

The Challenger

USS Ronald E McNair

October/November 2006

First Ladies Walk

October 7, 2006 members of the USS Ronald E. McNair participated in the First Ladies walk. \$240.00 was donated by the McNair as well. The First Ladies Walk is an annual event held each October in Columbia, SC. The Palmetto Health Foundation organizes the walk to benefit South Carolina Comprehensive Breast Center.

Columbia Mayor Bob Coble's wife, Beth, whose mother died of breast cancer helped to create the event, now in its 16th year. She and SC first lady Jenny Sanford spoke to the walkers at Finlay Park before they flowed out onto the three-mile route that circled back to the park.

There were teams ranging from local cheerleading squads to a team from Ft. Jackson Army post. Local fast food mascots, Columbia Inferno mascot "Sparks", "Blowie" mascot of the Columbia Blowfish as well as "Cocky" from USC were there to get the walkers motivated.

Pink ribbons. Balloons and bandanas were seen everywhere. Many people wore a big pink sticker

on the back of their shirts with the name or names of loved ones lost to breast cancer. Bagels, bananas, apples and water were on hand for the walkers after the walk.

The walk has become a tradition for local businesses— some of which field teams of more than 200 who contribute at least \$20.00 each— but for families touched by cancer funds raised by the annual event— more than \$400,000 this year— will help others survive through education and research.

Submitted by: Pam Michaud

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September Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2006

Where: Moe's Southwest Grill

Members present: Ree Clark, Beverly Munib, Keith Munib, Janice Schweikert, Andrew Thorne, Frank Parker and Pam Michaud

Ree passed out the July/August newsletter and Pam passed out lillipops and Chik Fil A coupons given to her when she registered the McNair team for the First Ladies Walk. Pam will pick up the t-shirts and have them at the walk.

Awaiting permission for car wash at LeGrand Rd Wendy's

Mention of a possible new member, Walter Brooker joining the McNair and Pam has been in contact with Kevin Brown about his return to the McNair

Keith told a little bit about the STAR TREK movie STAR TREK XI

Pam showed the McNair patches that were made. They sell for \$5.00 a piece. Monies will go back into the McNair treasury.

Christmas cheer for the veterans

Janice Schweikert and myself have been busy contacting local businesses in the hopes of attaining donations for our Christmas visit to the VA Hospital. So far there hasn't been much success with stores donating anything. Janice has been crocheting Christmas ornaments for the veterans and she will be making cards, from the McNair, to insert in the gift bags. The VA visit is slated for 10 a m Wednesday December 13, 2006. Due to the work and daily schedules of all McNair members I realize that maybe one or two of us will be bringing the gifts to the veterans. If possible any and all McNair members may contact local businesses in their area and see if they would be willing to donate toiletries, socks or hankies. The VA is very glad to have us come and bring a little Christmas cheer to those veterans that reside in the nursing home area of the Dorn VA Hospital.

Submitted by: Pam Michaud

Car Wash

The McNair held their very first car wash fund raiser Saturday October 21, 2006 at the LeGrand Rd Wendy's. Don Gilbert, owner of Gilbert's of Atlanta, which owns this Wendy's was gracious enough to allow us this endeavor. In the time allotted us for the car wash we made \$50.00, which wasn't too bad. The monies earned are earmarked for the McNair's Christmas visit to the veterans in December. Keith Munib, Beverly Munib and Pam Michaud were the McNair members in attendance.

McNair Calendar

5 November 2005 McNair 12th Anniversary lunch to be held at Rock-away's on Rosewood. We will meet there at 11:30 am.

10 November Veteran's Day Parade starts at 11 am, downtown Columbia.

18 November McNair Monthly Meeting to be held at the Southeast branch of the RCPL on Garners Ferry Rd. Meeting starts at 1pm.

9 December McNair Holiday get together. Starting around 2pm at the Captain's home. This will be potluck

13 December McNair Christmas Cheer visit to the Dorn VA hospital.

Captain's Log

First of all I want to thank Keith and Beverly for doing the car wash with me. I wish to thank Janice for all the stuff she has been doing for the McNair too.

Welcome aboard to Cmdr Kevin Brown and Lt. Krom (Walter Brooker). Lt. Krom is our full blood Klingon tactical officer.

The McNair has seen a lot of changes since I was elected as Commanding Officer. I feel each and every one of us brings something unique and diverse to the table as they say. We need to work together as a team and not worry about how much each of us has done with the McNair, or who shows up for which endeavor we are doing. Plain and simple it's not a contest about who can do the

Commanding Officer Pam Michaud

most or who shows up the most. It's also not about if I do this or that do I get promotion points? What's important is that we are following the motto of "Let Me Help." and it makes people feel good to help and give back to others or the community. Each and every McNair member does contribute in their own little ways. Most of all we should be having fun!!

**"The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual." — Vince Lombardi
Hall of Fame coach**

FYI

The McNair website is: www.ussmcnair.com

McNair list url : <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/USSMcNairofColumbiaSC/>

STARFLEET url: www.sfi.org

Region One url is: <http://www.regionone.net/R1/>

NC/SC list url is: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/R1-S3-NCSC-A/>

MFS Intrepid 2 url is: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/intrepid2/>

Orbital Life Quiz

1. When in orbit on the Space Shuttle, astronauts experience.
 - a. zero gravity
 - b. anti gravity
 - c. Microgravity
2. When some shuttle astronauts reach space, they feel ill. This is called?
 - a. space sickness
 - b. the Andromeda strain
 - c. shuttle sickness
3. During launch and landing, who sits in the shuttle's forward flight deck left seat?
 - a. the pilot
 - b. the commander
 - c. whoever yells "shotgun" first
4. How do astronauts warm their food aboard the orbiter?
 - a. pop it in the microwave
 - b. inject warm water
 - c. heat it in the oven
5. When astronauts sleep, what position do their unconstrained arms naturally take?
 - a. at their sides
 - b. above their head
 - c. Stretched outwards
6. Which of the following is NOT a choice on a typical shuttle astronaut's menu?
 - a. ice cream
 - b. macaroni & cheese
 - c. Shrimp cocktail
7. If they need to go outside, which of these items do astronauts put on?
 - a. manned maneuvering unit
 - b. remote manipulator system
 - c. extravehicular mobility unit
8. What label does NASA assign M&Ms packaged for space flight?
 - a. candy-coated chocolates
 - b. MIYMNIYH (melt in your mouth not in your hand)
 - c. chocolate covered candies
9. What do astronauts use to wash their hair in space?
 - a. water only
 - b. rinse and repeat shampoo
 - c. no rinse shampoo
10. What do astronauts use to go to the bathroom aboard the space shuttle?
 - a. diapers
 - b. self-sealing bags
 - c. vacuum hoses

Answers will be published in the next newsletter...