



MIAMI BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

MBPD Retiree Newsletter

UNITY IS STRENGTH FOR A BETTER RETIREMENT



SEPTEMBER 2009
ISSUE

www.mbpdreteires.com

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Sam's Corner - "A Collection of Disorganized Thoughts"

First and foremost, I would like to publicly acknowledge and thank Ana Adler, Dean's lovely wife, for helping make the Miami Beach Retiree's Newsletter the success that it is today. Well, actually, that sort of sounds like a self serving statement because I'm the editor and to me, it's a success. I didn't start the concept; I just sort of took the ball and ran with it.

Each month, Ana takes in all of the stuff we send her and puts it together in an entertaining and professional manner, even adding in her own graphics and other "stuff" before sending it off to the printers. As

the end of the month nears, Ana and I are in constant contact with each other to ensure that you, the readers have a neat looking newsletter for your parakeets to read and poop on in their cages.

As if you all hadn't heard enough about the Police Olympics, here is some more stuff that came in during the month. Casey Conwell and Ed Avila wanted "ink" in this

month's newsletter so I'm going to give it to them. Casey e-mailed Ed to say that he returned to the Police Olympics after 36 years! He congratulated Eddie for winning a medal in the 60+ team group. I thought Eddie was 80+. Casey's partner Steve Barnes is 49 and they were in the 45-49 age group. They won a bronze with a 234. Casey said luck had a lot to do with it. I have absolutely no idea what game they were playing but I will have to say this, I don't know about Casey Conwell, but when it comes to Ed Avila, he needs all the luck he can get!

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Disorganized Thoughts....



VINNY'S BREAKFAST

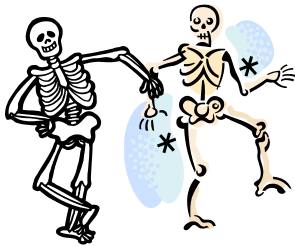
On August 21, 2009 a breakfast was held at the 84 Diner with 15 people attending, retirees attending were Wally Neumann, Kevin Graham, Al & Mimi Boza, Alan Skolnick, Don Freeman,

Mike Bauer, Jack Mackie, Bobby Bauer, Billy Rosenstein, Charlie Losey, Samuel Gam, Vinny Aprile, Also retired firefighter Tom Columbano, & active officer Pat Quinlan.

Sam's Corner ...

Continued from pg 1

We attended the combination Doo Wop/Salsa concert at the Goldcoast Ballroom in Coconut Creek on Saturday night the 15th of August and had a blast. Unfortunately there weren't a lot of retirees there. Perhaps we didn't get the word out soon enough. It was the first time I saw my old partner Tommy Moran perform. He and his band "Legacy" were great! The Salsa band, "Sonido Cha" was also fantastic. When we walked into the ballroom, I felt as though I was walking into a high school prom in the 1950's.



Many of the dancers were part of a group of dancers in advanced classes at that ballroom, so they were very skilled and entertaining to watch.

I personally can't dance worth a crap, but I did see Billy O'Neil and Eddie Santiago dancing (not with each other) and those guys can dance up a storm. I brought my girlfriend and she loves to dance, so she had a great time; even danced to one Salsa song with Ed Santiago. She had such a great time she dumped me for good two days later. Yeah baby, it's true! Anyway, great job

Tommy, hope to see you and Legacy perform again soon, keep us posted on future performances.

As some of you know, my career is on the move again. In early August, I officially retired from the Virginia Gardens Police Department after a distinguished eight month career and was sworn in as a part time Officer at North Bay Village. Although Virginia Gardens was sort of tiny; no bigger than a postage stamp, it offered ample opportunity for advancement, but no pay. Chief Chohonis begged me to stay, offering me a chance to become a homicide detective, fly their helicopter, or join their SWAT team. I respectfully declined. All kidding aside, I really liked the town, the Chief, and my former colleagues. They're a great bunch of folks and I have nothing bad to say of them. I will miss them, especially my old boss, Lt. Glenn Hodges. Although he won't admit it, he practically runs that place and is actually a great boss. Learned it from me of course!

North Bay Village PD seems to be a very laid back, easy going department. That doesn't mean that nothing happens there. Make no mistake, there *is* action in NBV from time to time and the cops *do* take care of business! I have been welcomed warmly there by everyone and I'm looking forward to my new "career". Of course, I will keep you posted on my progress. No doubt, something goofy will happen to

me there that I will be more than glad to report in the future!

When I'm not patrolling the mean streets of North Bay Village or riding my motorcycle, I'll be enjoying some of my other hobbies. What are they you asked? No, you probably didn't so I'm going to tell you! Cooking and growing vegetables. I started taking an interest in cooking several years ago, before the Food Network became *really* popular. My interest in cooking really grew when I started buying cookbooks and watching cooking shows on TV. I'm not going to brag and say I'm a great cook because I'm not.



There are some dishes such as chicken parmesan that I make really well. Some others? Let's just say I've had to throw away entire casseroles because they've come out of the oven a big watery mess. Ouch, that hurts!

Buddy Petit and I struck up a conversation at Kelly Reid's retirement party about cooking. Buddy has been described by some as a "gourmet cook". I don't know about that because I've never tried any of his stuff, but I'm sure it's true.

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Sam's Corner...

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Buddy, like me, got a lot of his ideas from the Food Network. Buddy told me that he started to learn how to cook out of necessity. His girlfriend didn't know how to cook (oh Lord I hope she doesn't read this), so according to Buddy, it was either learn how to cook for the both of them, or starve to death. Makes sense to me!

Just to give you an idea, when I stopped watching "Cops" and started watching the Food Network, I knew there had to be something I really liked about this cooking nonsense. My interest in cooking had nothing to do with survival of course. In reality, if I stopped eating today, I would not be in any kind of danger of malnourishment until at least the year 2013 due to my extensive energy reserves.

The Food Network has all kinds of interesting cooking shows, and great recipes. There's a little something for everyone. Once in awhile though, I run across a



show where the chef will be telling the audience that this dish or that dish is "easy and quick to make". Then he or she will start rattling off ingredients such as "Suez Canal articulated sea salt", or "Madagascar squirrel oil infused vintage paprika". I have no idea where to get this stuff, nor would I want to. If I can't find the ingredients at Publix, I ain't making the dish, I don't care how good they say it tastes!

On my back patio, there are 10 large planters with a variety of herbs and vegetables. At the current time, I am growing cucumbers, bell peppers, hot peppers, Marconi sweet banana peppers, poblano chilies, basil, oregano, rosemary, thyme, and parsley. I can't begin to tell you how satisfying it is to go out your

back door and cut a fresh pepper off your plant, then use it in a dish 30 minutes later. Dang it, I'm a farmer!

Unfortunately, the only vegetable I've had a heck of a rough time growing successfully has been tomatoes. I did have a plum tomato plant some time back and was able to get a minimal harvest, but the labor necessary to maintain the plant was more than I was willing to endure. Sometimes it's just easier driving to the grocery store and buying tomatoes. They've got all you want there. Ok, I guess with that attitude I'm not much of a farmer after all, especially since I don't even have a tractor.

Sam Gam owes Buck Griscom an apology. Some time ago, Buck sent me a letter containing *his* version of "disorganized thoughts". Most of you should understand by now that I do have a habit of misplacing these things,

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www.CFBnetwork.com, Cops and Firefighters in Business, was formed in 2000 as a **FREE** referral network for Police Officers and Firefighters that own or operate businesses outside of their Public Service positions. The Network includes both active and retired members of our brotherhood, as well as their spouses. Law Enforcement Professionals include Police Officers, Deputies, Correction Officers and FBI Agents, etc.

This **FREE** referral service is available nationwide

1-888-663-2677 or 954-838-0084 DEAN ADLER, Retired MBPD Police Officer, Founder of CFB Network.com

In The News...

By: Sam Gam

PETE AND LEE ANN GUTIERREZ

Lee Ann Gutierrez wrote in to let us know that she and her husband Peter are moving back to Florida from South Carolina. They are buying a house in Palm Coast, which is 30 miles north of Daytona Beach. They are looking for jobs, in case any retirees in the area have connections. They are also selling their house with 10 acres of land in South Carolina if anyone is interested. If you would like to contact them regarding these issues, please call them at 386-446-9906.

ANNUAL FEAST DAY OF SAINT MICHAEL

The Annual Feast Day of Saint Michael the Archangel, Patron Saint of Police Officers will be held at the St. Patrick Church, 3716 Garden Drive, Miami Beach at 1100 hours on **Friday, September 25th.**

This event will be hosted by the Reverend Monsignor John Vaughn, Pastor of St. Patrick Church and John Rivera, President of the Dade County Police Benevolent Association.

GERALD WOLFF

Nancy Wolff-Diaz wrote in to report that her father Gerry (former sworn Crime Scene Tech) is in poor health. He has been having falling episodes and is currently undergoing testing. She further wrote that Gerry needs to go into a rehab facility but is experiencing trouble with the VA, doctors and private insurance companies. Gerry wanted his fellow retirees to know what is going on with him and in turn, wants to "stay in the loop". We will make sure that he is e-mailed all future newsletters. Nancy can be contacted at 305-951-0775. The e-mail address is: JandN12001@bellsouth.net.

IMPORTANT MEDICAL NEWS!!

Charlie Seraydar explains the procedure for obtaining eyeglasses under the MBFOP Health Trust insurance plan. Go anywhere you want for glasses and pay the bill, no insurance forms. You are entitled to up to \$75.00 for an eye exam. You get up to \$200.00 for bi-focals, less for single lens, more for tri-focals. Mail the bill to: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, 7990 SW 117 Ave. Suite 208, Miami, Florida, 33183. If you mail, mail a *copy* of the bill only. You can also fax the bill to the attention of Maria Mulet at 305-596-6820. If you have any questions, call Maria at 305-595-4040, Ext. 1080.

Gary Kluger, the Chairman of the Miami Beach FOP Health Trust reminds everyone that the MBFOP Insurance Trust Fund is not and has never been a city plan. It is an FOP Police Union insurance plan. You must be a member of the Health Trust in good standing to use the fund. If you obtain your eye exam and glasses and submit your bill to ASI and you are not a member,

THE BILL WILL NOT BE PAID OR REIMBURSED.

BOBBY JENKINS wanted everyone to know that he has just been appointed by FOP President Alex Bello to the Board of the Miami Beach FOP Health Trust as the **RETIREE'S REPRESENTATIVE.**

Sam's Corner...

continued from pg.3

although I have improved dramatically in the last couple of months. I was afraid to call Buck and tell him that I misplaced his letter. What can I tell you, I'm afraid of Buck. Fortunately, a stroke of luck occurred and I was sent another letter which I keep in a safe deposit box. A copy is sitting next to me.

Perhaps over the next few months, I will be including some of Buck's short stories in my column. The key word of course being "some". I suspect some of the stories in his letters are based on incidents for which

the "statute of limitations" has not quite run. That's why the letter is kept in a safe deposit box. Just kidding!

Buck wrote that humor is good for the soul, and that it seems to be my "only talent". I don't know quite how to take that; but, ok, thanks for the compliment? Buck said that he always preferred being called a "cop" rather than a "law enforcement officer." His personal acronym for cop is "champions of people", which he said is exactly what good cops are, or were at one time.

Buck went on to say that at his age, which, if I'm not mistaken is somewhere around 34, he had to hurry up get this stuff off his chest, or it would be "tales from the crypt", or "tales from a large ash tray". So, next month, look for some interesting short stories from the cerebral archives of Buck Griscom. And Buck, if you're reading this... Don't be mad, and send me some more stuff. Until next month, keep your eyes on the Weather Channel, because hurricane season is in full bloom. Stay safe!

"I was afraid to call Buck and tell him that I misplaced his letter. What can I tell you, I'm afraid of Buck."

Happy Birthday September!



SEPTEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER EXCLUSIVE!

MOUNTAIN LUNCHEON WAS AWESOME

By Fred Wooldridge

When Maddy and I pulled into the parking lot at the Rib Shack Restaurant in Highlands, NC, a whole half hour early, we weren't surprised that the usual suspects, Doug Reid, Jim Burnette and Lisa Newland, were already milling around waiting for others to arrive. The temperature had just turned seventy degrees with hardly a cloud in the sky. It would be another beautiful day in our mountain town. Each year, retirees from the Miami Beach Police Department meet in the Highlands area for our annual "Lunch at 4000 Feet" get-together.

Doug pointed at our new Honda Fit and laughed, offering us a parking spot in the bed of his truck. Doug, known as the bar-b-q man, lives a short distance away in Murphy. As last year, Jim and Lisa came all the way from Pembroke Pines, FL, and are, again, touring the country and campin' out. Nice life, huh?

Slowly, the parking lot filled with cars and all these really old men, many with much younger looking wives, got out, claiming they were retired Miami Beach cops. It ain't fair that men get

old and women don't. And how come everyone got old but me? There was Jerry and Julie Milligan from nearby Franklin, NC, Nick and Paula DiMartino from Suches, Ga., Alan and Betty Seres from Fair Play, SC. Then there was late arrival (as usual) Gene "The Phantom" Toreky with Cathy in tow from Waynesville.

And kudos to the retirees who drove a long way to be with us for this special luncheon. Jack & Donna Krolak came from Trenton, FL; Bill Maxwell from Tallahassee, FL; Sam, The Man, Gam from Sunrise brought his nephew, Alex, from Miami. I asked where Bill Godfrey was since he was supposed to come and Sam sheepishly looked at me and said, "Don't ask." I didn't.

Last, but far from least, was Jim and Gail Corbett, from Palm Bay, FL. I think this might be Jim's third luncheon with us in the mountains. Don't ja love it?

By twelve thirty, twenty folks filled the booths at the Rib Shack restaurant and the chatter began. A short distance away, in a nearby booth, several Highlands' police officers looked on, wondering if

they would look that old when they retired. Ha, they will.

Alan Seres announced he was doing what retirees are supposed to do....nothing. Then he corrected himself by telling us he occasionally works in a liquor store for extra spending money. Jack Krolak announced he was doing exactly what he did last year. Like Seres, nothing. His wife, Donna, still works.



Lunch at The Highlands

Jack and Donna bought a new camper and will travel next month to Maggie Valley for a vacation. Retirement is a permanent vacation. Bill Maxwell, who just retired last year, enjoys line and country dancing. He and his honey just get in their car and go. Next, they're

heading for the Jersey shore!

Doug Reid still enjoys fly fishing and rating/judging bar-b-q-restaurants. He now brags he has sixteen different restaurants on his list. I asked him if he would rate the Rib Shack and he smiled and said, "We don't do fast food." Jim Burnett and wife, Lisa, still have their motor home and love traveling the country. This year, after the luncheon, they were headed for Murphy for a month or so, then on to Lake Chatuge for another month. They'll spend the entire summer up in the mountains because they can't stand the summers in Florida anymore.

Sam Gam brought his nephew, Alex, along as our official photographer. Alex announced he was only three years old when some of us retired over twenty years ago, bringing me back to reality. He works for FedEx in Miami. No grass growing under Sam's feet. Apparently he's busier now than when he had a real job.

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MOUNTAIN LUNCHEON WAS AWESOME

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He just hired on as a part timer for the North Bay Village PD. After the chief hired him, Sam informed him he was taking a week vacation in North Carolina. Is that funny, or what?

For Jerry and Julie Millican, it's same ole, same ole. She still works for the local hospital and the two are just enjoying their retirement. Nick DiMartino got called out of retirement to drive a bus to transport one of his grandkids. Nick's ticker acted up last September and he had to spend a day in the hospital, but doing fine ever since.

Gene Toreky and Cathy announced they now will

spend their winters in Naples, FL. They can't take the winters any longer and he got an awesome deal in Naples. They are now official "snowbirds."

An hour later, everyone's fingers were caked with bar-b-q sauce and rolls of paper towels were being ripped from their rolls at the end of each table. Strawberry shortcake seemed to be the favorite dessert of the day. I didn't indulge but it looked delicious. Everyone said they loved the food and the manager, Mike Warner, allowed us to sit and chat for as long as we desired.

After several group pictures, we again hugged, shook hands and said our goodbyes for another year, everyone

grateful they had made it through some of the most dangerous times Miami Beach had ever experienced.



Lunch at The Highlands

TOUR de FORCE MEMORIAL BIKE RIDE

Joan Donnelly's husband, Oldy Ochoa, and the Miami Beach Police Bicycle Team will join other police officers from around the country in the annual "Tour de Force Memorial Bike Ride." The Tour de Force is a 501c3 charity which raises funds for families of police officers killed in the line of duty nationwide.

This annual 4 day ride will kick off this year in Boston on September 11th, and travel through Massachusetts, Connecticut, Long Island and end at Ground Zero in New York City. They will ride a total of 250 miles. More than 150 Police Officers are expected to ride this year.



**Tour de Force
Memorial
Bike Ride**

Their website is: <http://www.tourdeforcenyc.com>.

Each rider must raise \$1,000 to participate. MBPD has 12 riders and currently needs \$4,000 to complete the team total. Any amount you could donate would be greatly appreciated. If any of you wish to donate to assist an MBPD Officer in this great event, please make your checks payable to "Tour de Force NY" and mail to Bernie Ruder c/o MBPD, 1100 Washington Ave. Miami Beach, FL 33139.

Warmest regards!

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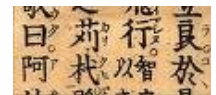
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When rookie South Beach
Police Officer Katie Maguire
agreed to work undercover, the
exceptionally tall and attrac-
tive woman had no idea what
was in store for her. Follow
the adventures of our uniquely
gifted heroine as she journeys
along her destiny's path.



A Necessary End:
A Katie Maguire novel

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