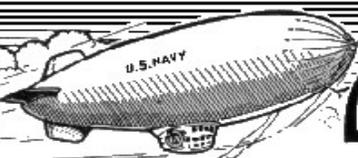


# THE AIRSHIP



Navy Lakehurst Historical Society

P.O. Box 328 Lakehurst, NJ 08733

<http://www.nlhs.com>

July 2015

**Saturday - July 18, 2015 – Breakfast Meeting – see details below**

## NLHS OFFICERS

### President

Carl Jablonski

### Vice Presidents

Don Adams  
Ron Montgomery  
Rick Zitarosa  
Charles Bish

### Trustees

Kevin Pace  
Elizabeth H Rossell  
Marion Kuchler  
Peter Larkin  
Tara Cunningham

### Assistant Treasurer

Peter Larkin  
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Fr. Emmett Carroll OFM CONV.

### Corresponding Secretary

Thomas Kuchler

### NLHS Historian & Curator Director

Rick Zitarosa

### NLHS Base Tours Membership Director

Donald Adams

### NLHC & Ready Room Director

Ron Montgomery

### Asst NLHC & Ready Room Director

Pete Lovering

### NLHC Curators

Kevin Pace  
Alex Swaim  
Ron Stryshak

### Legal Counsel

Thomas Kunz

### PAO

Elizabeth Rossell

### Gift Shop Manager

Robert Hull & Diane Chierchie

### NLHS Photographer

Max Frei

**Webmaster:** Tara Cunningham

## View from the Top Presidents Message

July 2015 has been designated as NLHS Membership Drive Month. **The next membership meeting will be held on Saturday, July 18, 2015 at 9AM at the Lakehurst Diner, Rt. 70 & Rt. 547, Lakehurst, NJ.** This is a breakfast meeting (NLHS will provide breakfast from a select menu). All members are invited to please bring a potential new member as a guest. Please fill out "Yes or No" will attend coupon printed in this newsletter.

I'm please to announce that our featured guest speaker will be Patricia Chappine, author of a new and interesting book titled "New Jersey Women in World War II". Ms Chappine is a New Jersey resident and will be doing a book signing as well. Our own Susan Koller and Nick Rakoncza assisted Ms. Chippine in her writing of this book. Please join us, meet and make new friends.

Please fill out the attendance coupon as we need a head count for the Diner to set up the tables, etc..

## Officers Meeting

As usual there will be no July or August Officer & Trustee meetings. Our next meeting will be Saturday, Sept. 19, 2015 at our usual location at 9:30 AM. Several Officers and Trustees have been absent lately, we need your presence to properly conduct business and have a quorum to vote on important issues.

## Volunteer Hours

Volunteer hours for April, May and June 2015 for the NLHC and Ready Room, tours, work projects and outside speaking engagements totaled over 1225 hours. Many thanks to our

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volunteers for your support: Don Adams, Carl Larsen, Rick Zitarosa, Frank Dennis, Nick Rakoncza, Ron Montgomery, Charlie Bish, Ron Stryshak, Frank Smith, Kevin Mulligan, Pete Lovering, Pete Murphy, Kevin Pace, Howie Sjursen, Elizabeth Rossell, Peter Larkin, Susan K. Koller, Roger Jordan, Jim Morano, Robert Hull, Diane Chierchie and Carl Jablonski.

## Tours

Our tours continue to be a very popular attraction. Starting now tours will be given every Wed-nesday and every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month from 10am to 1 pm. Don Adams, Nick Rakoncza, Frank Dennis, Carl Larsen, Ron Montgomery, Carl Jablonski, Kevin Mulligan, Elizabeth Rossell, Susan K. Koller and Rick Zitarosa continue to serve as tour guides. Below is a letter we recently received:

*I wish to sincerely thank you all for the completely professional and enjoyable tour that I and members of my church, Faith Bible Church of Jackson, received on Saturday May 23, 2015. You all maintain an*

## How True

When the President calls 911, the aircraft carriers answer!

When the aircraft carriers call 911, Lakehurst answers!

*awesome and informative museum and the expertise and passion of your volunteers is apparent in all they do and say. I thank you for what you do to ensure the historical legacy of Navy Lakehurst is understood by this and future generations.*

*If there is anything I can do for the Society, please don't hesitate to contact me.*

*Sincerely,  
Phillip L Beachy  
Capt, US Navy, Retired*

## Remembering the Hindenburg

Overcast with a slight chill in the air and slightly drizzling, it was a perfect night for the annual Hindenburg Memorial Ceremony at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

In fact, weather conditions the night the 800-foot-long, 150-foot high hydrogen-filled airship with the giant swastika on its tail arrived here on May 6, 1937, were similar, said Rick Zitarosa, vice president and historian of the Navy Lakehurst Historical Society.

"Earlier, the German airship Hindenburg had encountered thunderstorm conditions while crossing the Atlantic and it was 12 hours late. With a crowd of 300, including spectators and the ground crew, looking up in the sky at the airship hovering at an altitude of 175 feet, it came in for a rushed landing because it was losing buoyancy in its tail section," Zitarosa said.

At 7:25 p.m. the airship burst into flames and crashed to the ground in 34 seconds. Most of the people on the ground scattered, until the commander ordered them to "stand fast" because there were people inside who needed help, Zitarosa said, adding that civilians and ground crew began pulling people out of the burning mass.

The night of the crash, Herbert "Herb" Morrison recorded a reactive broadcast in which he described scenes such as, "those aboard leaping for life from a flaming inferno," and a "twisted mass of girders, the seared and scorched skeleton of what was once a mighty airship."

Morrison's recording of the disaster contains the infamous words, "oh, the humanity!" The Hindenburg disaster was the first recorded on video.

For more than 30 years, the Navy Lakehurst Historical Society and the base community have been holding the memorial services to honor the memory and heroism of those lost that day and the 300 others who lost their lives in the LTA (lighter than air) program, said Carl Jablonski, society president.

Allen Hagaman, a civilian ground crew member who lived here, was one of those who died that day.

"He was on the ground crew and happened to be on the wrong side of the ship when it crashed," said his grandson, Allen Hurley.

Hurley said his mother, who was 16 when her father died, never talked about the crash and refused to watch documentaries made about it. Later, he said the family found a medal of honor given to his mother by the German government.

"My grandfather was a hard worker. He would go to the base when the airships were coming in for the extra money. He was paid \$1," Hurley said.



**Dr. Horst Schirmer**

Dr. Horst Schirmer, whose father Max Schirmer was the aerodynamical engineer who helped design the airship, was five years old when he would visit his father at work and watch the Hindenburg under construction in Germany. He said he got to ride in the airship on a test flight over Lake Constance in Switzerland.

Schirmer said the German airship travel company known as DELAG had six airships that safely transported 56,000 passengers between 1910 and the early part of 1914 and had big

plans to expand. However, after several crashes of helium-filled American airships, a British airship, and then the Hindenburg, it marked the end of the airship era.

During its time, the Hindenburg was heralded as a technological marvel and could cross the Atlantic in a mere three days — half the time it took to cross the ocean by ship.

## Battle of Midway Observance

Our June 4, 2015, 73rd Anniversary Battle of Midway Program was a huge success. Our standing room only audience included over 150 5th grade students from Toms River Hooper Ave Elementary School, as well as many veteran groups and distinguished military guests. Our featured speaker, Deputy Director Ocean County Freeholder Jerry Little's outstanding address was well received by all who attended. (By the way, Freeholder Little's son will receive his US Navy Pilots wings in early August.)

Special thanks to CPO Mike Zgode, USN and our own Tara Cunningham for your support and cooperation.

## Japanese Battleship sunk in 1944 found

Microsoft co-founder and philanthropist Paul Allen and his research team have found a massive Japanese World War II battleship off the Philippines near where it sank more than 70 years ago, his representatives said Wednesday.

The apparent discovery of the wreckage of the Musashi, one of the largest battleships in history, comes as the world marks the 70th anniversary of the war's end.

Allen and the team aboard his superyacht M/Y Octopus found the ship on Sunday, more than eight years after their search began. The Musashi, commissioned in 1942, sank in October 1944 in the Sibuyan Sea during the battle of Leyte, losing half of its 2,400 crew members.

## NLHS Picnic Notice

Once again our annual appreciation picnic for NLHS members and their families will be held on Saturday, Aug 29, 2015 from Noon to 4 PM at Freedom Park, Joint Base Lakehurst. In order for this event to continue and be successful, we need a good attendance. You made it happen in 2014 so lets make it happen again in 2015 by attending. A sign-up sheet will be printed in your next newsletter.

## Speakers Bureau

We get many requests for outside speaking engagements. If you are interested in this program call Carl at 732-244-8861.

## New Members

NLHS welcomes the following new members.

**Kevin Titus Falls Village, CT**  
**A Morkunas Staunton, VA**  
**Christel Teder Jackson, NJ**  
**Capt Philip Beachy, USN Ret –**  
**Toms River, NJ**

## Sick Bay

Carl Larsen is home recuperating from recent surgery. For many years Carl has been a dedicated volunteer involved in our many projects, especially our Hindenburg Gondola Replica Restoration. Best wishes for a speedy recovery. Please consider sending Carl a get well card: Carl Larsen, 12 Ivy Way, Barnegat, NJ 08005.

## Many Thanks

A special thank you to Mr. Moss and members of the River Pointe Men's Club, Freehold, NJ for your very generous donation to NLHS. We are happy you enjoyed your tour.

## Change of Command

On Thursday June 25, 2015 at 10AM, COL James C. Hodges, USAF, CO of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, was relieved and

transitioned to his next assignment. NLHS has had a very pleasant and enjoyable relationship with COL Hodges during his command. Best wishes and continued success to COL & Mrs. Hodges from your friends at NLHS. NLHS welcomes COL Frederick Thaden, USAF as the new CO of Joint Base M-D-L and the 87<sup>th</sup> Air Wing.

## Retirement News

On Friday, June 26, 2015, COL Charles Coursey, US Army retired after 30 years of dedicated Service. COL Coursey recently served as Deputy Commander Joint Base M-D-L. NLHS wishes COL Coursey many enjoyable years of retirement pursuing his many hobbies. COL Coursey will continue to reside in New Jersey and continue his membership in NLHS.

## Visit our New & Updated Web Site

Thanks to Tara Cunningham for your talents as Web Master and grant coordinator. Thanks to Margaret Burgess and her husband Dave who set up our previous website and who still do a great job in printing our newsletter.

## Special Thank You

A special Thank You to Sue Koller for the lovely plants and flowers that you donated and planted by our gift shop entrance. It does make a difference.

## Honor Roll

A special Bravo Zulu to Elizabeth Rossell, Trustee and PAO. Your support and dedication to NLHS is sincerely appreciated. Elizabeth has spent many days and hours attending meetings, doing tours and behind the scenes work regarding Public Affairs for NLHS. Your zeal, enthusiasm, ideas and suggestions are greatly appreciated.

## Car Show

On Saturday, July 4, 2015, NLHS will have a membership drive table at the Annual Borough of Lakehurst Car Show, Union Ave, Lakehurst, NJ. From 9 AM – 2 PM. Volunteers needed – call Carl at 732-244-8861 if you can help.

## Presidential Granite

By Diane Chierchie

South Dakota is home to the iconic Mount Rushmore, a spectacular carving in granite of four United States Presidents; [George Washington](#), [Thomas Jefferson](#), [Theodore Roosevelt](#), and [Abraham Lincoln](#). Located in the Black Hills near Keystone, South Dakota, the sixty-foot sculpture was created between October 1927 and October 1941 by Danish American sculptor Gutzon Borglum and about 400 workers. For first-time visitors, it is stunning as you wonder how someone brought this vision to fruition. The visitor's center has answers to every question about this iconic monument.



Although the government declared the project completed in 1941, certain aspects of the presidential carvings remain incomplete. Lincoln's ear was never finished and George Washington is the only one depicted with attire. Take a closer look! This site is just amazing and should be on everyone's bucket list. Not far from Mount Rushmore is another iconic carving, the Chief Crazy Horse Memorial. The memorial, located in the Black Hills of South Dakota, is dedicated to the American Indian. There is a cultural museum and the yet unfinished sculptural monument of Crazy Horse riding his horse.



A visit to South Dakota does not end with Mount Rushmore. There is so much to see and do in the area so allow ample time for a visit. Custer State Park features hiking trails and plenty of wildlife to enjoy like prairie dogs, antelope, big horn sheep, mountain goats, deer, free roaming buffalo, and donkeys that are original descendants of those used during the gold rush. Next stop is the Badlands National Park which is home to many indigenous animals including the black-footed ferret and the rattle snake. Photos of these colorfully rich hills are magnificent.

Two other noteworthy stops are Deadwood and Sturgis, South Dakota. The No.10 Saloon on Main Street, Deadwood is where Wild Bill Hickok was shot in the back while playing poker. Wild Bill and Calamity Jane are interred at the Mount Moriah Cemetery. If you are tired of wildlife and history, there are casinos including Cadillac Jack's and plenty of nightlife. As for Sturgis, South Dakota, it is home of the largest Motorcycle Rally in the United States. This year 2015 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this event and a million bikers are expected to converge upon this little town.

While visiting South Dakota, you are not far from North Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming. Devils Tower, the first National Monument, is located in Wyoming and is a must see while out west. Devils Tower, like Mount Rushmore, is iconic and featured in movies and magazines. The Great Falls and the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone are part of Yellowstone National Park located in Wyoming. A worthwhile investment if you are over



61 is the National Parks lifetime senior pass. After paying a minimal fee, admissions to all national parks are free for you and guests. Round off your trip with a visit to the Minute Man Missile site in South Dakota. The National Historic site is at the location of a silo where nuclear warheads were on standby during the Cold War. If you are interested in archaeology, the world's largest active mammoth dig is in South Dakota at the Mammoth Site of Hot Springs, South Dakota. You will see workers cleaning, scraping, and marking the fossil remains here. You are not done yet until you visit an actual gold mine located in Keystone, South Dakota used during the gold rush era. You can see the actual mine shaft, pan for gold, and maybe strike it rich.

Besides having so much to see and do, South Dakota has a lot to offer Americans in life. During your visit, look around and you will find no litter, no bottles strewn at street corners and no cigarette butts on the ground. So a trip to South Dakota is much more than our Presidents in Granite!

## Calendar of Events

**Jul 4** – Happy Birthday USA

**Jul 4** – Classic Car Show, Borough of Lakehurst, Union Ave, 9 – 4PM

**Jul 18** – Breakfast Membership Meeting – 9 AM Lakehurst Diner, Rt 547 & Rt 70

**Jul 22** - Signing of GI Bill of Rights

**Aug 7** - Purple Heart Day

**Aug 29** – NLHS Picnic, Freedom Park, JB Lakehurst, 12-4pm

**Sep 7** – Labor Day

**Sep 11** – Patriot Day (Anniv. of 9-11)

**Sep 18** – POW-MIA Day

**Sep 19** – Officers & Trustees Meeting

**Sep 25** – Capt. C Fletcher, USN, Change of Command & retirement, Hangar 1 (Time to be announced)

**Sep 27** – Gold Star Mothers Day

**Oct 9** – Navy Ball, Caesars Atlantic City, 6 PM

### Other Dates to Remember

**Jul 26, 1990** – Americans With Disability Act enacted

**Jul 27, 1953** – Korean War Ends

**Aug 14, 1945** - VJ Day (Japan Surrenders)

**Sep 2, 1945** – VJ Day, Japan Signs Surrender on “Big Mo”

## Jersey politicians lead effort to protect Joint Base

Efforts to protect Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst from cutbacks or closure won approval by a key House committee when lawmakers denied funding to move or retire any of the KC-10 refueling tanker planes based there.

The provision, authored by freshmen Reps. Tom MacArthur (R-3rd Dist.), whose district includes the joint base, and Donald Norcross (D-1st Dist.), was approved early Thursday morning by the House Armed Services Committee as it drafted its annual legislation setting U.S. military policy.

Both MacArthur and Norcross are members of the committee along with Rep. Frank LoBiondo (R-2nd Dist.), and joined the panel amid concerns that the Pentagon would seek to close or scale

back operations at the joint base.

In passing the \$612 billion National Defense Authorization Act, the committee voted to block the Defense Department from undertaking a new round of base closings.

Defense lobbyist Michael Herson said the committee went further by refusing to allow the Pentagon from spending money to retire the KC-10s or move them elsewhere. By being unable to shift the fleet, defense officials couldn't accomplish through the back door a consolidation of facilities and missions that otherwise would be done under the formal base closing process, said Herson, who attended the committee meeting.

"What Norcross and MacArthur did is a way of preventing the Pentagon from trying to do that," said Herson, president of the lobby firm American Defense International. "It makes it harder for them to scale back the base, which would not be in the interests of national security and the people of New

Jersey."

The ban on the Pentagon spending any money during the 2016 fiscal year to move or retire the aircraft, is likely to survive a vote by the full House, meaning it will be one of the issues discussed when lawmakers of both houses meet to write a final defense bill, Herson said.

In his proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, President Obama had requested permission to close additional military bases and consolidate others.

"Part of this is surely preemptive to make a possible future base closure less likely," said Mackenzie Eaglen, a defense expert at the American Enterprise Institute, a Washington think tank. "Quite simply, if bases start losing iron on the ramp and the people who maintain and fly those aircraft, they're more vulnerable to being on the next base closure list."

Members of the N.J. congressional delegation have expressed concern

that the joint base would be targeted for cuts in any new round of base closings.

"The KC-10 is critically important not only to our military's air mobility and readiness, but to the survival of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and the 40,000 New Jerseyans employed there," MacArthur said. "It is imperative that we protect our most capable and reliable refueler from an early and reckless retirement."

Norcross argued that the KC-10 was crucial to U.S. defense capabilities.

"Given the serious global threats facing our nation and our allies, it would be completely unconscionable to diminish — much less terminate — the KC-10, which is literally battle-tested as America's most reliable and proven refueling tanker," Norcross said. "Our job is to ensure that our service members have the best equipment possible and with this amendment we can deliver on that promise without having to incur needless delay or added cost."

## NLHS July Breakfast Meeting – Saturday, July 18, 2015 - 9 AM

Meeting Location: Lakehurst Diner, Rt. 70 & Rt. 547 Lakehurst, NJ

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will be attending

\_\_\_\_\_ No I will not be attending

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

Number of Guests you are bringing: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: Navy Lakehurst Historical Society P.O. Box 328 Lakehurst, NJ 08733  
Or e-mail information to : [NAVLAKE@PRODIGY.net](mailto:NAVLAKE@PRODIGY.net)

ATTN: July Meeting

**DEADLINE: Jul 15, 2015 by 12 noon**

**You must fill out this coupon if you plan on attending the meeting  
so we will know how many are coming.**

**NLHS STORE ITEMS – See Website for pictures of items [www.nlhs.com](http://www.nlhs.com)**

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Notes</b>
511	Patches	Lakehurst Decal	\$2.50	Ship incl
706	Patches	NAS Lakehurst Patch or Naval Support Activity Patch	\$7.50	Ship incl
708	Patches	ZP-1 Patch	\$7.50	Ship incl
701	Patches	Airship Squadron Two Patch	\$7.50	Ship incl
703	Patches	Blimp Squadron 12 Patch	\$7.50	Ship incl
709	Patches	ZP-14 Patch	\$7.50	Ship incl
702	Patches	Bayou Bomber Patch	\$7.50	Ship incl
704	Patches	Lambda Tau Alpha Patch	\$7.50	Ship incl
711	Patches	ZW-1 Patch: Early Warning Squadron Patch	\$7.50	Ship incl
710	Patches	ZP-3 Patch	\$7.50	Ship incl
801	Patches	Navy Lakehurst 90th Anniversary Patch	\$7.50	Ship incl
96	Ballcaps	NAS Lakehurst ballcap	\$23.00	Ship incl
97	Ballcaps	USS Macon (ZRS-5) ballcap	\$23.00	Ship incl
98	Ballcaps	Hindenburg (D-LZ129) ballcap	\$23.00	Ship incl
99	Ballcaps	USS Shenandoah (ZR-1) ballcap	\$23.00	Ship incl
100	Ballcaps	USS Akron (ZRS-4) ballcap	\$23.00	Ship incl
101	Ballcaps	USS Los Angeles (ZR-3) ballcap	\$23.00	Ship incl
10	Books	Inside the Hindenburg	\$12.00	\$5 shipping
11	Books	Fleet Angels of Lakehurst	\$15.00	\$5 shipping
95	Books	Guide to over 900 Aircraft Museums – USA and Canada	\$20.00	Ship incl
205	Books	Images of America: Naval Air Station Lakehurst	\$22.00	\$5 shipping
209	Books	The Airship Experience	\$23.00	\$5 shipping
213	Books	US Navy Airships 1915-1962	\$23.00	\$5 shipping
212	Books	US Army Airships 1908-1942	\$23.00	\$5 shipping
208	Books	Snafu	\$20.00	\$5 shipping
201	Books	American Airship Bases and Facilities	\$25.00	\$5 shipping
216	Books	Aweigh and Up	\$25.00	\$5 shipping
217	Books	The Van Dyk Collection of LTA Plans & Drawings	\$25.00	\$5 shipping
218	Books	Airships vs Submarines	\$28.00	\$5 shipping
404	Lithographs	USS Shenandoah ZR-1 (Daughter of the Stars)	\$30.00	\$5 shipping
406	Lithographs	Hindenburg Final Moments (color)	\$30.00	\$5 shipping
510	Mugs	Hindenburg Coffee Mug	\$10.00	Ship incl
85	Mugs	Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Mug	\$10.00	Ship incl
106	Shirts	Navy Lakehurst T-shirt (Blue) Sm – XL <b>(2XL -3XL-\$22)</b>	\$20.00	Ship incl
102	Shirts	Navy Lakehurst Golf Shirt (Dk Blue) Med – XL <b>(2XL -3XL-\$31)</b>	\$26.00	Ship incl
103	Shirts	Navy Lakehurst Crew Neck Sweatshirt (Navy Blue) M – XL <b>(2XL-3XL-\$32)</b>	\$29.00	Ship incl
104	Shirts	Navy Lakehurst Hooded Sweatshirt (Navy Blue) M – XL <b>(2XL - 3XL-\$38)</b>	\$35.00	Ship incl
105	Shirts	Blimp T-shirt (grey) specify K, L or G Blimp image - M-XL <b>(2XL - 3XL-\$22)</b>	\$20.00	Ship incl
301	DVD	The Blimp Goes to War Again (color)	\$35.00	Ship incl
308	DVD	Airships Fight a Cold War (color)	\$35.00	Ship incl
302	DVD	Airship Handling (B&W)	\$25.00	Ship incl
303	DVD	LS-129 Hindenburg (B&W)	\$25.00	Ship incl
699	Special Order	Hindenburg Display Model (44 1/4 inches long and 9inch diameter)	\$349.00	plus ship
698	Special Order	Hindenburg Display Model (65 inches long and 14 1/4 inch diameter)	\$599.00	plus ship
697	Special Order	Graf Zeppelin Kit	\$99.95	plus ship
696	Special Order	USS Macon Display Model	\$199.00	plus ship
800	Military Posters	6 different choices see website for information	\$12.00	\$5 shipping
307	Sculpture	Hangar One Wood Sculpture	\$17.00	\$5 shipping
306	Sculpture	Hindenburg Wood Sculpture	\$24.00	\$5 shipping

