



### Special points of interest:

- Wednesday December 18—Crabby Night
- Tuesday January 7— Chapter Board Meeting

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## President's Message

### HOLIDAYS

This month I can't help but recall the number of holidays (especially Christmas) I spent on military duty. A large majority of them, compared to the few lucky ones spent with my immediate family. In the Coast Guard, going any distance for the holidays was extremely difficult as we all stood 24 hour duty every three days and leave taking on Holidays meant that your buddies had to take your duty and stand 24 hour "Rescue Helo" duty every other day. I recall conducting rescues at sea more often than not, each time I stood duty on Christmas or Thanksgiving. Oh, there were some heart warming stories about rescues on holidays and delivering victims to their loved ones, but these were tempered with the memories of hours of searching angry seas, flying around in horrible visibility and gale force winds, wondering why anyone would go out to sea in such conditions as this? As we pondered the unofficial motto of the Coast Guard "THE BOOK SAYS THAT YOU HAVE TO GO OUT! IT DOESN'T MENTION ANYTHING ABOUT COMING BACK!!!" I actually considered myself extremely fortunate on Thanksgiving 1972 when during a perilous search for a family missing on a yacht (reported the previous day.) I caught a glimpse of a large sailboat not making way. As we approached for a closer look we noticed that the boat was very low in the water and the oc-



cupants were clinging to the top of the cabin. A flare was fired in our direction and we immediately radioed our position and called in the name of the boat. As I rigged the rescue hoist and basket we received confirmation that this was the vessel in question. As I hoisted the last family member aboard the helicopter the vessel slipped beneath the waves. The family was transported to Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station and picked up by an ambulance where they were pronounced in good condition. We landed with barely enough fuel to

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## President's Message Continued

taxi to the fueling point and shut down. While refueling, my Aircraft Commander attempted to get us something to eat (our fuel was low as well). We had been flying over 15 hours since our last meal and after all it was Thanksgiving! He was told that the Galley was closed. (Maybe some leftovers after we got back to base?) As we were completing our pre takeoff checklist, a Lance Corporal on a bicycle came riding towards us on the refueling ramp waving wildly at us. He got off the bike and ran up to the left side of the helicopter with a sack. I opened the window and he shoved the sack in. "The family you picked up told us what had happened and the guys at the fuel farm raided the kitchen and got you this, not much really, but maybe it'll help." Our sack contained two turkey legs, stuffing, cranberry juice and pumpkin pie-with a full tub of whipped cream for the pie. Certainly my most memorable Thanksgiving meal.

During the holidays please remember the men and women in uniform who aren't with their loved ones, who sacrifice for you! Oh and to that thoughtful Lance Corporal, THANKS AND HOO RAH

fjs



## January Program: Introduce Yourself



For January's meeting, please bring a picture of your favorite airplane or a favorite aviation picture of self, etc.. Tell the members about personal aviation history. A member of MPA Kansas City Chapter suggested that they would like to know more about others. This is an opportunity to share in 5 minutes or less. If you would like to send Tom Eagle a photo, he will include the photo in the January THE FLYER newsletter.

### Remembrance

**JAMES C. STEARS**, 89, Independence, Mo., passed away Friday, December 6, 2013. He graduated from William Chrisman High School. Jim proudly served in the Army during WWII. He married Pauline (Johnson) in 1945 and together they raised two children. His adventurous side led him to become an airplane pilot where he took a solo trip to Alaska. He was a member of the Missouri Pilot Association, QB's Flying Club, Master of a Masonic Lodge, President of the Mitchell Flying Club, and the "Flying Fez" with Shriner's, where he flew children to Shriner's Hospitals.

### **Pilots petition to save Joplin runway** (AOPA—December 5, 2013)

Pilots have banded together and launched a petition drive to save Runway 5/23 at [Joplin Regional Airport](#) in Joplin, Mo., urging the city to include this crosswind option in the airport master plan now being updated.

The Joplin Airport Users Group formed after pilots caught wind of the city's plan to close the runway, one of three at the field. The group launched [an online petition](#) and researched winds, obtaining more recent data than the FAA used in determining that Runway 5/23 is ineligible for federal funding.

Complete news article can be found at:

[Click for AOPA New Link \(URL\)](#)

### **New bill would expand driver's license medical** (AOPA—December 13, 2013)

After nearly two years of FAA inaction on the AOPA-EAA third-class medical petition, Congress has taken matters into its own hands, offering up legislation that would vastly expand the number of pilots who could fly without going through the expensive and time-consuming third-class medical certification process. Reps. Todd Rokita (R-Ind.), a member of the House General Aviation Caucus, and GA Caucus Co-Chair Sam Graves (R-Mo.) on Dec. 11 introduced the General Aviation Pilot Protection Act. The legislation would dramatically expand the parameters for flying under the driver's license medical standard. Rokita and Graves are both AOPA members and active pilots.

Complete news article can be found at:

[Click for AOPA New Link \(URL\)](#)

## Crabby Night Menu

**All meals** come with a **salad, Cheddar Baked biscuits,** and **non-alcoholic beverage:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Water
- \_\_\_\_\_ Soft Drink
- \_\_\_\_\_ Coffee
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ice Tea
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other non-alcoholic Beverage
- \_\_\_\_\_ Optional Alcoholic Beverage with extra self-pay charge

**Main Course** choices:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Snow Crab Legs:** 1 pound of Crab Legs, served with Corn on the Cob and Red Potatoes

\_\_\_\_\_ **Seaside Shrimp Trio:** Walt's Favorite Shrimp, Garlic Shrimp Scampi and Shrimp Linguini, served with one side

\_\_\_\_\_ **Blue Cheese Sirloin:** A 7 ounce Seasoned Sirloin, wood-grilled and topped with a Creamy Blue Cheese sauce served over Mashed Potatoes with a choice of one side

\_\_\_\_\_ **An additional half pound of Crab Legs:** may be added to any dinner for an additional \$6.00

**Sides:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Broccoli
- \_\_\_\_\_ Petite Green Beans
- \_\_\_\_\_ Roasted Vegetable Medley
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wild Rice Pilaf
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mashed Potatoes
- \_\_\_\_\_ Crispy Red Potatoes
- \_\_\_\_\_ Baked Potato

You can bring a copy of completed menu with you to help with ordering.

**MEETING MENU:**

SEE INFORMATION

**Reservations:**

**Send check to**  
Terrie Jo, 3724 Stanton, LSMO 64064. If you have questions, call 816-525-3592 (home) or 816-985-5406 (Gary's Cell) by Monday **Dec 16, 2013**

**Future Meeting Dates**



December 18— Crabby Night at Red Lobster

We are looking for suggestions of speakers for upcoming meetings. You suggest, we invite and all will enjoy

**Calendar of Events** (## indicates KC Local, \*\* indicates Important Date)

**##Dec 18 (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday—One Week Early)** Crabby Night, 6 PM, 4228 Noland Rd, Independence, MO—Crabby Night

**##Jan 7 (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday)** Board Meeting, 7 PM, Downtown Airport

**##Jan 22 (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday—Normal Date)** Introduce Yourself, 6 PM, HyVee Noland Road & 40 Highway, Independence, MO

**CHECK CALENDAR AT [www.MOpilotsKC.org/calendar](http://www.MOpilotsKC.org/calendar) FOR LATEST EVENTS AND UPDATES.**

**OUR OWN WEBSITE!** The Kansas City Chapter of the Missouri Pilots Association (MPA) has its own website. Please visit early and visit often at [www.MOpilotsKC.org](http://www.MOpilotsKC.org) (capital letters not required). Updating coming soon. **Tom Eagle**

**FREE MEAL**

(drawings):

Maggie St.

Germain

Paul Broome

**\$25**

Per person



**HOLIDAY CRABBY NIGHT –**

Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at the **Red Lobster** at 4228 Noland Road in Independence, MO. The Social will begin at 5:30 and we will begin ordering by 6 pm . . . there will be a choice of meals and, of course, a pound of crab legs. The cost is \$25 per person with reservations and payment, in advance, a must.

Please send checks payable to: **KC Chapter MPA** and mail to: Terrie Fox, 3724 Stanton, Lees Summit, MO 64064.

## Kansas City Chapter of Missouri Pilots Association

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Blue Skies

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## Advertisements