that of thawing snow." One of just three papers in the book's "Cold Poles and Heat Balances" section, the Dalrymple and Frostman work discusses the climate of the interior, its effect on operations, and "the great Antarctic temperature inversion," states the section editor, Morton J. Rubin. The 47 authors of the book's 39 papers, from John O. Annexstad to Charles R. Wilson, are a who's who of 20th Century Antarctic science and familiar to many Society members, if not members.

LANs in Antarctica

by Al Oxton

In the early days at Palmer Station, message traffic was sent and received by RTTY and HF radio. Operators typed UPPER CASE ONLY to punched paper tape and transmitted messages via shortwave radio. The ten-kilowatt transmitter took up about 16 square feet of floor and kept the radio room warm enough.

Then came geostationary satellites, ASCII, radios smaller than a bread box, and – space heaters. Originators could type their own text in their own offices, lower case was permitted, UPPER CASE became SHOUTING, outgoing was moved on floppy disk via Sneaker-Net to the radio room to be sent via VHF and ATS-3 to the Internet gateway at ATSVAX.

Sometime later Mr. Dennis Tupick introduced Palmer Station to the Grapevine Peer to Peer Local Area Network, and the Sneaker-Net was used only by the outbuildings and remote hovels of science. The Radio Room became the Communications Center; keyboards and CRTs replaced RTTY terminals.

Part of the LAN was a PC dedicated to the *Antarctic Bibliography*. Anyone on station could access the data – bibliographic information and abstracts of all the world's Antarctic literature back to 1951 – from any work-center. Such information as *The Effect of Feral Cats on the Indigenous Bird Species of Sub-Antarctic Islands* and *Recipes for Potato Soup at Vostok* were at your fingertips. The database was in the form of a CD, subscription updated annually, and delivered to Palmer in the first mail of the summer season. One summer the ship was late. We never made the connection between that non-event and the corruption of the *Bibliography* database. Word went around that the database had been hacked and we must stop using it.

I gave that a lot of thought and concluded that inasmuch as PalmerLan was not actually connected via Internet to the outside world any hacking would have to be local and that was unlikely. After a few glasses of Merlot, the thought occurred that the scramble was a time bomb. The subscription had expired so the data was scrambled! No, that wasn't it either. The data was on the CD and could not be changed so the problem had to be with the application that ran on the PC which accessed the data on the CD. Yes! I reset the PC clock to a previous date and reinstalled the Biblio Reader, and all was well. Set the date forward and the data were scrambled again. After that, a simple batch file would set the clock back when the Biblio Reader was called and then set the clock forward again when the program ended. Worked great. I wrote a note describing my solution to my counterparts at the other wintering U.S. stations, which also had the *Antarctic Bibliography* file, and we all lived happily after until the new CD arrived.

In the end, I received an atta-boy from NSF for a clever solution and a slap on the wrist from my supervisor for working outside the box.

Review of “*Exploring the Transantarctic Mountains by Dog Sledge 1960-62*”

by Tom Henderson

Antarctican Society member Peter Otway has written a memoir of one of the last explorations in Antarctica to be supported by dog teams. From 1957 to 1964, the New Zealand Antarctic Research Program sent parties composed of surveyors and geologists to explore and map New Zealand’s Ross Dependency. A large part of that effort was focused on the Transantarctic Mountains. Fresh off his registration as a land surveyor in New Zealand, young Peter realized a childhood dream when was selected to go to Antarctica as a member of the 1960-61 and 1961-62 teams.



Dog teams at a rest stop in the Transantarctic Mountains.

The assignment entailed participating in a summer season, wintering at Scott Base on Ross Island, and concluding with another summer season the following year, 16 consecutive months on The Ice. The idea was to overlap the members of the field parties so that experienced people always would be on each team. The goal was to establish survey control stations used to compile subsequent maps, in most cases the first to be made of the territory over which they traveled. The adventure had a great impact on Peter and led to a successful career in surveying and

mapping all over the world, including six more trips to the Antarctic.

This book is his account of what it was like to spend months in the field treading and surveying expanses of terrain untouched by humans. The only previous parties to pass this way on the surface were led by Amundsen, Scott, and Shackleton. It is also a story of the bonds that formed between the men and the Greenland huskies that they relied on to traverse the hundreds of miles through some of the most picturesque but dangerous mountains in the world. The relationship was further enhanced over the long dark winter at Scott Base when the party was responsible for feeding and maintaining the health of the dogs. Peter has kind words for the U.S. civilian and military contingent in Antarctica, emphasizing the camaraderie and working relationships in both the summer and winter seasons. His style of writing is self-effacing and quite relatable, but it does not disguise the wonder he found in this great adventure.



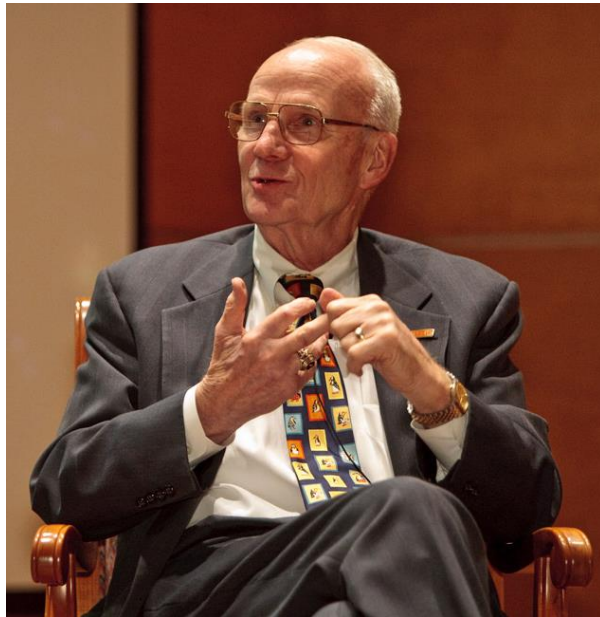
Descending the Axel Heiberg Glacier.

The story of their descent of the Axel Heiberg Glacier at the end of the second season is particularly gripping. Peter’s team was the first to take this perilous route since Amundsen blazed the trail in 1911-12. Picking their way down the steep glacier while avoiding the monstrous crevasses and frequent avalanches required sound judgment and steady nerves. Fortunately, the team was led by famed polar explorer Wally Herbert, who had an abundance of both. The photos in this part of the book are especially stunning.

Peter has self-published the book, but it does not lack in quality. It is richly illustrated with often spectacular photographs and maps, all rendered in crisp color. Most of the photos were taken by Peter himself. For a copy, contact Peter at otway1@xtra.co.nz.

Dr. Robert H. Rutford, 1933-2019

by John Clough



Dr. Robert H. Rutford

Current Honorary President, President 1988-1990, longtime member, and friend of this society Bob Rutford died 1 December 2019. Bob was involved in Antarctic research and travelled to the Ice more than 25 times during the period 1959-1995.

Bob graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1954, married Margie, and served in the U.S. Army including a year in Greenland testing heavy snow equipment and establishing fuel depots. This work made him the most experienced member of the field party on his first time on the Ice.

His earliest Antarctic research, as a grad student at University of Minnesota conducting geologic mapping in the Ellsworth mountains with Cam Craddock, and grad

student John Anderson, included man-hauling all equipment, supplies and samples.

Most important was their work in the Ellsworth Mountains, which showed that these mountains had been connected to South America, southern Africa, and Australia when the three continents were part of the ancient Gondwanaland.



Charles Switinbank, John Spletstoesser, unknown, Bob Rutford, George Denton in the Ellsworth Mountains.

In 1967, the Rutfords moved to the University of South Dakota where Bob was an assistant professor while finishing his Ph.D. at Minnesota in 1969, whereupon he chaired the geology department at South Dakota.

After the Ross Ice Shelf was penetrated with a deep drill at Little America in 1958, scientists speculated on the value of future ice-core drilling in the shelf. In 1968, A.P. Crary suggested that a hole several hundred kilometers back of the Ross Ice Shelf barrier should be used to sample the underlying water column and bottom sediments.

In 1970, SCAR appointed a group to study plans for a Ross Ice Shelf drilling project. Dr. L. M. Gould, who chaired the Committee on Polar Research (now Polar Research Board, NAS), appointed a Ross Ice Shelf Project steering group chaired by James Zumberge. In 1972, Zumberge was named chancellor of the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. In the same year he was appointed to the National Science Board, and he replaced Larry Gould as the U.S. delegate to the

Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR).

Zumberge invited Rutford to Lincoln to direct the Ross Ice Shelf Project (RISP) management office, which was established to coordinate the international RISP plan. With drilling planned for the 1975-76 field season, a geophysical and glaciological survey was scheduled to assist in selecting drilling sites. A 3D grid of measurements was supported by privately contracted Twin Otter flight support contracted by Bob – a big switch from manhauling sleds. During the same period, Bob established the Polar Ice Coring Office, PICO, and the Greenland Ice Sheet Project, GISP.

In April 1975 he became director of the Division of Polar Programs in NSF, which funded and managed NSF research in Antarctica and the Arctic. Bob returned to UN-L in 1977 as Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate studies. When Zumberge left UN-L, Rutford served as interim chancellor before moving to become president of the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) in May 1982.

While a scientist at heart, Bob was an entrepreneurial administrator. In the state system of universities, established schools guard their monopoly and prohibit lesser campuses from thriving. When Rutford arrived at UTD, the campus was largely a graduate school. Some juniors and seniors were completing bachelor work, but undergraduates generally weren't allowed. And UT-Dallas was not allowed to offer engineering, vital given the growing needs of high-tech companies.

Knowing the Legislature was unlikely to fund the needed change, Bob recruited business and civic leaders to write a proposal for the engineering school and then convinced the mayor to lead private fund-raising that brought millions.

“What I want the university to be is excellent,” Rutford told *The Dallas News* in

1986. “It should have a national reputation so we can attract the very best faculty.”

Bob set out to change the law so that UT-Dallas could enroll freshmen and sophomores. The Legislature in 1990 gave the school the go-ahead for undergraduates. *U.S. News & World Report* now ranks UT-Dallas's Jonsson School of Engineering one of the Nation's best graduate schools for engineering. Of 30,000 students, nearly three quarters are undergraduates.

Bob was involved in Antarctic science for more than 50 years. He attended every SCAR meeting from 1970 to 2004 and was U.S. delegate (1986–2004), Vice-President (1996–98), and President (1998–2002). As President, he oversaw a major review of SCAR's organization and goals, and he was responsible for its implementation.

Bob's honors and awards include the Distinguished Science Medal, the highest given by NSF. The 130-mile Rutford Ice Stream, which drains part of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet, is named after him. In 2007, the summit of Craddock Massif in the Sentinel Range of the Ellsworth Mountains was named Mount Rutford.

Capt. Alfred N. Fowler, USN 1926-2020

Alfred Noel Fowler, Captain, USN (retired), died on 14 January 2020, age 93. For a total of two decades during his long career, he held senior leadership positions in, or directly relating to, the U.S. Antarctic Program.

The first role came in 1972-1974 as Commander, U.S. Naval Support Force Antarctica. The assignment was made just after a 1971 directive from the President of the United States consolidated management and funding of the entire U.S. Antarctic Program at the National Science Foundation, replacing the long-standing arrangement that the departments of Defense and Transportation provided operational support and NSF only the science. He was the first captain in that

job following seven admirals starting with Richard E. Byrd. The organizational change began a steep learning curve and a vivid cultural shift for both the civilian science foundation and the involved military departments.



Captain Alfred N. Fowler, USN

Al's even handling of both science and support during the sometimes difficult multiyear transition may have been guided by an early assignment to Navy Hurricane Hunter squadrons from 1950 to 1957. At the time, the only way to determine the location, size, and intensity of these dangerous storms was to make low-level airborne penetrations of them. Al internalized the experience as a life lesson extending beyond his 26 years as a naval aviator: "When flying a big multi-engine airplane very low over the ocean in a hurricane, keep your wings level."

In 1980, after Captain Fowler retired from active naval service, NSF recruited him

to be deputy division director of its polar office, which manages and funds the U.S. Antarctic Program. During his 14 years at NSF, Al returned to Antarctica many times to oversee management, logistics, and science support. He retired from civilian government service in 1988.

But not from the Antarctic. An NSF initiative inspired the world's national Antarctic programs to establish an operational managers' forum equivalent to the Antarctic Treaty for geopolitics and the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) for science. For the next 11 years, Captain Fowler was employed at the American Geophysical Union, where he established the office and served as the first executive secretary for the international Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP). His expertise in the international governance of Antarctica had grown from his experience with the American program and his participation in many international scientific and diplomatic meetings. The aviator background also came into play as Al was instrumental in creating the Antarctic Flight Information Manual, overseeing steps to improve the efficiency and safety of air operations south of 60 degrees south.

Al wrote three books: a memoir, *Hurricanes to Antarctica: Tales of a Naval Aviator* (2014), *Poems From Punk, The Complete Collection* (2016), which celebrates the 70 years of love and marriage with his high school sweetheart Kathryn (Katie) Shadle (now deceased), and *COMNAP: The National Managers in Antarctica* (2000), history's sole example of unified governance of an entire continent in support of geophysics and environmental protection, states a laudatory review in *EOS* (American Geophysical Union). He contributed to this newsletter, most recently a review of Gabrielle Walker's 2013 *Antarctica: An Intimate Portrait of a Mysterious Continent*, which he calls "my choice for the best available book about contemporary international science in Antarctica."

Fowler Ice Rise, named for Al, is a 100- by 200-mile feature of the southwestern Ronne Ice Shelf. Military honors include the Legion of Merit Medal, Navy Commendation, and Antarctica Service Medal. He was a member of the American Meteorological Society and the U.S. Naval Institute as well as the Antarctic Society.

Funeral services were on 25 January in New Bern, North Carolina. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery.

This information draws from material provided by the family. An obituary is in the 19 January 2020 Washington Post.

Antarctic Gathering, 4-6 June 2021

Thirty (30) Society members have signed up for the Antarctic Gathering that will take place at the Mystic Seaport Museum in Connecticut, 4-6 June 2021. See the online version of this newsletter on the Society web site for a list of names. Of the 30, 28 are committed to the Friday evening (4 June 2021) steamboat ride. Because the boat is limited to 72 passengers, we encourage you to go to <https://www.antarctican.org> and sign up. Activities over the weekend and full instructions to reserve a place are there.

In summary:

- \$130 for all events and meals, Friday-Sunday. Or,
- \$85 for the Saturday and Sunday events and meals, but not the Friday evening boat trip. Or,
- \$80 for just Saturday events and meals.

The reason for getting together in Mystic at that time is that Mystic Seaport Museum is producing a major exhibition, *Discovering Antarctica 1820-2020*, to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the 1820s-era first sightings of Antarctica by, among others, Nathaniel Palmer of nearby Stonington, Connecticut.

It is exciting that so many Society members have signed up this far in advance. Until June 2020, signups will be limited to

Society members and their friends and families only. After that, depending on how many have signed up, we may open this opportunity to members of other polar societies and organizations.

Mystic_Registration as of 20Jan2020	
FirstName	LastName
Liesl	Schernthaller
Michael	Powell
Karen Ronne	Tupek
Mark	Leinmiller
Mrs.	Leinmiller
Steve	Dibbern
Victoria	Dibbern
Alexander	Sutherland
Elizabeth	Sutherland
Larry	Lackey
Joyce	Lackey
Kenneth	Behannon
Jane	Butterfield
Rob	Stephenson
Karen	Ayers
Guy	Guthridge
Lynn	Simarski
Robert	Rowland
Linda	Fritschner
Neil	Wilson
Ann	Trainor
Michael	Trainor
Austin	Kovacs
Betty	Kovacs
Stephen	Wilson
Carolyn	Wilson
Ronald	Thoreson
Sallie	Thoreson
Thomas	Henderson
Millie	Eidson

Memorials Gathering 18-19 July 2020

by Dr. Paul C. Dalrymple

With prominent Antarcticans passing away since last summer, we have decided to honor them with memorial events in Port Clyde, Maine, the weekend of 18-19 July 2020: not a regular Antarctic Gathering with speakers, but friends telling tales about their buddies.

Specifically, four long-time Society members will be commemorated. Obituaries of all of them have appeared in our newsletters, two in this issue.

Dick Cameron goes back to the IGY, and we hope to have several of his friends from Wilkes Station. Health permitting, Ralph Glasgow will be there showing a film that he shot featuring Dick. Among Dick's dearest friends, another IGYer, Walt Boyd, will show up from the West Coast. Walt was the last Antarctic to see Dick alive.

Probably the most famous Antarctic to be honored will be Bob Rutford, our Honorary President. In a long career, Bob held important scientific, academic, and management positions, National and international. As a collegian he was a star football player for the Minnesota Gophers; a son carries on the athletic tradition as a competitive swimmer. Bob had a summer home in Colorado as did other well-known Antarctic geologists, Larry Gould and Gentleman Jim Zumberge.

Al Fowler had top leadership positions in the U.S. Antarctic Program – Navy and NSF – and was the long-time executive secretary of the international group of national government Antarctic program managers called COMNAP. He was a longtime member of this society, and he wrote three books.

Another Antarctic to be honored will be my dear friend and loving companion for the last 19 years, Grace Machemer. She hosted Society members Polly Penhale, Michelle Raney, Lucia deLeiris, and others as

well as Ed Williams, Guy Guthridge and his wife Lynn Teo Simarski, and Jerry Marty. Once, before she had met Bob Rutford, she admonished him to sit down and stop giving our chef hell for being slow feeding him and the group at the Dip Net Restaurant in Port Clyde; later she and Bob became good friends. Gracie's family will hold a memorial for her at the Port Clyde Baptist Church, 843 Port Clyde Road (route 131), the morning of 18 July 2020. In the 19 years Gracie and I lived together, she did not go to church a single time. But we were friends with the pastor.

We dearly hope not to add to this list before gathering in July.

Society members and their friends and families are invited to attend this weekend gathering. You likely will want to settle into your lodging Friday, 17 July 2020; hotels and bed-and-breakfasts are in Port Clyde, Tenants Harbor, and elsewhere nearby. The first event will be the Baptist Church memorial on Saturday morning for Gracie, followed by an outdoor lunch at my house on Marshall Point Road, supper that evening on your own, and a Sunday noon gala at my house, catered (as at prior gatherings) by our star local lobsterman Erich Culver. As always, summertime coastal Maine will welcome you.