



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.
37 Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT 06830



www.greenwichrma.org

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SCRIBE: FRANK SCARPA

"There is a crack in everything...That's how the light gets in." Leonard Cohen

President **RUSS HARDEN** pulled the meeting together at 10:07 as he introduced "We Are the RMA" on Zoom, followed by the Pledge, which he also led.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** reminded us to complete our census forms. He made the following request : If any of us has personal acquaintance with a physician or scientist with expertise on COVID (such as Gupta, Fauci, Osterholm, Schaffner , Jha or Gonsalves), he would like to receive the appropriate contact information.

ajgordo@verizon.net

BOB LUCE regaled us with a bit of ursine humor involving a trio of clergymen...Catholic, Baptist, and Jewish.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMBERSHIP: **PETER STERN** tallied 71 attendees at this Zoom meeting. Birthday boys are:

JERRY SCHWENDEMAN-81, FRED GOODSTEIN-73, and ED PARKER-75.

A capella birthday wishes were intoned by all who remembered to unmute. Bart Steinfeld attended as a guest of **HOWARD RICHMAN**.

PETER also requested forwarding information on **GEORGE SHATTUCK**, e.g. a current email address.(Send to pmstern@optonline.net)

PUBLIC HEALTH (a new category): **JOEL BLUMBERG** related the CDC's current recommendations regarding flu shots: People who are under 2 or over 65 or pregnant are at the highest risk of flu. The shots are widely available at doctors' offices and at pharmacies. The "high dose" version is recommended for seniors, and the best timing would be September

through late October. He also urged the Shingrix vaccine (for "shingles"/zoster) for those who have not already received it.

TREASURER: **JEFF JUNKER** noted that 214 active members have paid up, including 4 inductees since June. (There are still 16 non-responders.) The RMA has built up a bit of a cash reserve, and leadership will be discussing disbursing some of that to appropriate charitable causes.

VISITING: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** reports that his wrist has healed, and he will be trying out golf Friday. **PETER STERN** spotted Mr. and Mrs. **SAL D'ANGELO** "out and about" and appearing quite spry.

HUMAN INTEREST: **RUSS HARDEN** and his better half continue to explore the area, and report on a recent trip to the Guilford area and Bishop's Orchards, the seashore, and the Thimble Islands.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

JERRY SCHWENDEMAN gave us a preview of Jet Vertz, an aeronautical engineer, who will address us on "The Boeing 737 Max Crisis".

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

ARNOLD GORDON previewed Miles Rapoport, Senior Fellow at Harvard's Kennedy Institute, who will discuss *What Will the November Election Look Like: Unprecedented Challenges*.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES

GOLF: **PAUL CAMPION** reported on 12 golfers yesterday, a sunny day. Next week's tee times will be in the 10- to 10:20 range. A scramble tournament is being contemplated for October 6. There will be a \$10 fee for prizes. Groupings will be made on a "mixed handicap" basis, so Paul will need to know a player's average last handful of scores.

TENNIS: **ANDY HOLMES** noted that the new season will start Friday. Members who have signed up and paid are "in", but there is no room for additional players.

TAI CHI: **WILL MORRIS** still leading his acolytes.

WALKERS: **TAD LARRABEE** announced a "package" of two upcoming walks: 1) The Mario Cuomo Bridge Walkway and 2) The Walkway on the Hudson north of the Bridge. (contact tadlarr@optonline.net for details).

HEARTS: **DON CONWAY** reported on 5 games, with **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** winning three, and **ANDY HOLMES** and **DON CONWAY** one each. **TOM MORONEY** is a newbie in the group.

BRIDGE: **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** noted that the aficionados get together on the Trickstercards app every Wednesday at 1 pm. Four players participated last week. New players are welcome.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Jet Vertz spoke on "The Boeing 737 Max Crisis". Mr. Vertz, an aeronautical engineer with a degree from the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, is a U.S. Navy veteran and a retired Pratt and Whitney executive and a part-time lecturer at the University of Rhode Island. His clear-eyed presentation, replete with excellent graphics, detailed the history of Boeing, the evolution of the Boeing 737, an analysis of the two root causes of the Lion Air and Ethiopian Airlines crashes, culminating in a business case analysis.

The original B737 was conceived in 1964 and the first commercial flight (by Lufthansa) was in 1968. By 1981, 1,200 planes had been sold. The plane was upgraded in 1984, converting to a GE engine. In 2010, spurred by competition with Airbus, the B737 Max was conceived, and finally released in 2017. A more fuel-efficient engine led to a larger diameter design. This led Boeing to position the engine in a more forward site to keep the engine higher off the ground when at rest. (Airbus had been able to do this without re-situating the engine because their planes had "taller" landing gear.) This design change altered the 737's center of gravity. This alteration would lead to changes in the aircraft's "angle of attack" in flight, causing more "drag". This fact led Boeing to install an "MCAS" sensor, which would automatically adjust the plane's AOA if it exceeded 15 degrees. A malfunction of the sensor was the initial event that led to a tragic "cascade" in the two crashes. Mr. Vertz explained these events, based upon "black box" information, in chilling detail.

He concluded that there was a basic design flaw in the airplane. And he faults Boeing for its short-term focus over long-term strategy: e.g. spending \$70 billion on stock buybacks rather than R&D. Failure to train all pilots on the MCAS was a tragic oversight. Mr. Vertz concluded with the recommendation that Boeing retire the 737, install a "fly by wire" feature, an electronic AOA sensor and a hybrid engine.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

What Will the November Election Look Like: Unprecedented Challenges, by Miles Rapoport.

NOTE TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: next week's CBB scribe will be **AV RIVEL**. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to **AV** at arivel@optonline.net.

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