



The AVLOG Sentinel

News from the
Marine Corps Aviation Association
Don E. Davis Squadron

Volume I | Issue 06 | Oct 2023 - Don Davis Squadron Newsletter

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Greetings Davis Squadron,

We are in the planning phases for our 2024 reunion in Myrtle Beach, SC. Rob (CommO), together with Brent (Adjutant) and Gale (Treasurer) finished the reconnaissance of suitable venues. As previously reported, we'll be gathering at the Hilton's Embassy Suites Oceanfront from 14-17 March 2024. Details covering the schedule, events and cost will be forthcoming in our reunion package.

Additionally, I wanted to thank all who stepped up at our last reunion. As is typical with all Marines and spouses/partners, we just took charge. Hopefully, that'll continue in Myrtle Beach. The officers and board cannot do it all. If you're willing to lend a hand with registration, the silent auction, raffle, and banquet setup, please indicate that in your reunion packet submission.

Sponsors are the lifeblood of our squadron. If you are aware of, or part of any corporation or business that might be willing to be part of our tremendous efforts, let us know. We have brochures and sponsor request documentation that can assist in any solicitation you may be making.

Nuff said! Our efforts going forward are squarely focused on and piecing together the 2024 Davis Squadron reunion. Thank you to our officers who to do great things for our community. Again, I thank each one of you. Remember, this is your organization. We need a full team to maintain our tremendous momentum. *SF, Klutch*

"The Plug"

Don E. Davis Squadron

Why join us?

- ✓ **MCAA Awards Program Champion-Participant**
- ✓ **MCAA Yellow Sheet and Journal Contributors**
- ✓ **Annual Reunion and Banquet Program**
- ✓ **Marine Air Wing/Training MOY Program**
- ✓ **Funded trip for 2 annual MOY award winners**
- ✓ **ASL Community Advocates - ESC Roundtable**
- ✓ **Mentoring Opportunities for Aviation Marines**
- ✓ **Defense Corporate Interface - 5 major sponsors**
- ✓ **Pete Freeman Scholarship - \$30K+ for 2023**
- ✓ **Active-Duty Membership builds bridges**

Join Today! Donate Today!

AWARDS



Our 5th annual CWO-5 John Cash Award for "Sustained Achievement" was awarded to CWO-3 Gale Rodgers. Gale has been our Treasurer for more than 7 years and plays a pivotal role in virtually every aspect of our

squadron. She truly "goes beyond the call." She has been our shining star since joining the squadron. Her selection was unanimous and well-deserved. Pictured here is Gale receiving this award at MCAS Beaufort reunion in March of this year. Congratulations, Gale.

Active-Duty Awards

The recipients of the Marine of the Year Program went to one MALS-26 Marine and one MALS-31 Marine:

MALS 31: Staff Sergeant Richard F Hegwood

MALS 26: Sgt Jacquelyn Bailey

We will solicit from 2nd MAW and CNATT for next year's awards.

Announcements

- **The 2024 Davis Squadron reunion will be at the Embassy Suites Oceanfront in Myrtle Beach, SC. The dates are 14-17 March 2024. Please standby for registration package and details.**
- **The Freeman Scholarship Committee has reported out and awardees are in this issue (pg 4).**
- **The 2024 Davis Sqdn Award Program will be published just after the New Year.**
- **LtGen Robert "Whaler" Walsh assumes command of our MCAA. Welcome aboard sir!**
- **SPONSORSHIP! Boeing, Andromeda Systems Inc., Bell Flight, Lee Perkins, PKL & Sam Flores and others continue as our steadfast sponsors in helping the Davis Sqdn flourish. If you or someone you know would like to sponsor us, please pass on their contact info!**

Around the “Corps”

The Marine Corps XQ-58A Valkyrie, a highly autonomous, low-cost tactical unmanned air vehicle successfully completed its first test flight October 3, 2023, at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. The Marine Corps partnered with the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (OUSD(R&E)), the Naval Air Systems Command and Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) to facilitate the ongoing research, development, test and evaluation of the Marine Corps XQ-58A Valkyrie. This joint collaboration was supported by the 40th Flight Test Squadron, 96th Test Wing and the NAWCAD. This flight marks a key milestone in the Marine Corps’ Penetrating Affordable Autonomous Collaborative Killer – Portfolio (PAACK-P) program. Future test flights inform Marine Corps XQ-58A Valkyrie requirements for the Marine Air-Ground Task Force Unmanned Aerial System Expeditionary (MUX) Tactical Aircraft (TACAIR).

“This XQ-58A test flight and the data collected today not only help to inform future requirements for the Marine Corps,” said Scott Bey, a prototyping and experimentation portfolio manager at OUSD(R&E).

“It fuels continued joint innovation and experimentation opportunities and demonstrates the agility that can be achieved through partnership.” The aircraft performed as expected.

Learn more: [-http://www.marines.mil/XQ-58A Valkyrie](http://www.marines.mil/XQ-58A Valkyrie)

Challenges and What’s New

The “Kegger” Challenge Update

Kegger challenge is still on, so challenge an active-duty unit or take up the challenge as an individual. Top recruiting unit/Marines will earn a host keg on the squadron. Now go get em!...new members that is.

Recruiter of the Year (ROY) Award Program

As promised, the Recruiter of the Year was established as the Col Rick Owen Award. There was no winner for our 2023 reunion in Beaufort. We’ll be selecting our next winner in time for our next reunion in Myrtle Beach, SC. Standby for that announcement.

Keep your innovation/ideas coming. It’s how we get better!

Active-Duty Announcements

Thanks to our blossoming relationship with Asst. DCA Mr. Blauw, we are able to provide updates from around the fleet. **Thank you to all who helped make this happen!!**

This coming summer, Colonel Tony Lyons will relinquish command of MATSG-23 to Colonel Carl Punzel. We thank Col Lyons for his participation and contributions to the Davis Squadron over the years and wish them both the very best in their new roles. Well done, Colonels.

Retirements/Transition

No new significant transitions were reported this cycle. If necessary, we will amend this publishing in response to any notifications that we receive. The squadron always wishes all members well when they take on a new adventure in their lives,

As a reminder, if you have a contribution to our newsletter, active-duty news or otherwise, please share it with us. That’s what keeps the Davis Squadron apprised of current events.



Brent Meeker, Davis Squadron Adjutant, led the reunion attendees on a tour of Parris Island. They visited DI School, the Museum and had lunch

Freeman Scholarship Awards

Thanks to the many personal donations and corporate sponsors, we were able to award \$30,000+ to 22 applicants. Biggest award yet. Great work! **Thank you to all who helped make this happen!!**

Awardees

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Calbough, Ania | Kirby, Caroline |
| Calbough, Anthony J. | MacLaird, Noelle |
| Carney, Hannah | McGee, Victoria |
| Chipman, Tyler | Payton, Robin |
| Consford, Syenna | Reeves, Debraunah |
| Goulette Jensen | Seigh, Ariana |
| Goulette, Meghan | Smith, Zakery |
| Hamilton, William Tyler | Smith, Zaria |
| Harper, Becky | Takahashi, Mia |
| Hennessy, Paige | VanMeter, Taylor |
| Johnson, Reece | Whiddon, Meagan |

As a reminder, when you consider a donation to the Davis Squadron, you can specify that your contribution go to the Captain Pete Freeman Scholarship Foundation.

Taps

The Davis Squadron lost way too many superb Marines and dear friends below. May we pray that they're saving a place for us in the Lord's great warehouse and on the flight line for us. One bright spot is the wonderful story of how one of our own, Mike Welter, overcame adversity and illness to live on to share his most blessed story. See YouTube herein. [https://youtu.be/ LaK-FtZCII](https://youtu.be/LaK-FtZCII)

Semper Fidelis!

- MSgt Larry Lord – 30 Sep 2023
- Capt Edward (Nick) Russell – 28 Sep 2023
- CWO Joseph Chisholm – 9 Sep 2023
- Maj Colleen Leer – 16 Jun 2023
- Marian Shultz – 18 May 2023
(Wife of Capt John Shultz)
- LtCol Bert Burchette – 29 Apr 2023
- Hazel Janice Bernat – 29 Mar 2023
(Wife of Capt Len Bernat)
- MGySgt Shadel Wayne Cruit – 20 Feb 2023
- Capt Richard "Rick" Fescocoe – 27 Jan 2023

DUES REMINDER

Membership period is from 10 Nov to 10 Nov!

Already a member, then just send your check for \$12 and mark it as annual dues. Multiple years can be paid.

New: Request Membership Application from:
mcaadondavisavlogsquadron@gmail.com

Send applications and checks to:
MCAA Don Davis Squadron
P.O. Box 22
Chatham, MI 49816

**Are you affiliated with a business or industry that wants to help with sponsorship?
Please communicate with us.**

Donations can be remitted to the Don Davis Squadron at the same address above.



[Our FB Link](#)



[Our Website Link](#)



[MCAA Link](#)



[Marines.com](#)