



Flight 18 Est 4 July, 1965

MILE HIGH FLIGHT 18

Order of Daedalians

Newsletter

May 2015



Platte Valley's Vintage Aero Flying Museum is on the move



The Vintage Aero Flying Museum at Platte Valley has not fully closed as we had previously understood, but instead is expanding from single-site to dual-site operation, according to founder and CEO Andy Parks. Roughly half of its world-class displays have been relocated to the Pueblo Municipal Airport, where they will be on indefinite loan to the Weisbrod Aircraft Museum. (To explore the Weisbrod, click on this link: <http://www.pwam.org>).

At Platte Valley, meanwhile, Parks is retaining one hangar, dedicated to aircraft restoration, maintenance and the remainder of the static displays. The two hangars that formerly housed the VAFM's displays are under contract to a private party.

Platte Valley remains the home of The Lafayette Foundation and the larger of its collection of flyable WWI replica aircraft.

Andy will be guest speaker at our 15 May luncheon meeting at Aurora Hills, where he'll update the status of these changes and talk about the Foundation's recently finished replica of the SPAD XIII (above).

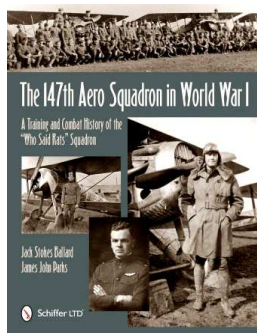
He'll be accompanied by Weisbrod President Don Blehm and Jack Ballard, co-author with Andy's dad the late Jim Parks of a new coffee table book about the 147th Aero Squadron dubbed "Who said Rats?" See Page 4.

2015 Flight Sked

Flight 18 normally meets on the third Friday of each month (exceptions announced in the newsletter). Meeting notifications and RSVPs via Apollo. Address Apollo questions to Flight Adjutant Walt Wise: wwise364@comcast.net or (720) 340-9534.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Activity/Speaker</u>
16 Jan	Aurora Hills*	Roy Poole - "Old 666"
20 Feb	Aurora Hills*	The Butch O'Hare story
20 Mar	Aurora Hills*	Ger Spaulding-Toss Up
17 Apr	Aurora Hills*	Adam Makos-Higher Call
15 May	Aurora Hills*	Andy Parks-PV Update
28-31 May	San Antonio	National Convention
19 Jun	Aurora Hills*	Roy Poole-Av Humor
17 Jul	Buckley AFB	Lunch and tour
21 Aug	Wings Over Rox	AFA Super LTG Johnson
18 Sep	Aurora Hills*	Tudor-Tomb of the Unk.
16 Oct	Aurora Hills*	M.Shea - Iraq M/Evacs
20 Nov	Aurora Hills*	Bus. Mtg/Elections
?? Dec	TBA	Christmas Party

* Aurora Hills Golf Course Tin Cup Bar & Grill





Memo from the Flight Captain

Fellow Daedalians,

You may have heard me tell you that "relaying the information on the final flight for a fellow Daedalian is the worst part of the Flight Captain's job." You can imagine any number of reasons why it's the worst part; but for me, it's the realization that I hardly got to know the Daedalian before he flew from our midst.

This too-soon-departed reality came crashing down upon me in late February. I had just finished a regimen of antibiotics required for some oral surgery, and soon felt as if I had a flu or food poisoning.

Trips to the bathroom were too frequent, so I went to the doctor. His response was to give me more antibiotics. Three days later, I was feeling far worse, and returned to the doc. This time, he directed me to the nearest Emergency Room for a CT scan and tests.

Within an hour, I had an IV in my arm, fluids being pumped in, and was wheeled to an isolation room at Lutheran. They wrote something on the board in my room, called, "C. diff." Never heard of it! But with everyone wearing gowns and latex gloves, I was getting the idea it was pretty serious.

I found out that C. diff is the convenient way of saying "*Clostridium difficile*," the name of a not-nice microbe living in my colon. It's a microbe resistant to antibiotics, and when the "good" microbes were killed off by the antibiotics I

had taken in February, this nasty microbe took over. Left untreated, I might have joined the 29,000 patients who die each year from the damages of C. diff.

Four nights in the hospital got the C. diff microbes reduced and the "good" microbes on the increase. I left the hospital, but remained infectious for another three weeks. I will always have C. diff in me. So, you can understand why I'm not too eager to see another prescription for antibiotics!

Which brings me back to the reality of too-soon-departed friends. I've always understood that Life is what happens while making other plans. But one of my plans hasn't always been building up friendships. So I've made a promise to my (mortal) self to make sure I go beyond the social niceties of "how's-it-gooin'?" and spend time getting to know friends much better.

At the top of my list of friends will be the Daedalians I meet at each luncheon and special event. I promise to learn more about our members – new, young, and seasoned. I can always find another time to go fishing, but another time to be with friends isn't guaranteed. Since I could never expect a better fraternity of friends than those who are called Daedalians, I don't want to miss the times.

Volabamus

Volamus

**Roy A. Poole,
LtCol, USAF (Ret)
Flight Captain**



Walking with a friend in the dark is better than walking alone in the light.

-- Helen Keller

Final Flights



*Bill Herron; George McCrillis;
Bill Matheny; Harry Novinger*



**Elmer E. "Bill" Herron
LtCol, USAF (Ret)
Aug 18, 1920 – Apr 20, 2014**

Flight Captain - 1981

Born in Chadron, NE,

Bill earned his private pilot's license there in 1940. Then, in his own words:

"In Oct 1941, I began my military flying career at King City, CA, as an Aviation Cadet (Class 42-D), progressed to basic training at Moffett Field, and then to advanced training at Luke AFB, AZ. I was dispatched to Alaska and the Aleutians in June 42, where I flew B-18s and B-26s for nine months. Mar 1943 saw me arrive at McDill Field in Tampa where I got more training and joined the 394th Bomb Group. More training at Ardmore, OK, and Battle Creek, MI, then to Europe in Feb 1944."

He completed 77 B-26 missions in the European Theater before returning to the USA in May 1945.

After WWII, he separated from the Service, married "Bette" and flew with the Nebraska ANG before resuming his Air Force career, chalking up tours in Washington D.C., Iran and a second in Alaska. Now experienced in F-80s, F-86s and F-106s, he retired in 1971 to pursue an active post-retirement.

Bill joined Daedalians in 1968 and became a Life Member in 1981, the same year in which he served as Flight Captain of Flight 18. At the time of his death, he was a widower living alone in Louisville, CO, which may explain why we were not notified. He was interred at Ft Logan on 28 April 2014.

RIP, Bill.

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FINAL FLIGHTS *from page 2*

George R. McCrillis
Maj, USAF (Ret)
Nov 19, 1933 - Feb 4, 2015



George lost his battle with lung cancer, the brevity of which stood in sad contrast to the year-long battles he'd won against lung and kidney issues in 2006. His body already shutting down, he entered Porter Hospice in Littleton only about 15 minutes prior to his passing.

Born in Middleboro, MA, he graduated in 1956 from the University of Massachusetts with a BS in mechanical engineering. He then spent the summer as an engine test engineer at Pratt & Whitney before entering Air Force flight training. He earned his pilot wings in 1958, then proceeded to his first duty station at Chennault AFB, LA. There he married Lorraine, who survives him, and they would produce two daughters, Janene and Chantelle.

In 1962 he piloted eight B-52 test missions that dropped live nuclear test "devices" on a retired Navy barge anchored well south of Christmas Island in the South Pacific. The drops were at night from 45,000 feet, and the barge was equipped with a radar reflector and a rotating beacon. The last drop was a 14 megaton monster that appeared to "finally" sink the barge, according to George's bombardier/nav.

In 1972-73 George flew 119 B-52 combat missions out of U-tapao AB, Thailand, dropping an estimated 7 million plus pounds of bombs on targets in Vietnam and on-loading over 6 million pounds of fuel in air-to-air refuelings. Before his retirement in 1977, he spent four years on the faculty of Air Command & Staff College at Maxwell AFB, AL.

For many years post-retirement, he taught aviation courses at Metro State. He was interred at Ft Logan on Feb 27th.

Blue skies and tailwinds, George. R.I.P.



William A. "Bill" Matheny
Capt, USAF (Sep)
Sep 29, 1931 - Mar 30, 2015

Bill grew up an Army "brat" who graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1954 and then accepted a commission in the Air Force. He was the son of a retired brigadier general—an Army Air Corps pilot—and the father of a former Marine Corps pilot. His truly was a "purple" family.

He fondly recalls walking the flight deck of USS Midway in 1986 with his son Mike, who at that time in the midst of an exchange tour aboard the old carrier, and experiencing a flashback to 1952 when he himself completed a midshipman cruise aboard the same ship.

Finishing near the top of Class 55-S at Greenville AFB, he was initially assigned to fly F-86s (special weapons) at Chambly AFB, France. Later, he would accrue 2,300 hours as a flight instructor at Lowry AFB and Peterson Field. Between those assignments, there came an unwanted tour in the missile business. It was an easy decision when, in 1966, United Air-

Go to **FINAL FLIGHTS** on page 6

Flight 18 Life Membership Dues Effective Jan 2012

Age Group	
30/under....\$385	61 - 65....\$205
31 - 35.....\$370	66 - 70....\$170
36 - 40.....\$350	71 - 75....\$140
41 - 45.....\$325	76 - 80....\$115
46 - 50.....\$295	81 - 85.....\$95
51 - 55.....\$265	86/Over.....\$75
56 - 60.....\$235	

2015 FLIGHT DUES - \$15 (Due 1 Jan, as are National dues paid to HQ in San Antonio)

Please mail this coupon along with a check for your 2015 plus any delinquent Flight dues you owe. Add any amount you desire to donate to the Scholarship Fund. *NOTE: Daedalian Life Members (LMs) and Daedalians whose National dues are current may purchase Flight 18 Life Memberships. If you choose this option, please select the appropriate dues amount from the above schedule, enter that amount in the FLM space below and include it in your check.*

Name: _____ Daedalian # _____ Home Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____ e-mail: _____

Amount enclosed for: [2015 Flight Dues \$15.00 or FLM DUES \$ _____] + Flight Dues for prior years + Scholarship Fund \$ _____ = Total Enclosed \$ _____

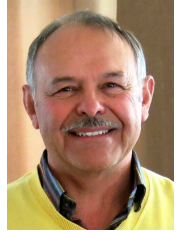
** Make check payable to: **DAEDALIAN FLIGHT 18**

** Mail to: **Flight 18 Treasurer, 7544 S. Rosemary Circle, Centennial, CO 80112**



Ralph E. "Buzz" Allen
LtCol, USAF (Ret)

Welcome Aboard



Michael A. "Mike" Silva
CW4, USA (Ret)

Buzz's thumbnail bio

DOB: 4 May, 1950 Macon, GA

Education: USAF Academy - 1972; MBA – Troy State U; Air Command & Staff College; Air War College

Commissioned: June 1972 AFA

Wings: 1973, Williams AFB, AZ

Assignments: Senior AF Advisor 140th TFW, COANG; Ops O, 4485 Test Squadron, Eglin AFB, FL; Exchange Officer, British RAF, UK; F-4E Weapons O, 347 TFW, Moody AFB, GA; F-4D Stan Eval Pilot, 8 TFW, Kunsan AB, ROK; 3 TFW, Clark AB, PI; T-38 IP, 29 FTW, Craig AFB, AL.

Aircraft flown: F-4 D/E/J/K/M; T-38; A-7 D/K; British Aerospace HAWK; T-43A

Retired from USAF: 1993 at Lowry AFB, CO

Civilian employment: Retired from UAL in 2015

Flight time: 21,000 hours total (4,000 mil, 17,000 civ)

Spouse: Janice

Offspring: Two sons, one daughter

Residence: Centennial, CO

Sponsor: Walt Wise

Mike's thumbnail bio

DOB: 11 Apr, 1950 Trinidad, CO

Education: BS Law enforcement/aviation mgt and BS Meteorological Broadcasting Metro State University

Commissioned US Warrant Off: July 1970 - Ft Rucker

Wings: 1970, Ft Rucker, AL

Assignments: Vietnam 1970-71; COARNG (4 tours 1972-2010); Operation Iraqi Freedom; Consequence Management Response Force, Buckley; USA Combined Arms Center, Ft Leavenworth

Aircraft flown: TH-55; TH-13; UH-1; OH-6; OH-58; AH-1; UH-60; Cessnas, Piper Aztec, & many civ helos

Separated from USA: 2010 Buckley AFB, CO

Civilian employment: 27 yrs with CBS 4 TV in Denver - Chief Pilot; Currently with Air Cam National Helicopter Services, Englewood, CO

Flight time: 30,000 hours total (5,000 mil, 25,000 civ)

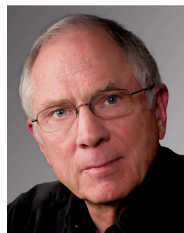
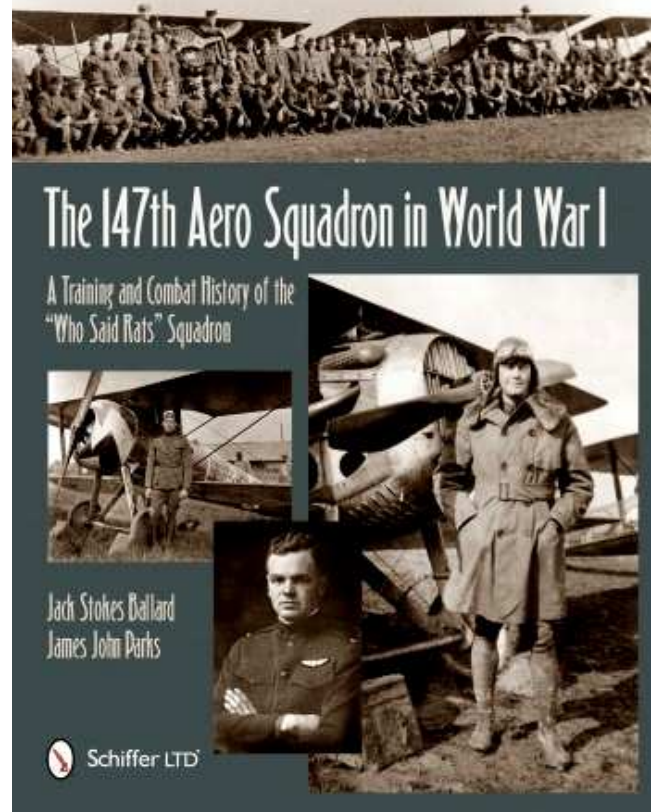
Spouse: Martha

Offspring: Two sons, one daughter

Residence: Aurora, CO

Sponsor: Walt Wise

Below, enlargement of image on page 1



Clifford T. "Cliff" Lawson
Capt, USA (Sep)

Cliff's thumbnail bio

DOB: 19 July, 1943 St Louis, MO

Education: BS in B/A – Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio

Commissioned: May 1969 – ROTC, YSU

Wings: 1967, Ft Rucker, AL

Assignments: 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry; HQ Troop, Ft Rucker, AL

Aircraft flown: UH-1; Misc civilian; B-737, B-727, B-777, DC-8

Separated from USA: 1969, Ft Rucker, AL

Civilian employment: UAL 34 yrs; Prof photographer

Flight time: 12,900 hours total (1,100 mil, 11,800 civ)

Spouse: Judith

Offspring: One son

Residence: Parker, CO

Sponsor: Walt Wise



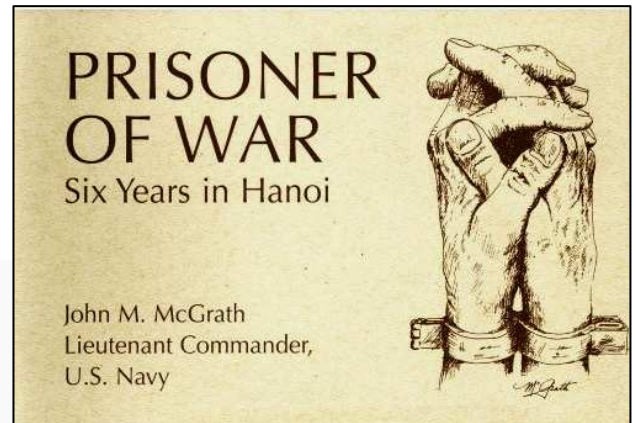
+40 YEARS

While all American POWs had come home from Vietnam two years earlier, the war did not officially end until the unconditional surrender of South Vietnam and the desperate evacuation of Saigon on April 30th, 1975. For the first time in its history America had lost a war, in the process abandoning its principal wartime ally. Returning members of the U.S. military were treated most inhospitably by the American public, with one major exception—our heroic prisoners of war who had survived years of brutal torture and been released under terms of the Paris Peace Accords. One of those men was “Mike” McGrath, who recounted his and his fellow POWs’ experiences in a book of captioned illustrations that put the lie to NVAM’s claims of lenient and humane treatment of their American captives.



**John M. McGrath,
CAPT, USN (Ret)**

Mike, who spent six miserable years interned at the infamous Hoa Lo (Hell Hole) prison, aka the “Hanoi Hilton”, was Flight 18’s luncheon speaker on 18 August 2006. He pulled no punches in describing the horrific conditions and treatment suffered by America’s POWs in Vietnam, so it might seem logical to assume his talk was a downer. Far to the contrary, however, his message was an inspiring tribute to the courage, patriotism and loyalty of American servicemen and DoD civilians who had survived living in harm’s way and squalor day after day after day for years.



Mike’s personally illustrated book (above) is still in print and available on amazon.com. It’s a must read for everyone who cares about the truth of our POWs’ experience during Vietnam, the fourth conflict in which Americans were held overseas.

On June 30, 1967, LT Mike McGrath launched from the carrier USS Constellation on his 178th mission of the war. His armed recon mission over North Vietnam ended when his A-4C Skyhawk was shot down as he rolled in to attack his second target that day. After ejecting from his severely damaged and uncontrollable “scooter”, he was captured immediately by a swarm of bloodthirsty Vietnamese farmers and local militia. This would be the first of his 2,074 days in captivity, which finally ended on March 3, 1973, courtesy of Operation Homecoming (left).



As with all wars, Vietnam produced countless examples of exceptional leadership, heroism, bravery, selflessness and undying camaraderie among those who fought it. Nevertheless, Vietnam is more often remembered as a war lost because of micro-mismanagement from the very top (*read White House*), which never turned the military loose to win it. In that shadowy context, the conduct and attitude of our Vietnam POWs should serve as an inspiration to our armed forces for all time.

In the preface to his book *Prisoner of War; Six Years in Hanoi*, Mike wrote: **“After the peace treaties were signed and the POWs began arriving on American soil, the entire nation was stirred as the POWs spoke heartfelt words of praise, thanks and patriotism instead of words of cynicism and condemnation that so many citizens had become accustomed to hearing directed against their country.”**

Well said, Mike. BZ.

FINAL FLIGHTS *from page 3*

Bill Matheny....

lines offered him a job as both an instructor and a line pilot. He retired as a captain from United 25 years later with over 15,000 hours at the controls (and zero time spent in UAL missile silos).

In retirement, Bill's hobbies were fly fishing, hunting and playing the guitar. In the photo at the top of page 3, he is not demonstrating how to play the guitar, but is showing off his catch after a day of fly fishing.

Interred April 7 at Fairmount Cemetery, he is survived by Olivia ("Woodie"), his wife of 59 years, three sons and many grandchildren. He was predeceased by a son and a daughter.

Fair winds and following seas, Bill.



Harry E. Novinger
LtCol, USAF (Ret)
Jun 5, 1920 – Apr 30, 2015

Many people invent things. And, starting in 1952, so did Harry Novinger. But he was different—he put his inventions to practical use. No surprise, he also patented several of them.

Around the house, for example, it was automatic climate controls and lighting that would turn on/off when you entered or left a room, stairwell or closet. He put many of his ideas to use during his second career as a designer and builder of custom homes. In the aviation field, there was his unique concept for an airport in the round with the terminal in the center and runways radiating outward in several directions—potentially a great time and fuel saver for the airlines.

Born in Green Castle, MO, Harry earned his pilot wings through the flying cadet program only a month after Pearl Harbor on 9 Jan 1942.

For the first 21 months of his military flying career, his job was ferrying aircraft within CONUS and to various bases overseas, including the South Pacific. He checked out in 14 different types of aircraft during this period. We've all heard about some of the pucker-inducing experiences of those self-taught ferry pilots such as Harry Novinger learning how to start, taxi, takeoff and operate a new aircraft by reading the manual "on the fly," so to speak.

The next 21 years began with tours as a transport or chief pilot at Edmonton, Canada, Ladd Air Base, AL, and Great Falls Air Base. Completion of Comm-Electronics Officer School led to HQ jobs and assignment as commander of a Tactical Air Control squadron. He retired in 1964 following his final assignment as C-E Officer, US MAAG, Portugal.

His wife Mary Louise predeceased him in 2008. They had three children—a son and two daughters. **R.I.P., Harry.**

(Services column 2)

Committal Service for Harry Novinger 0930 Friday 15 May. Arrive Staging Area B at 0915, follow directions below:

FORT LOGAN NATIONAL CEMETERY
3698 S. Sheridan Blvd, Denver, CO 80236

HAMPDEN/285

Staging Areas
A - South on Kansas St.
B - South on Wyoming St.
C - East on Denver Dr.

From S. Sheridan Blvd, enter thru the North Gate and proceed to designated Staging Area. Arrive 15 minutes prior to Committal Service start time. Remain in vehicle.

Flight awards only one ROTC scholarship for 2015



Tyler G. Moore is a junior at Colorado State University who is set to graduate in May of 2016. Majoring Psychology, he has a cumulative GPA of 3.902. He was on the College of Natural Sciences Dean's List in the Fall and Spring of 2013 and 2014.

He has been in the CSU Honors Program since 2012. He has also been active with the Civil Air Patrol and was granted a Certificate of Lifesaving Achievement Ribbon with Silver Star in 2011. He has been awarded the American Legion Scholastic Excellence Medal and was promoted to Cadet Colonel. Since 2012 his ROTC unit has awarded him the Academic Honors Ribbon and 4 Oak Leaf Clusters.

Cadet Moore has been a member of the USA Powerlifting team since 2009 and was captain of the team in 2011. He holds a number of Powerlifting records such as the Gold Medal at the NAPF Championships in 2011 and 2013. He was on the USA Ski Team from 2008 to 2012. Cadet Moore was a Congressional Gold Medal recipient in 2011 (one of three in Colorado). Currently, he is in the process of publishing a novel research study in the field of psychology. Selected to receive a pilot slot upon graduation, his primary life objective is to become a career Air Force pilot.

Preacher has the kids come down front on Easter Sunday and asks do they know what the Resurrection is. He gives them several hints but not one kid guesses the answer. Finally, Johnny raises his hand: "I'm not exactly sure what it is, but if it lasts over 4 hours you have to call the Doctor!"

REMEMBER LUCY VAN PELT, the obnoxious little girl who never allowed Charlie Brown to actually kick that football? Lucy also ran a psychiatry stand, charging five cents for mindless advice.



You may recall from our May 2013 newsletter that WWII Army veteran Charles "Sparky" Schulz created Snoopy and most of his Peanuts characters while a struggling cartoonist living in Colorado Springs in 1951. The characters of Lucy and Linus Van Pelt, named after the Schulz's Colorado Springs neighbors and bridge partners Louanne and Philip Van Pelt, were added to the gang of imaginary kids in 1952 after Schulz moved to California.



Sadly, Lucy's inspiration, Louanne Van Pelt, died April 6 in Colorado Springs at age 85. Philip, who originally suggested the idea of the psychiatry stand, predeceased her in 2009.

See more on the Peanuts-Colorado Springs connection here: <http://www.ghspaulding.com/MAY%202013%20NEWSLETTER.pdf>

Home Is the Sailor

Home is the sailor, home from sea:
Her far-borne canvas furled
The ship pours shining on the quay
The plunder of the world.

Home is the hunter from the hill:
Fast in the boundless snare
All flesh lies taken at his will
And every fowl of air.

'Tis evening on the moorland free,
The starlit wave is still:
Home is the sailor from the sea,
The hunter from the hill.

A.E. Housman

* Sailor was cited by Customs; Hunter by DOF&W

Mile High Flight 18 – 2015

Flight Captain..... Roy Poole, LT COL, USAF (Ret)
Vice Flt CaptTim Conklin, COL, COANG
AdjutantWalt Wise, MAJ, ARNG (Ret)
Treasurer Spencer Mamber, CAPT, USAF (Sep)
Provost Marshall..... Dale Boggie, COL, USAF (Ret)
Asst Treasurer.Hugh Greenwood, CAPT, USAFR (Sep)
Scholarships..... Bill Greener, LT COL, USAF (Ret)
Newsletter..... Ger Spaulding, CAPT, USN (Ret)
COANG Liaison.....Mitch Neff, LT COL, COANG
(Positions in bold elected, those in italics appointed)

Flight 18 normally meets the third Friday of each month at the Aurora Hills Tin Cup Bar & Grill, located just north of Alameda and just east of Peoria. Social hour at 11:00, lunch at 12:00. Exceptions via newsletter and Apollo notification.

The newsletter is published quarterly. Contact the editor at (719) 638-5786 or via e-mail at gerkar@comcast.net.
Web: <http://www.ghspaulding.com/orderofdaedalianshome.htm>