



# *Cape Cod Currents*



*Military Officers Association of America*  
*Cape Cod Chapter*  
*Monthly Newsletter*



*March 2010*



## **LUNCHEON**

**March 9, 2010**



**Radisson Hotel Hyannis**

287 Iyannough Road, Hyannis Massachusetts 02601

Cash bar and registration – 1130 – Luncheon at 1200

### **Menu**

*Cheese and Cracker Tray*

*Mixed Green Salad*

*Choice of*

*London Broil or Baked Scrod*

*Seasonal Vegetables, Roasted Potatoes*

*Fresh Rolls and Butter*

*Tea or Coffee, and Dessert*

## News You Can Use

*Help a Member* – If you know of a member who is sick, or who needs a ride to a meeting, call Doris Condon at 508-349-7599.

*Chapter Donation* – The board has voted to provide \$750 to the Chaplain at the Coast Guard Air Station, MMR. With this money, the Chaplain can buy \$1000 worth of Stop and Shop gift certificates, which he distributes to needy military families in the area. As you know, many of our younger military folks, with families, are just getting by, and this will help a great deal. And our thanks go to the generous folks at Stop and Shop, who make this possible.

### *Revised Schedule of Meetings* –

April 13 – Massachusetts Military Reservation  
May 11 – Coonamesset Inn – Dinner; scholarship awards  
June 8 – Massachusetts Maritime Academy  
July 13 – Grey's Beach – Lobster Bake  
September 14 – Cape Cod Scenic Railway  
October 12 – Jailhouse Tavern  
November 9 – Brookside Golf & Country Club  
December 14 – Radisson – Toys for Tots

***Do Not DIAL AREA CODE 809*** - THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION PROVIDED TO US BY AT&T. DON'T EVER DIAL AREA CODE 809. This notice is being distributed all over the US. It is pretty scary, especially given the way they try to get you to call. **They get you to call by telling you that it is information about a family member who has been ill or to tell you someone has been arrested, died, or to let you know you have won a wonderful prize, etc..** In each case, you are told to call the 809 number right away. Since there are so many new area codes these days, people unknowingly return these calls. If you call from the U.S., you will probably be charged \$2.425 per minute.

Or, you'll get a long recorded message. The point is, they will try to keep you on the phone as long as possible to increase the charges. **WHY IT WORKS:** The 809 area code is located in the Dominican Republic. The charges afterward can become a real Nightmare. That's because you did actually make the call. If you complain, both your local phone company and your long distance carrier will not want to get involved and will most likely tell you That they are simply providing the billing for the foreign company. You'll end up dealing with a foreign company that argues they have done nothing wrong.

*New Health Care Bill Will Not Change VA and TRICARE Benefits* - The national health reform bill passed by the House last month and the Senate version being debated pose no threat to current health care benefits provided to military families, retirees or veterans, say advocates for these beneficiaries as well as congressional committee staffs. The House-passed Affordable Health Care for America Act ([HR 3962](#)) states in Section 311 that "nothing" in the bill "shall be construed as affecting" authorities used by the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to provide TRICARE programs or VA health care benefits.

*On-Line Exchange Mall* – the Exchange on-Line Mall is home to 102 partner websites that have agreed to offer exclusive military discounts and accept the Military Star Card. With everything from mufflers to movies, available categories include toys, kids and baby, tactical military and electronics. [The Mall](#) is open to all authorized exchange shoppers.



*CCC MOAA Fiscal Year* – To clear up any confusion, our Chapter's fiscal year runs concurrent with the calendar year – that is, from January 1 to December 31. Thus, your annual dues are for the calendar (and fiscal) year.

*Expanded Benefits in Massachusetts* - Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick recently signed legislation that increases the state's cash bonuses for military personnel who serve multiple Afghanistan or Iraq tours under the state's "Welcome Home Bonus" program. The new law also enhances access to state contracts for disabled veterans. For more information on Massachusetts' bonus program, visit the state's [Welcome Home Bonus Program](#) webpage.

*Retirees Asked to Volunteer* - Volunteers are needed at more than 100 offices at active-duty, Reserve and Guard bases worldwide. Volunteers for retired military and their family members are needed in several areas, depending on the base. Retiree activities office volunteers help with several actions including: serving as an information center for space-available travel, TRICARE and base services, offering referrals for financial assistance and pay matters, counseling active-duty Airmen nearing retirement, and providing literature on retirement issues. You can contact our Retirees Activity Office at the MMR:

OTIS

USAF/CVR

PO Box 35

Otis ANGB MA 02542-1330

(Satellite of Hanscom AFB)

**Hours:** 1000 - 1400, Tuesday - Thursday

**Phone:** (508) 968-4175

**e-mail:** [raootis@gis.net](mailto:raootis@gis.net)

*Mark Your Calendars* – The U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, "Thunderbirds," announced its 2010 airshow schedule. The team's 57th show season is scheduled to take them to more than 65 shows in 27 states and Canada. They will be appearing in North Kingstown, RI on 26/27 June and in Westfield, MA on 21/22 August.

*E-Mail CCCMOAA Newsletter* – We send an e-mail copy of the monthly newsletter to those who have provided us with their e-mail address. This provides a faster, less expensive, and more reliable way to get the news to you. If you are not presently receiving the newsletter by e-mail, and would like to do so, please send an e-mail to Hank Bertsch at [itcghb@verizon.net](mailto:itcghb@verizon.net).

*Scholarship Donations* – Many members continue to donate to the Scholarship Fund, which enables us to provide aid to students from the Cape and Islands. Since we last posted a list of donors, the following have generously added contributions to the fund: COL Charles Aftosmis; CDR Robert W. Barrow; COL Boreslaw P. Bersetecky; LTC George H. Bertsch III; CPT Richard Bowen; CAPT Allan K. Brier; Mary Deane Caldwell; LTJG Mario P. Ciara; CDR Lee S. Clark; BGN Jimmy Dishner; COL George W. Gallant; CAPT John M. Gibbons; MAJ Edward J. Hines; CAPT William C. Kelley, Jr.; CAPT Leonard R. Kilmer; CDR Robert F. Lebel, Jr.; COL Richard F. Lopes; CPT Donald C. Lynde; CAPT Jim McCormick; RADM William M. McDermott; COL James P. McDevitt; LTC Patrick J. McNamara; LTC Phillip J. McNamara; LTC Robert G. Melzer; CPT John J. Murphy, Jr.; CAPT Robert L. O'Brien; CAPT Hugh H. O'Regan; LCDR William C. Richtmyre; MAJ Charles E. Sands; COL Steven C. Schrader; COL John A. Sevilla; MAJ Rose Yvette Soukup; LTC Robert F. Stanley; LTC Nicholas Theochares;



LTC Eugene F. Tierney; CDR William F. Tyler; Anonymous (in honor of MAJ Edward Dahlborg)

## **Worth Bookmarking**

*Luggage Restrictions* – Before you go to the airport, check this cool site. Airline rules on baggage vary. This could save you some money. <http://www.luggagelimits.com/>.

*Internet Movie Data Base* – If you're a movie fan, go to [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com). Here you'll find everything you wanted to know, including cast, plot, scenes, facts, and gaffes, for just about every movie ever made.

*Travel to Europe* – If you're planning a trip to Europe, or just want to learn more about a European country, go to [www.visiteurope.com](http://www.visiteurope.com). This site is full of useful information, and fun to just browse through.

### **And Then There's this ...**

A **2,200-year-old** clay jar found near Baghdad, Iraq, has been described as the oldest known electric battery in existence. The clay jar and others like it are part of the holdings of the National Museum of Iraq and have been attributed to the Parthian Empire — an ancient Asian culture that ruled most of the Middle East from 247 B.C. to A.D. 228. The jar itself has been dated to sometime around 200 B.C. Those who've examined it closely say that it is a battery. The nondescript earthen jar is only 5½ inches high by 3 inches across. The opening was sealed with an asphalt plug, which held in place a copper sheet, rolled into a tube. This tube was capped at the bottom with a copper disc held in place by more asphalt. A narrow iron rod was stuck through the upper asphalt plug and hung down into the center of the copper tube — not touching any part of it. Filling it with an acidic liquid such as grape juice or orange juice, will produce an electric current.

Experiments with models of the Baghdad Battery have generated between 1.5 and 2 volts. Not a lot of power. So what would batteries have been used for 2,000 years ago? Some theories hold that several batteries could have been linked together to generate a higher voltage for the use in electroplating gold to a silver surface. For additional information go to your computer and search for "Baghdad Battery".

### **Chapter affairs**

The need for members to step up and be involved with the governance of the chapter is now critical. Your President will have completed 3 years of a 2 year term as of June 2010. A new president should have computer skills and be willing to commit to a 2 year term. I have been fortunate to have some very competent and dedicated people who have shouldered some of the responsibilities of producing the newsletter, scheduling events, attending to personal affairs and last but not least, handling scholarship affairs. In June, we will have an election of Officers for the 2011, 2012 time frame. Please let us not close down the chapter which currently has 190 paid members. Richard M Bowen President

**CCMOAA Scholarship and Charity Fund Contribution** Chapter members who would like to make a *federal tax deductible* contribution to either our Chapter's Charity and/or Scholarship funds may do so by completing the information requested below and sending it to our treasurer. The Chapter thanks you very much for your generosity. Please check the appropriate boxes below and fill in the requested information.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, wish to make a contribution to the CCCMOAA

**Scholarship Fund** in the amount of \$25 ( ) \$50 ( ) \$75 ( ) \$100 ( ) Other ( )

**Charity Fund** in the amount of \$25 ( ) \$50 ( ) \$75 ( ) \$100 ( ) Other ( )

Please mail to: CCCMOAA P.O. Box 1553 Mashpee, MA 02649

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reservation Radisson Hotel Luncheon 9 March, 2010**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Entrée choice \_\_\_\_\_ London Broil Cost: \$25 per person

\_\_\_\_\_ Baked Scrod

The dead line for reservations will be by March 2, 2010 Enclose check payable to CCCMOAA in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ Mail reservation form and check to: LT. Mario Ciara, USNR (Ret) 167 Alder Lane North Falmouth MA 02556