



Chris Laszcz-Davis  
KASRA President

Visit website at  
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Do you know a retiree who has not signed up for the VEBA? Suggest they call KASRA at (925) 685-1313 or email at [kasra@e-kasra.com](mailto:kasra@e-kasra.com)

*Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association*

**A MESSAGE FROM THE KASRA PRESIDENT**

Dear Fellow Retirees/Surviving Spouses:

It's the close of yet another year, and we again have much to be thankful for. I'd like to thank you for letting me serve as your President. I've learned more about the KASRA organization and its stewards than I ever knew existed, and I've also had the opportunity to be in touch with so many people with whom I worked over the years. It has been an enriching year!

As you may know, KASRA's main objectives are to communicate current information about benefits via the newsletters, website and mass e-mailing for our retirees and surviving spouses; to answer queries about matters concerning retirement by phone, regular mail or e-mail; and to share information about your many activities with your colleagues and friends. To enable us to keep our database current, **it is important that you provide us with any new address, e-mail or phone number change.** This way, we can continue to keep in touch with you and also facilitate communications between you and the many former colleagues and lifelong friends with whom you have shared a common path during your work career.

After serving out their terms on the Board, **Steve Abernathy**, **Will Schnieder** and **Carlos Xavier** will earn a well-deserved retirement from the Board at the end of this year. Also transitioning for personal reasons is our Treasurer, **Blanca Ostrovsky**. We thank them all for volunteering their services and for the fine contributions they made. We are very fortunate in having **Paul Flores** move

into Blanca's role as Treasurer and having **Steve Abernathy** continue to steward the website and database functions even after he leaves the Board. I continue to be amazed at the willingness of folks to step up to the plate for the broader KASRA retiree effort.

I would also like to acknowledge the other Board members, staff and retirees who make the KASRA efforts possible: **Ed Quinnan, Ed Westerman, Doug Mann, Mert Van Dreser, Dan Dahlen, Klaus Adler, Carol Brown, Bob Irelan, Dick Kauffman, Joanne Gutierrez, Bill Alsup, Sharon Fraetis, Sally Hogarty** (newsletter editor), **Kari Dahlen** and **Michelle Alviso** (A-Mailing & Printing). Without their help and that of the retiring members mentioned in the previous paragraph, none of our objectives could have been met. So, thank you all!

I would be remiss if I did not thank the regional directors and reporters – **Jim Bope, Norm Manger, Bob Eisenbach, Bob Mohr, Dave Whitman, Tim Healy, Charlie Alexandre, Chuck Schimmel, John Billips, and Dan Petruss** -- for keeping the Board informed of news in their respective regions. I am also thankful to the many members who have shared their activities in the "What's Going On" section of the newsletter.

And finally, I must thank our former Presidents, **Dick Kauffman** and **Carlos Xavier**, for all their sage advice and help over the past year as well as **Doug Allen, Art Donaldson** and **Jed Daniel** for their invaluable advice on VEBA matters.

Please continue to send in your pictures and news stories. Be sure to check out

## WHAT'S GOING ON

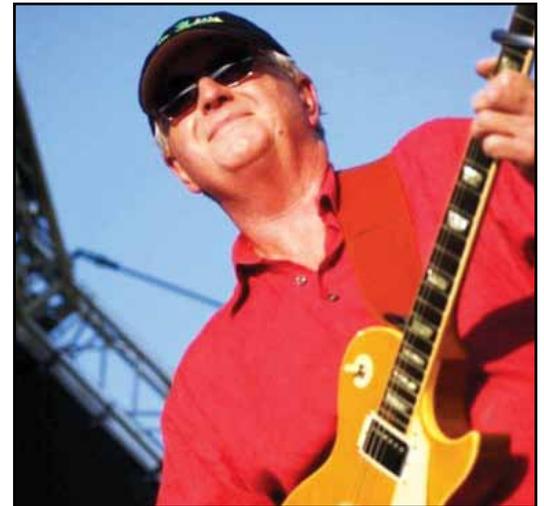
### Accomplishments . . .

Sailing and music aficionado **Colin Ward** (St. Petersburg, FL) just released a CD of his original music entitled "Cigarettes 'n Gasoline." The former employee of the Dallas, TX, Extrusion Division plays guitar in two bands and recently enjoyed a trip to Florence, Italy. **Jerry Lambert** (Covington, LA) received the HCA 2011 Frist Humanitarian Award for his volunteer work at the Lakeview Regional Medical Center, where he serves as president of the volunteer auxiliary. New Orleans City Business Magazine also chose Jerry, who retired from Kaiser's Gramercy, LA, facility after 28 years, as the New Orleans area 2011 Health Care Hero-Volunteer.

### Birthdays and Anniversaries . . .

**Orville Benjamin** (Coeur D'Alene, ID) celebrated his 100th birthday on September 12. Formerly with Kaiser Trentwood, WA, the centenarian still makes stained glass and likes to weed in the garden. She may not be 100, but **Luella Berry** (Scotts Valley, CA) certainly knows how to celebrate a birthday. The former employee at Kaiser Oakland's, CA, legal department spent her birthday zip-lining through the Santa Cruz Mountain redwoods. "It was lots of fun, but not as exciting as parasailing over Lake Tahoe," says Luella.

Celebrating his marriage to Maude Killpack-Ferron is **Lawrence Farison** of (Louisville, KY). The former employee of Kaiser's Sullivan, IL, of facility was married on July 9, 2011. Sixty seems to be the lucky number for several former Kaiser employees who celebrated 60 years of wedded bliss this year. **Carroll Adams, Jr.** (New Haven, WV), previously at Ravenswood, WV, in fabrication accounting, and his wife



Colin Ward just released a CD of his music.

Enid celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary as did former Los Angeles, CA, Extrusions employee **Joe Lafond** (Buena Park, CA) and his wife Dot, who joined their six children and 14 of 18



Jerry Lambert at the hospital where he is president of the volunteer association.

grandchildren in Denver, CO to mark the occasion. **William Harrington, Jr.** (Hattisburg, MS) and his wife Mary celebrated their big day in the Bahamas, while **Bud Caro** (Portland, OR) and his wife of 60 years, Marie Louise, marked the date with a trip to New York City, NY, where they visited lots of museums.



Orville Benjamin celebrated his 100th birthday.



Luella Berry getting ready to zip-line on her birthday.

(What's Going On, from Page 2)

**Subbiah (Sam) Sankaran** (Sparks, NV) celebrated his 51st wedding anniversary with a trip to Cape Town and the Ivory Lodge in South Africa. Several family members joined them for the occasion, which included seeing the “big” animals on a private reserve next to Kruger Park.

#### A Little of This, A Little of That . . .

You certainly can't keep **Gene Melanson** (Post Falls, Idaho) down for long. The former Kaiser Trentwood, WA, employee managed to make the Honor Flight to Washington, DC, just four months after a triple-bypass operation. During World War II, Gene was with the U.S. Army Air Force stationed in Italy where he flew 34 combat missions as a ball turret gunner on a B24 bomber. During his service, he received the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters and the Eto Ribbon with 11 battle stars.

**Robert Putnam** (Waynesville, NC) and his wife Mary have been taking it easy since Robert retired from Kaiser Chemicals in Waynesville, NC, but one thing they still love to do is read about everyone in the newsletter. Also sending thanks for the newsletters is **Alvia Lund** (Spokane Valley, WA). The surviving spouse of **Joseph Lund**, formerly a supervisor at Trentwood, WA, enjoys reading about her husband's former colleagues.

Not content with his early retirement from Kaiser' Center for Technology in Pleasanton, CA, at the age of 62, **Johan van Raay** (Grants Pass, OR) became heavily involved in working with kids to improve their academic skills through a number of nonprofit organizations. In addition to his volunteer work, Johan has returned to his old love – science, specifically metabolic subjects related

to medical problems. He is currently writing a book entitled *Medical Paradoxes, Anomalies and Controversies*.

**Carl Hinger** (Spanish Fort, AL) has been keeping busy since his retirement from Kaiser's Electrical Products Division at Bay Minette, AL. He enjoys golf, square dancing, collecting antique crystal, and attending college football games.

“I'm always on vacation and visiting children and grandchildren,” he says.

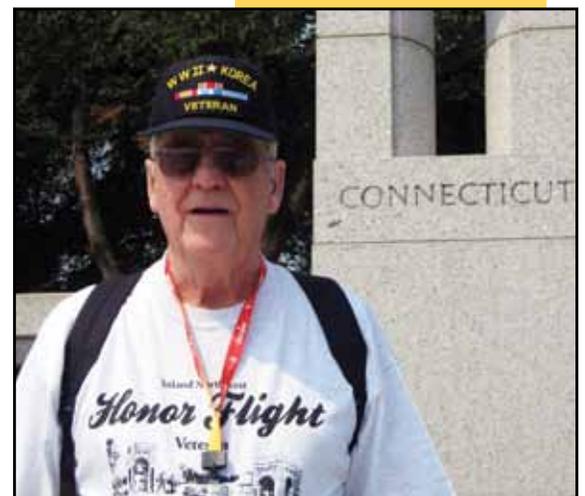
**Ahmad Abrishamian** (Burlingame, CA) says being president of his condo association keeps him quite active. The past employee with Kaiser Oakland, CA, likes to play golf and recently returned from a reunion with college buddies held at Lake Tahoe, CA. Also staying busy is **Hollis Johnson** (Alamo, GA). The former Farm Market Manager for Kaiser's Alamo facility has 3,100 acres of timber to manage! Although he doesn't have acreage to take care of, **Arlee McCullough** (Newark, OH) loves to be outside. Hunting and playing with his grandchildren and great grandchildren are high on the list of priorities for this former employee of Kaiser's Can Plant in Jacksonville, FL.

#### Traveling Near and Far . . .

Two former Kaiser employees at the Pleasanton, CA, facility and their families vacationed together with a trip to Churchill, Manitoba, Canada.



Subbiah Sankaran and his wife Ann celebrate their 51th wedding anniversary in South Africa.



Gene Melanson attending the Honor Flight in Washington, D.C.

(What's Going On, continued Page 4)

*(What's Going On, from Page 3)*

**Ronald Rigge** (Pleasanton, CA) and **Ron Tsuchiya** (San Francisco, CA) braved

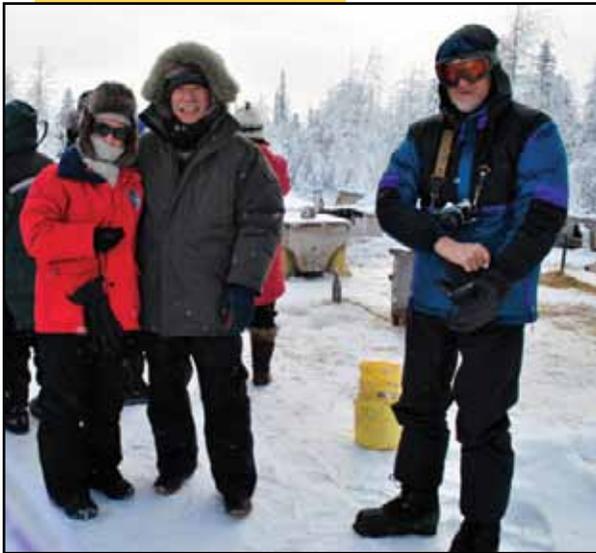
the cold to check out the Aurora Borealis. Ron, who is also an amateur photographer, thought the site was just spectacular. Also vacationing with former colleagues was **Bob Irelan** (Rancho Murieta, CA), who invited **Gary Simpson** (Atherton, CA) and **Joe Piedmont** (Bend, OR) and their families to his cabin at Camp

Connell, CA. The former VP of Public Relations for Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation says the trio gets together every year.

**Richard Nowell** (Spokane Valley, WA) took a family vacation to Disneyworld in Orlando, FL, last April. The group totaled 18, including 10 grandchildren. Meanwhile, **Allen Lightner** (Ponchatoula, LA) celebrated the 4th of July at his daughter's home in Slidell, LA. He also saw his grandson, Major

Matthew Wolfe, off to attend the Naval War College in Newport, RI. **Karen Arnsmeier** (Rio Rico, AZ), the surviving spouse of **Ron Arnsmeier** (former employee of Kaiser's Newark Works in Heath, OH) travels between Laguna Beach, CA, and Houston, TX, visiting her daughters. Every two years, she gets together with other wives of Kaiser employees for a great time.

Tutoring, educating and golf are high on **Alan Langmuir's** (Pleasanton, CA) list of things to do. Previously with CFT in Pleasanton, CA, Alan recently traveled to Prague in the Czech Republic and hiked the Cotswolds in England. He also finds time to be an adjunct instructor in mathematics at Las Positas College in Livermore, CA. Fellow CFT, CA, employee **Roger Johnson** (San Jose, CA) and his wife also enjoyed Europe this summer. They visited Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium and cruised the Elbe River from Berlin to Prague. Retiree **Lee Corder** (Ravenswood, WV) and his wife SueAnn vacationed in Fort Lauderdale, FL, while attending the wedding of a former second-grade student of SueAnn's. "We had such fun and danced the night away," Lee reports.



Ron Tsuchiya and his friend Paula and Ron Rigge brave the cold to see the Aurora Borealis.

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the KASRA website ([www.e-kasra.com](http://www.e-kasra.com)) for forms, archived newsletters, and new pictures from regional lunches and dinners. One last and final thought: **If you have not filed your VEBA claim for reimbursement of up to \$2,000 per family unit for medical premiums paid in 2010, you must do so before the December 31, 2011 deadline. You have until December 31, 2012, however, to file your VEBA claim for reimbursement of up to \$2,100 per family for medical premiums paid in**

**2011.**

Have a wonderful holiday season wherever you may be! Here's hoping you enjoy the memories of family, friends and colleagues as you gather round the table for a fine holiday meal. Our prayers and thoughts are with you all!

*Chris*

Chris Laszcz-Davis  
President, KASRA

## MEMBER PROFILE: Bill Boyd

Bill Boyd grew up on a farm near Mexico, MO. He went to a two-room schoolhouse where everyone knew you and your family. "You couldn't get away with much," says the retired Marketing Manager from the Kaiser Refractories Division in Oakland, CA.

During high school, Bill spent his summers working on the family farm and helping his parents. After graduation, he worked at the A. P. Green Fire Brick Company until he enlisted in the Army Air Corps as an aviation cadet. Trained as a bombardier, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and based in England where he flew combat missions primarily to Germany. After WW II, he returned to college hoping to become a civil engineer. Bill, who turned 89 in August, lives in Moraga, CA, with his wife Molly.

### 1. Tell us about your long history in the refractory business.

After I graduated from college, jobs were scarce so I took a job at the Mexico Refractories Company in Mexico, MO. I was the District Sales Manager at the



Bill and Molly Boyd celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary October 11.



The Boyd family on a beach in Santa Barbara on the occasion of Bill and Molly's 50th wedding anniversary.

company's Indianapolis, IN, office when Kaiser Aluminum purchased the company in 1959. They transferred me back to Mexico, MO, as Manager of Specialty Sales for what was now the Kaiser Refractories Division.

In my new position, I was responsible for a range of products including castables, plastics and bonding agents. I also worked with sales and advertising and was involved in new products and research, which I found very interesting. In my old position in Indianapolis, I traveled throughout Indiana and nearby states, but in my new job, I went to various parts of the United States and Canada and made business trips to Europe, Australia and New Zealand to help our salesmen and sales agents promote our specialty products.

In July of 1973, I was transferred to the Oakland, CA, office. My wife and I found a nice six bedroom home in Moraga, CA, close to Campolindo High School for our five children (four boys and one girl) and have lived there ever since.

### 2. Can you explain why you retired

*(Member Profile, continued Page 6)*

### Send KASRA Your News & Pictures

Write us your news, travels, stories... humorous tales welcome. Send a note to Sally Hogarty, P.O. Box 84, Canyon, CA 94516 or [sallyhogarty@gmail.com](mailto:sallyhogarty@gmail.com).

\* Photos encouraged.

*(Members Profile, from Page 5)*

### several times?

I retired as Marketing Manager for Kaiser on Dec. 31, 1984. KACC sold most of the Refractory Division to former Kaiser

Refractories employees on an ESOP (employee stock ownership plan). We named our new company National Refractory and Minerals. I was the VP of Marketing until I retired again in December of 1986.

At my retirement party, two Kaiser employees -- Dave Perry and Steve Ringwood from

the legal department -- cornered me and asked if I'd be a legal consultant for Kaiser on asbestos. I agreed and stayed on in that capacity until 2002 when the company went into bankruptcy. Two years later, Kaiser was involved in litigation against Lloyds of London, the company's liability insurance carrier, and asked me to be an expert witness. I did seven depositions for them. Luckily, everything was decided out of court so I never had to testify. Then I really retired.

### 3. What was the most challenging part of your job during your years with Kaiser?

Lots of challenging situations but two stand out. The first was around 1970 when I ended up, basically, doing two very different jobs. I was Manager of Specialty Products, which kept me very busy dealing with Kaiser's products and helping our sales people around the world, when I became involved with the Boeing Company on the Minuteman Missiles. This was the middle of the Cold War with Russia, and the military

wanted to bury hardened UHF antennas underground around the silos that could link with B52s. If the Russians launched a strike against the U.S. and the Minuteman control centers on the ground were wiped out, then the B52s flying overhead could activate the missiles. I recommended two of Kaiser's products for the antennas and furnished samples, and they selected one. The Boeing folks were all so technically oriented that I think my biggest contribution was simply providing them with an overview. They sort of lost sight of the big picture sometimes. Both jobs were so difficult and required so much time and travel that, after almost two years of doing both, I asked Kaiser to let me concentrate on my regular job and they did.

Another challenge came up in 1964. I went to Italy to promote our specialty products and, since I was going there, Kaiser asked me to oversee the installation of an open-hearth furnace roof. My expertise was in a different area, so I had to learn about a slightly different product, deal with an interpreter since I didn't speak Italian, and deal with people installing the furnace who didn't speak English. They were also using the metric system, which I wasn't used to, but we got it done.

### 4. What was the most rewarding part of your job?

Working with the sales people. I really enjoyed helping them, and I liked helping my customers save money by showing them how to use better refractory practices. Also, my brother Frank (Corky) worked for Kaiser Refractories as a sales manager and then V.P. for National Refractories, and our paths crossed frequently.



Fran Sherman and Elbert Massad enjoyed Chalmette's September 13 luncheon.

*(Members Profile, from Page 6)*

### 5. What are your hobbies?

Golf, gardening and traveling. The traveling we do today is different from the traveling when I was working; today it's fun and it allows me to spend time with our family.

### 6. Tell us a little about your family.

I met my lovely wife Molly in Indianapolis, ID, when I was working for Mexico Refractories. We married in 1953 and began our family. When Kaiser purchased the company and transferred me back to Mexico, MO, Molly wasn't so sure about moving to such a small town. She was from Chicago, IL, originally but she soon came to love Mexico and realized what a great place it was to raise children. Three of our sons and our daughter live in California and one son and his family live in Sao Paulo, Brazil. We have eight grandchildren. All of our kids graduated from U.C. Santa Barbara or U.C. Santa Cruz.

### 7. You had quite an experience during WW II. Tell us about it.

I was in the 8th Air Force as a bombardier in a B17 -- right up in the nose. I had flown 17 missions when, after the briefing before we flew number 18, I was asked to leave my original crew and fly squadron lead bombardier. Our target was Schweinfurt, Germany, but we hit



The Bay Area luncheon on September 20 included: (L-R) Art Donaldson, Doug Allen, and Jed Daniel.

bad weather and were forced to fly over a part of Germany that was very heavily defended. Our plane was shot to smithereens.

We couldn't make it to the target or back to England, so we tried to make Switzerland. I took some flak through my right shoulder before we parachuted out over the Black Forrest. I was captured the next day by the Germans and taken to a civil prison in Freiburg, Germany. Three crewmembers were already there, and we found out later that Nazi civilians had killed the other five members of our crew. I was captured on July 21, 1944, the day after the attempt to assassinate Hitler.

They first sent me to Dulag Luft near Frankfurt for interrogation and solitary confinement. I ended up at Stalag Luft, an officer's camp in Barth, Germany. It was pretty rough. We were always hungry and cold. If it wasn't for food packages from the Red Cross, I'm not sure what we would have done. The Russians liberated us on May 1, 1945. People ask me how I can remember exact dates from so long ago, but when it's something like this, you don't forget much.

There were 350,000 men and women in the 8th Air Force stationed in England. Of those, 26,000 were in killed in action and 28,000 became prisoners of war. In the summer of 1944, the odds of completing 30 missions and being rotated back to the U.S. were less than 30 percent. I go to a reunion most every year. This year it was in Seattle, and the four members left of my crew also attended.



Tacoma had quite a turnout for their September luncheon: (L-R) Hank Pedersen, Ellis Slattery, Sid Jones, Rita Mae Jones, Nancy Caddy, and Joe Caddy.

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We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
[www.e-kasra.com](http://www.e-kasra.com)

#### November 10 Mead

Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Cathay Inn, on North Division. Contact Danny Petrus at (509) 924-5838 or email dpjr70@comcast.net. Mead meets the 2nd Thursday of each month.

#### November 10 Baton Rouge

KAOS Kaiser Aluminum Oldtimers Society will hold its semiannual luncheon at the Oak Lodge in Baton Rouge. Contact Jerry Ordeneaux at (225) 273-6637.

#### November 15 Trentwood

Lunch at 11:00 a.m. at the Valley Eagles located at 16801 E Sprague Ave. Hot lunch served at 11:30 AM. Mead retirees are always welcome. The cost for the meal and dues is \$11.00. Entertainment by Project Joy. Please notify Steve Harvey at (509) 924-1132 or email slharv3y@comcast.net.

#### December 2 Ravenswood

Winter Dinner/Dance at Greenhills Country Club. For information, call Dave Whitman (304) 273-5548 or email dwhitman@wirefire.com.

#### December 7 Chalmette

Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Todd Schaeffer's Original Family Restaurant 348 Robert Boulevard, Slidell, LA 70458. Cost is \$23.00/ person. RSVP by November 29. Contact: Sherman Faight (985) 690-4942 or email shermay@bellsouth.net; or Chuck Schimmel (985) 643-0437 or email schimcol@aol.com.

#### December 7 Tacoma

Lunch at noon at Johnny's Dock 1900 East D Street, Tacoma. Contact Bob Mohr at (253) 820-6569 or email bobjanetmohr@comcast.net.

#### December 8 Mead

Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Cathay Inn, on North Division. Contact Danny Petrus at (509) 924-5838 or email dpjr70@comcast.net. Mead meets the 2nd Thursday of each month.

#### December 12 KARLA (Bay Area)

Lunch at noon at the Wedgewood Banquet Center located at the San Ramon Golf Club. Social hour starts at 11:00 a.m. Contact Sharon Fraetis (925) 934-4334 or email lafnatv@silcon.com.

#### December 13 Newark

Lunch at 11:00 a.m. at Stacy's Hometown Buffet in Heath, Ohio. Contact: Jim Bope (740) 601-7034 or email jbopeky@yahoo.com. Costs are paid by the Newark plant.

### In Memoriam

*Valentino Alessandro - Bristol, RI  
Leo Banducci - Walnut Creek, CA  
Robert A. Bennett - Holden, LA  
Jan Bowman - Orinda, CA  
Claude J. Burroughs - Granbury, TX  
Harry E. Burton - Newark, OH  
Lowell Carlson - Lexington, IL  
David E. Culpepper - Gallipolis, OH  
Donald D. Donneaud - Post Falls, ID  
Eugene J. Dudash - Columbiana, OH  
Carl William Eller - Hendersonville, NC  
Evan Dale Erlandson - Spokane Valley, WA  
Joe R. Flies - Oklahoma City, OK  
Wilmer H. Grimm - Barrington, IL  
Dalton M. Hanks - Baton Rouge, LA  
Paul Kochman - Seven Bays, WA  
Willa A. Marshall - Rialto, CA  
Eva O'Conner - Spokane Valley, WA  
Calvin S. Richards - Sunnyvale, CA  
Robert W. Payne - Concord, CA  
Charles M. (Chuck) Turner - Spokane, WA*

*Please inform us of a loved one's passing by contacting Klaus Adler at 1127 Rachele Rd., Walnut Creek, CA 94597, (925) 935-2938, kcharlie34@comcast.net.*

The Board of Directors expresses its deepest sympathy to families and loved ones.