



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

60 Years of Fellowship and Community Service

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Here are the volunteers who publish this Bulletin each week for your enjoyment. **Editor/Chairman:** Chet Risio. **Scribes:** Av Rivel, Gran Burgess, Kurt Schaffir, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell, Gerry Lessuk, Steve Elliot, and George Stockbridge, Emeritus. **Archivist:** Harold Frost. **Format and Layout:** Gene Schwartz, Jack Cuff, and Andrzej Mazurek. **Reproduction/Distribution:** Chet Risio.

Volume 65, No. 23

October 4, 2017

President DON CONWAY brought the meeting to order at 10:02am. KURT SCHAFFIR led the assembly in reciting the Pledge.

ERF PORTER conducted the songfest with the traditional first of the month patriotic song, The Star-Spangled Banner followed by Sentimental Journey and Shine on Harvest Moon.

At the piano BOB MORGAN rendered the music accompaniment.

The Corresponding Secretary, AV RIVEL, told a joke with predictable groaning. He followed up with another joke about a sly old man reaping the benefits of clever deception.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Chairman of the Annual Luncheon/Dinner, TAD LARRABEE, reported that the RMA Annual Dinner is slated for Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at the Tamarack Country Club. Table hosts will record your order for salmon, beef rib or chicken. Cost is \$60.00 per person and \$30.00 for RMA widows. The final date for arrangements is Wednesday, October 25th.
2. STEVE MEYERS announced that the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to three Americans. Rainier Weiss, Kip Thorn and Barry Barish won for providing an important confirmation of Einstein's General Theory of Relativity.
3. The Program Committee meeting slated for Oct. 11th has been rescheduled for Oct. 18th at 9:00am in the usual room.
4. MARTIN WAINE recently returned from South Dartmouth, ME.
5. BOB BISHOP said a memorial service for CHUCK STANDARD will be held at Riverside Yacht Club on October 13th at 2:00pm.

6. ARNOLD GORDON announced a memorial service will be held at a future meeting for WILLIAM ZBORAY, a former member recently deceased.

COMMITTEES

VISITING: President DON asked for a volunteer to report on hospitalized or ailing members.

PROGRAM: ARNOLD GORDON urged all to stay for Today's Speaker, **Dr. Paul Bernstein**, Optometrist, and his talk on "The Aging Eye". HOLLISTER STURGES said next week's speaker will be **David Gilbert**, Conductor of the Greenwich Symphony, addressing "The Life of a Conductor".

MEMBERSHIP: ED FARRELL said there were 119 members in attendance and one guest. Lou Trovato was the g/o PETER STERN. The birthdays boys were BILL HORN, 84, GARY MILLER, 79, and GERRY MAYFIELD, 82.

VOLUNTEERS: GRANT PERKINS reported 309 outside hours by 46 RMAers and 110 inside hours by 21 members. The most hours were by ABBEY SMOLER at 24 hours.

SPECIAL EVENTS: ABBEY SMOLER stated that the next RMA trip will be to the NY Philharmonic rehearsal on Jan. 11, 2018. Lunch is at the Atlantic Grill. Cost per person is \$110. There are 35 places available. The bus will depart at 8:00am. For information call MIKE FERRARESE at 203 554-0678 or ABBEY SMOLER at 203 531-0236.

THE SCOREBOARD

BRIDGE: JOHN FEBLES reported that here were 8 players. Top scorer was JOHN HOFFFMAN at 1,950. KURT SCHAFFIR at 1,570 and third was TONY COCCHI at 1,270.

GOLF: RUSS HARDEN told us that 29 men attended with two playing nine holes. Ten men shot under 100 and one in the 80s. TED EWING shot a great 86. Nearest to the pin on hole # 7 was JOHN AWDZIEWICZ. Nearest to the pin on #15 was ROS CURTIS. Longest drive on #17 was RUSS HARDEN.

TENNIS: RON FREEDMAN and PETER TUNLEY won on court one and BILL HOWLAND and JOE "UFAUCVALLE ?" (note: Clearer writing would help immensely) won on court two.

HEARTS: PETER STERN said there were eight players. The winner at table #1, game #1 was GEORGE DIPPY and game #2 was PETER STERN. Table #2, game #1 was LEN SAARI. JACK SWEGER won both games #2 & 3. Shooting the moon were PETER STERN, MIKE AMBROSINO, JACK SWEGER and LEN SAARI. Next week's Captain is MIKE AMBROSINO.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Dr. Paul Bernstein, a Greenwich Optometrist, introduced by ARNOLD GORDON, spoke on the aging eye. He mentioned the four most common problems associated with age; Glaucoma, Diabetic Retinopathy, Macular Degeneration and Cataracts. Glaucoma is defined as a group of diseases that can damage the eye's optic nerve and result in vision loss and blindness. Diabetic Retinopathy is the direct result of chronic diabetes. Macular Degeneration is of unknown origin possibly caused by excessive smoking and drinking. MD has two categories; dry macular is distortion and blurring of vision and wet macular is blood and fluid leakage. Cataracts is the cloudiness of the eye lens. In addition, Dr. Bernstein mentioned two other conditions affecting the aged. Loose lids which are tears lacking sticking quality and dry eye syndrome which is defined as physiologic imbalances that affect ocular clarity. To offset these possible problems, he urged regular eye exams.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

David Gilbert, Conductor of the Greenwich Symphony, on "Nourishing the Great Trees: The Life of A Conductor".

Scribe of the Week: New member, MARSHALL TOPPO, pressed into service during the meeting due to the absence of the assigned Scribe.

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MEMBER PROFILE

PAUL J. KEELER (jr) was born on June 11, 1944 in Brooklyn (Bay Ridge) NY to Paul Jerome and Helen Quinn Keeler, the third of six children. In 1947 the family moved to Glenville Road in Rock Ridge. Paul attended Catholic Elementary School on Greenwich Avenue, and then short periods at St. Mary High School and Greenwich High School. He grew up loving boats, cars, shooting, and attractive young ladies in Greenwich. In 1961, after somewhat tumultuous Greenwich teenage years (highlighted by his first car, a 1948 Cadillac Hearse, locally known by his peers as the 'Whoopie Wagon'), he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, and served at Parris Island, SC, Camp Lejeune, NC, and finally at Camp Pendleton in Oceanside, CA. While at Camp Pendleton, Paul was hurriedly dispatched to the US Naval Base, Guantanamo, Cuba for the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962, at the tender age of 18. Digging foxholes at 'the fence' while watching Cuban counterparts relaxing and playing banjos was more than a little disconcerting!! On three different nights, his group was assembled behind

tanks with live ammo, for a 'trip to Havana', while the Kennedy brothers tried to make up their minds about what to do about the Russian ships bringing missiles to Cuba.

Late in 1964, after Paul was honorably discharged from The Marine Corps, and somewhat miraculously admitted to Columbia University (without a high school diploma!) He married Nancy Chase Webber from Detroit, MI. In 1966, he joined a Summer Intern program at the J.L. Hudson Company in Detroit, and was convinced to stay on with the Company full-time, while completing studies at the University of Michigan. The college part was overwhelmed by the Company's needs, so Paul never finished college either!!

In 1969, that business was sold (and eventually became Target Stores), and Paul and Nancy moved back to Greenwich with their two children, Quinn and Colby. In 1979, tragedy struck when Colby, aged 10, died in a bike accident. Quinn is married and has two daughters and lives in Greenwich. Paul joined an American Stock Exchange specialist firm, followed by time on the New York Stock Exchange, and finally founded his own NYSE/ASE firm , Halcyon Securities, Inc. in 1974.

In 1969, I pursued a life-long passion for auto racing, and started driving single-seat, open-wheeled 'formula' race cars. I knew at about 12 years old that this was what I wanted to do. We had a gravel driveway with a short curve. And I practiced sliding the family car on the curve when my parents were elsewhere.

Driving a 'formula' car requires a number of important skills:

Communication –you and your pit crew must interact seamlessly in the preparation and testing of the car at each track (we had no radios in those days - mistakes at 160 mph are to be avoided)

Concentration - (almost at a 'narcotic' level) - this is required to involuntarily filter out ALL other mental inputs/stimuli so that you and the car are 'one'; I experienced almost involuntary 'action' (steering/braking, etc.) to visual inputs of 'situations' during competition;

Strategic competitor knowledge - knowing how other drivers react to situations offer opportunities for position advancement in a race (just like in the marketplace !!). This all comes together in THE most exhilarating experiences known to man! (a small notch below space travel, in my mind.) I just wish I had \$200 million when I started - without the financial curtailment (along with the wife-ly curtailment brought about by a number of high profile deaths) during my short career (5 years), I would have continued for as long as I was competitive.”

Retirement was driven by an old adage in racing: “To make a small fortune in racing, is to start with a big fortune”!!



Paul Keeler in a 1972 March Formula Atlantic/B car racing at Watkins Glen in the US Grand Prix.

Paul closed his brokerage firm in 1977, and joined MCI Telecommunications, the first challenger to the monopoly of AT&T, focusing on the financial services marketplace, which he had just left. The results were extremely gratifying, and he helped shape the company's marketing plan for the next ten years. Everything Paul knows about business, he learned from that Company, and its founder, Bill McGowan (for instance, "don't focus on the product, focus on the client and their needs"). Even before the AT&T breakup, "we drove them absolutely nuts with our aggressive behavior in the marketplace!"

In 1986, Paul left MCI and joined Reuters, LTD, a British-headquartered financial information services firm, focused on foreign exchange trading. Although dominant outside of the USA, they had a measly share of the USA market, and his job was to correct that, which, thank God, happened.

Towards the end of his Reuter tenure, he also invested in 1 of 10 licenses to develop business telephone systems for domestic use in The Peoples Republic of China in 1988 – this was quite a reality trip – on his initial visit, Paul was greeted with Mao hats and coats, no highways, no English, and startled Chinese people who had never seen a 'round eye'; people stopped in the street and stared, children cried, and all speech stopped when he entered any room/restaurant/store – "I was clearly from outer space". As Vice-Chairman and CEO, they built a great little company which was sold to a Canadian telecom firm in 1993; In those 5 years, the China atmosphere went from the Mao clothing to 'Guess' jeans and strobe lights at newly opened discos!!! "It was a cultural revolution before my very eyes. Incidentally, I returned to China for the 2008 Olympics, and, of course, witnessed another cultural revolution on a massive scale."

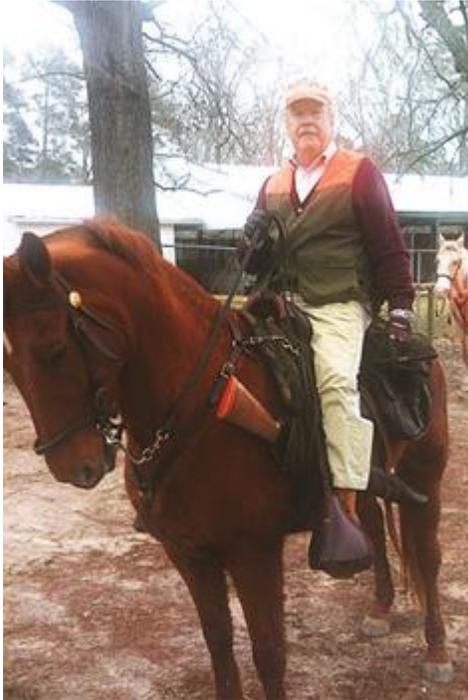
In 1990, Paul returned to the financial world and joined Morgan Stanley, initially focused on external licensing of their proprietary software developments, and in 1995 he was charged with rehabilitating the Morgan Stanley Capital International ('MSCI') equities index business. Drawing on his MCI and Reuters experience, he developed a global sales, marketing, and client service model which was rolled out quite effectively. He retired from Morgan Stanley/MSCI in 2001 and briefly served as the head of sales and marketing for Medley Global Advisors, an emerging markets research firm which was successfully sold to private investors one year later.

Paul was subsequently recruited as a consultant by a very major family office to focus on project management and risk mitigation on a global basis for construction, real estate, and potential global liability. He retired from consulting there in 2015.

Nancy and Paul have developed a wonderful 'winter home' in Vero Beach, FL, and have a family house in Hyannis Port, MA. One of their focuses in retirement is their granddaughters, aged 14 and 12 – they continually sit in awe as they watch them develop into responsible young persons.

Nancy has been an Auxiliary volunteer at the Greenwich Hospital for 46 years (while serving as President and a Hospital Board Member for a multi-year period of time).

As he has done for the past 30 years, Paul continues bird and game hunting around the world, and his love of boating, while timidly attempting to learn the game of golf at a very advanced age!! He also looks forward to a strong volunteer service with the RMA, as well.



Quail shooting in Alabama
(Photo enhancement and editing by Av Rivel)

Member Profiles, such as this one on Paul Keeler, are published on the first of each month. They are intended to allow members to get to know one another beyond a face and a name tag.

series

This is the seventeenth profile in this
