Corpus Christi!

_These pictures are great but don’t begin to tell the whole story. Think of the good times ahead with your shipmates!_ Starting Wednesday September 9th Thru Sunday September 13th, with early registration at noon and ending with a Sunday breakfast for the crew with farewells. Don’t miss it!

We will be staying at the Holiday Inn which is close to the airport. The rooms are $89.00 per night and advance reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly (361-289-5100). Be sure to let them know you are with the Mount McKinley Association Reunion to receive the special group rate. The Hotel offers free shuttle to and from the airport and an on site restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Next to the Hotel is the Astor Restaurant. The Astor has received some good reviews. The Astor serves steaks, seafood, burgers, sandwiches, and has a full bar.

_Ladies Hattitude Tea_ Hosted by Lynne Ellis – Thursday afternoon 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

_Tours_ This year there are a variety of choices. Thursday, Sept. 10th is Captain Clark’s Flagship evening cruise. Busses will pick us up at 5:30 & 6:00 PM. Friday is your choice of three tours. (1) USS Lexington (2) The Texas State Aquarium and (3) The museum of Science and History and the Art Museum of Southern Texas.

_Banquet_ Will be Saturday Evening with a DJ playing music for your pleasure. Dinner offers three choices, Chicken Picatta, Prime Rib of beef, and Snapper or Tilapia. What is served will depend on the freshest available. Dinner will include a garden salad, rolls, potatoes, vegetable and dessert Dinner and the Farewell breakfast are included in the registration fee.

_Free time_ As you can see, there will be plenty of free time to visit with shipmates, tour the town, or just relax.

Details, costs for the tours etc. are on the registration form enclosed in this newsletter.
U.S. Navy News: Naval Aviation Soars in Podcast, Blogs
Story Number: NNS090610-12
Release Date: 6/10/2009 4:23:00 PM

From Bill Doughty, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

PEARL HARBOR (NNS) – Carrier-based aviation is the featured topic in the Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Rat-Pac Report podcast posted June 10 and was a topic of discussion among Hawaii bloggers this week.

In the Rat-Pac Report, which is posted at www.cpf.navy.mil, Adm. Robert F. Willard said the advantage of naval aviation is, in part, due to its range and adaptability in achieving power projection and forward presence.

"Naval aviation on board our aircraft carriers is a means of projecting that form of combat power anywhere in the world, whereupon we're not reliant on foreign basing in order to project naval aviation power," said Willard.

"It's about the air wing and our Navy. As we continue to evolve naval aviation, advance to the F-35 Strike Fighter, advance our helicopter forces and advance the ways in which we are able to command-and-control naval aviation we are keeping pace and, again, leading globally the application of this very unique form of combat power," Willard said.

The latest Rat-Pac Report podcast was posted just days after two bloggers, guests of the Pacific Fleet, offered their opinions on their blogs about naval aviation, aircraft carriers and Sailors serving in today's Navy.

Both bloggers got an up-close glimpse of carrier-based naval aviation when they embarked USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), en route to the Western Pacific.

"Really, words cannot express the experience," described L.P. "Neenz" Faleafine, on her blog after landing on and taking off from the flight deck of an aircraft carrier, "so I'll just quote the certificate that was presented to me for completing the embark mission: 'This honorary naval aviator experienced deceleration from 105 to 0 mph in two seconds and acceleration from 0 to 128 mph in three seconds...'

Faleafine also posted photos and video of her experience.

Ryan Ozawa wrote on his blog, "The experience was incredible, almost indescribable, leaving me awed, exhausted, and immensely grateful. Not merely for the opportunity to visit the carrier, but for everything the men and women of the U.S. Navy and our armed forces do."

Ozawa posted a nearly 13-minute video of his experience – from the arrested landing to the catapult launch.

As part of his video, Ozawa interviewed Aviation Support Equipment Technician 2nd Class (SW/AW) Yancy Zuniga and asked him how he spends his free time under way.

"I lift weights and train with other island boys," said Zuniga, a 2004 graduate of Pahoa High School. "We train in martial arts, just like back home."

During their visit, they learned Ronald Reagan has 4,500 Sailors; 1,500 work for Carrier Air Wing 14, which deploys with 61 aircraft and about 90 pilots.

"Their dedication and commitment of serving in the United States Navy is admirable, and as I drove home at the end of my day all I could do was cry... for their allegiance to the United States... for their families that miss them... for our country and the world... for my freedom... for my life, liberty and my blessed right to pursue happiness," wrote, Faleafine after her experience.
Hi Shipmates,

My term as your president will end at our reunion in September. It's been a great two years and I am honored to have been able to serve you.

Now that the US Presidential election is long over and I am not being political, I want to share some information with you. Senator John McCain's father RADM John McCain served on board the USS MT McKinley from 16 November 1960 until 9 December, 1960.

A couple of our members recall RADM McCain. One writes, "I was fresh aboard and in the deck force, 1st Division. I remember clearly McCain arriving with the flag. I remember bringing aboard cases of Scotch and sun-dried cigars. The old man seemingly always had one of those black, knarled up cigars, never lit. "I would be on lookout watch and he would regularly come out onto the steering deck and say 'I have the con' and take over. He projected a 'hard as nails' image but he always came over and conversed with the lookouts with a personable manner".

Another member writes "Admiral McCain showed him how to tie a bowline knot up on the Quarterdeck".

As a result of Adm Mc Cain's tour of duty on the Mac, his wife and son are eligible to be associate members of our association. To that end, I wrote his wife, Roberta McCain and his son, Senator John McCain inviting each to join our association, enclosing a membership application. Unfortunately I did not receive a response for either of them. I really did not believe either would join, but I was hopeful. If any of you have a direct line to the Senator, maybe you can invite him to join.

Your association is in a very strong position, both financial and service wise. Many members have stepped forward to help keep us going over the years. This reunion will be our 21st that would not happen without the effort of many members during those 21 years. A Navy "Well Done" to all.

As my last parting message, I want to repeat something I wrote earlier about Shipmates. "Shipmates" is a great word. To me, it brings us together. Maybe we did not serve on the Mac the same years, but we all walked the same decks, ate in the same mess hall, went to the same barber ship, and got our treats from the same gendunk stand. We are tied together by that service. That's it for now, but remember, Keep Sailing Shipmates. Bill

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We received a journal written by Clarence M. Burdick, LTJG, the Assistant Navigator on the Mt McKinley from 1944 until September 20, 1946. He was a plank owner. The journal was donated to our Association by his wife, Elizabeth Burdick.

The journal begins September 20, 1944. Three days of action. LTJG Burdick writes:

For once since we have been here, the sun was not out so the ship remained fairly cool all morning. And five bags of mail came aboard. I am keeping my fingers crossed for I missed out the last time.

More Admirals and Generals coming and going all day long, it was sure a busy day. But that is just part of the job.

At 1900 we finished up our day with an air raid by what we so delightfully call "Washing Machine Charlie".

again tonight, this time we saw him but could not secure permission to fire in time--"Aloha Sweetheart".

21 September, Thursday. D + 6 days.

Auguar Island is ours. It was pronounced secure at 10:30 this morning.

The morning started out with a terrific barrage laid down by five cruisers, our battleship and three destroyers. They blasted for 30 minutes. Then the dive bombers and strafers spent another half hour working over one spot. The large long hill in the center of the island is called "bloody nose". Its been blasted daily but the Japs still have to be burned out or buried.

Here is an interesting thing. You probably have heard of "Banzai Raids". The Japs get them selves thoroughly tanked up on Saki during the afternoon and by night fall they are really drunk. Then they come out on a raid to kill all the Americans. The Marines open up and wipe them out. Last night the Marines could not see them but could hear them getting drunk, so they fired at the noise. This morning they counted 600 dead Japs. A "Banzai Raid" nipped in the bud.

We lay off Peleliu all day, no "Washing Machine Charlie" as yet tonight. Must go on watch now, Aloha Sweetheart.

22 September, Friday, D+7 days.

The fight for "bloody nose" still rages on. Through reports and reconnaissance we learned that this ridge has several different levels hollowed out within thence the necessity for such slow progress in capturing it. The eastern part of the island is completely ours. All that remains in Jap hands is the ridge and the north western end of the island. All morning it was as quiet as a New England farm at midnight. The sea was like glass and the sun beat down like a demon from the under-world. Not a breath of air stirred nor a single ripple on the broad expanse of the sea.

This afternoon was a far different story. All hell broke loose, ships firing away, planes all over the place and plenty of heavy artillery fire. The Japs shot another of our planes down and are counter-attacking heavily tonight. As this day ends the fighting still rages on, with heavy casualties on both sides. Looks like the worst one yet. Thank God for your letters today –Like manna from heaven– Honest. (to be continued in future Mastheads)
The smart way to catch Burglars

It was late and Charlie was about to climb into bed when his wife informed him that there was a light on in their garden shed. Charlie started to go outside to turn off the light but noticed some people in the shed who were busy stealing his things.

He ran back inside right away and called the cops, who asked him "Are there any intruders in your house?" to which Charlie replied no and explained his circumstances. The cops told Charlie that all patrol cars were otherwise occupied, and that he should just lock his door and a uniformed cop would be at his house when one was free.

Charlie answered, "Alright," hung up, waited 30 seconds, and then called the cops again.

"Hello, I just called a short while ago because there were people stealing things from my shed. I want to let you know that they're not a problem anymore because I've just shot every one of them."

Charlie then hung up the phone. In five short minutes, three patrol cars, a SWAT team, and an ambulance arrived, and of course, the cops caught the burglars in the act.

One of the cops snapped at Charlie: "I thought you said that you shot every one of them!"

"I thought you said there were no patrol cars free!" Charlie answered.

VA REOPENING HEALTH CARE ENROLLMENT TO THOUSANDS OF VETERANS

June 19, 2009

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), which now has nearly 8 million Veterans enrolled in its award-winning health care system, is poised to welcome nearly 266,000 more Veterans into its medical centers and clinics across the country by expanding access to health care enrollment for certain Veterans who had been excluded due to their income.

“This incremental approach to expanding enrollment ensures that access to VA health care for a greater number of beneficiaries does not sacrifice timely access or quality medical care for those Veterans already enrolled in VA’s health care system,” Dr. Gerald Cross, VA’s Acting Under Secretary for Health, said. “Over the next four years, we hope to provide enrollment to more than 500,000 Veterans.”

Under a new regulation effective June 15, VA will enroll Veterans whose income exceeds current means-tested thresholds by up to 10 percent. These Veterans were excluded from VA health care enrollment when income limits were imposed in 2003 on Veterans with no service-connected disabilities or other special eligibility for care. There is no income limit for Veterans with compensable service-connected disabilities or for Veterans being seen for their service-connected disabilities.

Veterans who have applied for VA health care but were rejected due to income at any point in 2009 will have their applications reconsidered under the new income threshold formula. Those who applied before 2009, but were rejected due to income, must reapply. VA will contact these Veterans through a direct-mail campaign, Veterans service organizations, and a national and regional marketing campaign.

Information about enrollment and an income and assets calculator are available at www.va.gov/healtheligibility. The calculator provides a format in which Veterans enter their household income, number of dependents, and zip codes to see if they may qualify for VA health care enrollment.

In addition to applying online, Veterans may also contact VA’s Health Benefits Service Center at 1-877-222 VETS (1-877-222-8387). Each VA medical center across the country has an enrollment coordinator available to provide Veterans with enrollment and eligibility information.

A Reminder to the ladies of The Mount McKinley

Do you like to wear Hats??

Then the Ladies Tea during the reunion in Corpus Christi is the place for you.

Do you have an attitude about Hats? Well I have a HATTITUDE and guess what? I want all to bring their most lovely, unusual or outlandish hat so we may all enjoy it during the Ladies Tea. Don't have a hat? That's OK. Come and enjoy anyway.

We'll share our tea sans crumpets with gracious attitude, have a hat parade, then pick ourselves some winners from those with HATTITUDE.

Tea is scheduled for Thursday afternoon from 1:00 to 2:30 in an room to be determined.

See you in Texas... Lynn Ellis
This Newsletter is dedicated to all the men who served on this extraordinary ship in service to their country whether in time of war or peace.

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### Mount McKinley Ship's Store - Order Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Size / Color / Style</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Golf Shirt</td>
<td>Navy Blue, S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL</td>
<td>29.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Baseball Caps</td>
<td>Khaki, Navy Blue, Stone w/ Navy bill, One Size - Adjustable</td>
<td>16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ship's Patches</td>
<td>3 3/4&quot; Mountain, 6&quot; Diesel Gang Patch, 5&quot; Association Mermaid/Turtle, Task Force 90 Patch, Snipe Force Patch</td>
<td>5.00 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fleece (pull over)</td>
<td>Navy Blue, 1/2 zipper Embroidered Logo, M, L, XXL</td>
<td>30.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mouse Pad</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Laser Engraved Key Tag</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>&quot;Master Roster&quot; by Dick Armstrong</td>
<td>Red Cover 1944-1970 (listing of all years)</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Custom Laser Engraved Plaque</td>
<td>Call Steve Schermerhorn 574-831-2843 for special order form</td>
<td>65.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>&quot;Cruising in the Mac&quot; by Ken Boenitz</td>
<td>A Chronology - USS Mount McKinley, AGC - 7, 1944-1970</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mattied Color Print</td>
<td>16&quot;x20&quot; Mattied Color Print on Canvas</td>
<td>32.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11A,B,C</td>
<td>Ship's Photos</td>
<td>8x10, Black &amp; White Photos - Listed at Bottom (A-C)</td>
<td>5.00 each</td>
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More photos and items are listed on the website [ussmtrimckinley.com](http://ussmtrimckinley.com). New items will be available at the USS Mount McKinley Association Fall Reunion.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item #</th>
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<th>Color / Style</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
</table>

Make Checks Payable to: USS Mount McKinley Association

Mail Order to: USS Mount McKinley Ship Store c/o Steve Schermerhorn

69272 County Road 23 New Paris, IN 46553

Subtotal

Shipping 5.00

Total

Ship to Information: Please Print Clearly or Attach a Address Label

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<td>State</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone #</td>
<td>Area Code</td>
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**Funny** money story

There was a man who worked all of his life and saved all of his money. He was a real miser when it came to his money. He loved money more than just about anything, and just before he died, he said to his wife, "Now listen, when I die, I want you to take all my money and place it in the casket with me. I wanna take my money to the afterlife."

So he got his wife to promise him with all her heart that when he died, she would put all the money in the casket with him.

Well, one day he died. He was stretched out in the casket, the wife was sitting there in black next to her closest friend. When they finished the ceremony, just before the undertakers got ready to close the casket, the wife said "Wait just a minute!"

She had a shoe box with her, she came over with the box and placed it in the casket. Then the undertakers locked the casket down and rolled it away. Her friend said, "I hope you weren't crazy enough to put all that money in the casket."

"Yes," the wife said, "I promised. I'm a good Christian, I can't lie. I promised him that I was going to put that money in that casket with him."

"You mean to tell me you put every cent of his money in the casket with him?"

"I sure did. I got it all together, put it into my account and I wrote him a check."

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement of Financial condition thru 2nd quarter 2009</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>AmericanFirst Ckg</td>
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<tr>
<td>AmericanFirst MM</td>
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<tr>
<td>American First CD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ship Store Inventory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ship Store Cash</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ship Store Sales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Membership Dues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life Membership dues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
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<tr>
<td>'09 Re-Union Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest American First Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ship Store Inventory sold</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Supplies &amp; Maintenance</td>
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<td>Masthead Print &amp; postage 2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reunion Expenses</td>
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<td>Postage</td>
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<td>Refunds: Bank charge.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reconciliation Discrepancy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Webb hosting</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Less Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Income thru 2nd quarter 2009</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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**Correction to Year End 2008 Financial. Ships Store inventory should be $3,930.00. Total Assets $38,906.01.**

This Newsletter is dedicated to all the men who served on this extraordinary ship in service to their country whether in time of war or peace.
This Newsletter is dedicated to all the men who served on several extraordinary ships in service to their country whether at times of war or peace.

Plan of the Day
Corpus Christi, Texas

**Wednesday September 9th**
1300-2300  Registration and hospitality room (*Party Room*) open.
1800-1900  Early Arrival Deli (sandwiches-hors d’oeuvres) in Hospitality room.

**Thursday September 10th**
0700-2300  Registration and hospitality room open. Morning coffee & donuts
            Registration closes at 1700.
0900-1700  Free time with shipmates, see area attractions.
1300-1430  Ladies “Hattitude Tea”
1400-1500  Officers and Directors Meeting
1730-1800  Busses to Captain Clark’s Flagship
1830-2100  Cruise- Captain Clark’s Flagship on Corpus Christi Bay (snacks for sale on board Hot Dogs, Nachos, drinks etc.)
2130 (about) Return from cruise

**Friday September 11th**
0700-2300  Registration and hospitality room open. Morning coffee and donuts.
            Registration closes at 1700
0900-0930  Tours leave for USS Lexington (snack bar on the Lexington), Texas Aquarium, and Museums (lunch on your own)
1430 (about) Return from tours

**Saturday September 12th**
0700-2300  Registration and Hospitality room open. Morning coffee and donuts.
            Registration closes from 0900 to 1200
0830-1000  *Show and tell* Time to share your photos and memorabilia
1000-1130  Annual Association business meeting and Elections
1130-1200  Meeting of new Board of Directors
1200-1800  Hospitality room re-opens-Afternoon free shopping etc.
1800-2400  *Reunion banquet in the Florence room*-cash cocktail bar Dinner at 1900, Awards program at 2000, followed by dancing, socializing. (Coat suggested)

**Sunday September 13th**
0800-1000 *Farewell Breakfast Buffet!* Anchors Aweigh! See you next year in Florida!

* The *Party Room and the Banquet Room are on the 1st (ground level) floor.*
OK! Let’s not beat around the bush. For me it has been a hell of a year. I am sure there are those who have had it worse but let’s get to it. One of my MastHead articles was about my experience driving NASCAR race cars on NASCAR tracks. Admittedly strange pastime for someone my age but I’ve never been an ageist so why start now? After my last run at Homestead Miami Speedway I had made up my mind to drive Talladega next. So I scheduled that event for June of 2008 and began the joyful anticipation of driving faster than I had at Richmond, Daytona or Homestead.

Fate has two faces. This time I got the ugly one. The week of my planned event I started to experience symptoms that sent me packing to the Emergency Room. I weighed in for the fight at a tad under 200 lbs. After a series of tests I was told the Gall Bladder had to go. I was 71 years old at the time and never had a sick day in my life. A broken bone or two from my construction years but all my parts were still attached. I figured what the hell. I had a good run and I could afford to give up the Gall Bladder. I sure didn’t want to give up Talladega but that was the ugly face looking at me. The surgery was quick and painless and I was home in no time at all. Unfortunately the symptoms came home with me.

It’s now mid July 2008. I’m back in the ER three more times before a diagnosis of Colon Cancer is made. Leaving the details out I have six surgeries in as many weeks. An error in measurement locating the tumor resulted in unnecessary radiation. An adverse reaction to the radiation and the Chemotherapy threw me for a loop. In September I began what was to be a 35 day hospital stay and one more surgery. I spiraled down to a mere 138 pounds, two pounds less than I weighed at my High School Graduation, a loss of 62 pounds. I couldn’t walk more than ten steps in a row even with a walker. By November 2008 and I am home again.

Call me crazy, but thoughts of Talladega became my carrot on the stick. I was determined to get well enough to drive a race car on a NASCAR track over 160 MPH. I continued the Chemo. My prognosis was good but I was as weak as a new born. During my chemo another adverse reaction required treatment adjustments. Eventually I overcame the inability to eat and start eating regularly. I gained weight, a good sign. I pushed myself to walk and exercise. In April 2009 my Chemo was done. I weighed in at 175 lbs.

Schedule and travel time would not allow Talladega so I scheduled 16 Laps at Daytona. It’s time to celebrate.

The loving family that gathered at my bedside, my wife, children, grandchildren and sons-in-law, will now gather around me trackside. They sit, cheer and support me once again. This time in a joyful experience. I am told later that my Grandson looked at his mom as I sped by and said, “Look! Poppa is living again”. If that doesn’t make you teary what will?

Well I didn’t get to 160 MPH. I missed by a few. The Pit Road Instructor told me. “I started out a little shaky (I was a kind of nervous) but you kicked Daytona’s Butt”! I had the best top speed out of 15 other drivers. That day I kicked two butts. Daytona’s Speedway and Cancer. Without my family and self determination I may have ended in a different spot. Now fate, I’ve seen your ugly face and your beautiful face. Keep smiling for me. I’m going to get to Talladega and break that 160 goal. You never know where fate will take you.