



# BUILDER BULLETIN

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE APPRENTICE SCHOOL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

March 2009

## The New Mexico

Cynthia Smith, X18

Never have I been able to compare my days in the 82nd Airborne Division, as a young Paratrooper, until today. Yes, I knew that I was welding parts of submarines for the past 9 months, both in the Ring Module Shop and the MOF, but it did not reach my heart quite the way it did today at the Christening of the New Mexico.

When I jumped from C-130s at 0100 hours in the cold of winter with other fellow paratroopers encircling me as I floated down wincing at the fear of the force of my landing fall, I knew I was part of something, something omnipotent. It was something for a greater good, something much bigger than I could ever comprehend but I was so proud knowing I could participate. I was able to feel that again today as each speaker spoke with such pride and awe. My daughters were with me to see this fine vessel become part of history. At 5 and 6, they don't understand all that it means except that their mom welds them together.

**“there is no question why I do what I do. I am a Shipbuilder.”**

When Heather Wilson spoke, I was overcome by patriotism and a love not just for my country's military but with a new appreciation for my fellow trades people. My eyes welled as I listened to her stories of those who have made a difference in our history by becoming Naval Seamen. During that hour, the New Mexico's sailors stood at attention. It crossed my mind how they must feel knowing that they soon would be set out on adventures in their new home away from home to partake in a life of an American Submariner. It's got to feel good.

As an Apprentice, it is hard being a single mother, working woman in the shipyard and going to school all at the same time. Some days, I question myself, when I am so tired, wishing for an easier way. But as the Admiral said today, “When a hard job is well done another hard job follows”. I realized today that it will never be easy, but it is my job and after what I experienced today, there is no question why I do what I do. I AM A SHIPBUILDER.

## SUPER DELEGATES: Sacrifice for Rewards

Paul Norton X18

Starting at the beginning of this year, Apprentice Delegates who are active Apprentice School Student Association participants will be eligible for rewards for their hard work. Representing their departments as Delegates is an extensive responsibility. It requires an Apprentice to go above and beyond work and school and to sacrifice time and energy. Currently delegates who earn 25 points or more each trimester are invited to a catered awards banquet at the end of each year. The top 10 point earners for the year receive a handsome Apprentice School logo watch and a plaque of appreciation for their efforts. In addition to these rewards the top point earner will receive a \$100 gift card for each trimester. The top 5 point earners each trimester will be placed in a raffle at the end of the year awards banquet for a \$300 gift card. By rewarding hard working, self sacrificing delegates, more delegates will participate in the Apprentice School Association goals. This increased participation will strengthen our student body and increase the reputation of the Apprentice School to the student body, faculty and even to the company. Another byproduct of the Super Delegate Incentive program is more students will want to serve as delegates. Anyone interested in becoming a delegate should contact their craft instructor or one of their respective department delegates.



Photo by Ricky Thompson

# Polar Plunge 2009

By Frances Maston, X15

On February 7, thousands gathered on the Virginia Beach Oceanfront for the 17th annual Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics Virginia. Though the weather reached a balmy 65 degrees, the water remained a chilly 40 degrees as the eager plungers gathered on the sand at 2:30 PM, ready to take a refreshing dip. Amongst their ranks were several members of the Apprentice School, including students, alumni, and staff. A great time was had by all, and the event was a huge success, with over 3200 plungers raising more than \$850,000. Congratulations and thanks go to this year's participants – and here's to seeing all of you (and more!) out there next year!

## WiNGs ANNUAL YARD SALE

Ovette L. Morton - X89



The WiNGs Community Outreach Committee is having its 2nd annual yard sale to benefit the Adopt-A-Family program. The committee will be collecting donations for the yard sale, so please remember us when you are spring cleaning (all items are welcome). You may contact Ovette Morton at 8-5417 or 810-2237, Melissa McNeil at 0-7240 or 508-7723 or Sandra Woodson at 8-9251. We will take donations up to March 18th. Thank you for your support.

## OneBadge: What You Need To Know

By Frances Maston, X15

Come March 2009, NGSB-NN will begin issuing a new form of identification: the OneBadge. In order to complete your processing for this ID, you will be required to present your current NGSB-NN badge, a current state issued driver's license (or ID) with a photograph, as well as U.S. Passport (expired or current) OR U.S. state issued birth certificate (cannot be a photocopy, must have a raised state seal). So start looking for your passport or birth certificate now – if you do not have either, you must send off to the state of your birth for an official copy. This can take weeks, even a couple of months, and processing for a passport can take even longer. So be prepared! For more information, go to the Newport News Sitemap (accessible through Homeport), and enter OneBadge in the search box, or ask your supervisor.

# Saved By the Bell

Cynthia Newton Smith

On those wet, drizzly, teeth chattering mornings, it can be so easy to hit snooze or even call in for vacation at 5am. However, ships aren't built by elves while we all sleep in. The core to being a great Apprentice and future leader of this shipyard is making it to work when it's time to be there.



When Apprentices make that conscious effort to be at work on time, they contribute to the greater good of both the ship and their fellow workers. They help make the economy and our community stronger. They are choosing to

be productive ship builders and valued shipyard employees. When Apprentices continue to be reliable workers, they develop new skills, learn new things, and create solid records of employment which would not happen if they continued to hit snooze or called in. Furthermore, they gain a sense of self-respect, dignity, and self-worth. All of these attributes show in their attitudes and work ethics.

Carrying the name, "Apprentice" has a certain ring to it. That ring is an alarm clock, and it's time for work. Keep in mind: It's not where you stand that is so important but how you stand while you are there.

## “Safety is the issue”

Carlton Ballard, X11

Joe is an ordinary guy that comes to work everyday on time. One morning he wakes up late and begins to rush off to work. It was a miserable morning with the rain coming down. Joe was going at least eighty miles per hour that morning. All of a sudden Joe hits a water puddle and spins off the road. Safety is a very important issue. Vehicle accidents can be avoided by paying attention to your surroundings. You should be able to provide the proper maintenance to your vehicle. That means getting your tires change when needed, the oil change, and etc. Other safety issues include falling objects, electrical safety, and back safety. Using the proper technique to lift objects can avoid back injuries. Ensure that the proper PPE is always worn on the job. Remember to always make safety an issue in what you do!

## “Action and Results”

Carlton Ballard, X11

Your actions and the results that you get are very important. For example, you may want higher grades, but in order to get those higher grades you'll need more action. Action however, is sometimes misunderstood. For many people some action is all they do and they get the same results. We see this in life, where people who devote themselves get mediocre results. It's simple to believe that big action brings big results and small action brings small results. You can achieve great results, but to achieve them you'll need to put in great action. We need to strive, act, and do all the action necessary to see bigger results in daily life. It's not about going faster! It's about stopping, evaluating, re-adjusting, and taking action. Take action towards your goals and see just how much closer you get, and what you get. From there you can make evaluation on the feedback and then continue your journey. As Apprentices we need to do big action that brings about the results that we seek.

# Penny Pincher

Emily Spitzer

With the recent economic changes in our country, people have been watching their wallets a little closer. Even with the country's current state, apprentices have been working hard in class, on the job, and in the community. There are a many things we can do to save money and become financially stable in our futures. In this article, I will name a few.

The most important thing you can do before trying to save money is to figure out how much money you are making and where it is all going. So, first you need to write up a budget. Include your household's income and spending. If you need help with creating a budget, the Apprentice School Student Services offers a Housing Assistance Program, which includes help to create a personal budget. After looking over your budget, if you find that you are not spending all of your money on necessities like utilities, transportation, and food, then you should look into getting a savings account or a 401K. To sign up for your 401K, or to get more information, visit [www.wachovia.com/401K](http://www.wachovia.com/401K). The money you invest will not be taxed and Northrop Grumman will match a portion of your investments. Your savings will stay the same if the stock market is doing well or if it is doing poorly. So get budgeting and get saving!



## “The Builder’s Invitational”

Carlton Ballard, X11

Eighty Wrestlers from different States filled the Apprentice School gym on January 24, with the determination to do their best. I had a chance to talk to Coach Shumaker right before the tournament. I ask Coach Shumaker what was his thoughts about the tournament? He replied, “I want my players to remain healthy and have an excellent day. This invitational will better prepare us for the NCWA National Duals. We’ll have a chance to improve on any mistakes that we make”, said Coach Shumaker. The Apprentice School Wrestling team ended up coming in second out of fourteen. Cecil Lee scored three victories Saturday to win the heavyweight division. Matt Perry ended up winning his weight class at 141 lbs. The Builder’s Invitational paid off for the Apprentice School Wrestlers, as they took fifth place at the NCWA National Duals.

## Show Me The Money! Big Money Big Money!

Haven't you heard? Casino night is coming! May 23rd. Volunteers needed to run the casino games. No experience needed. This will be benefitting Relay for Life, Peninsula Food Bank, C.A.S.H. (Consolidated Area Support Hospital) Mosul, Iraq. Contact Roger Miller at [Roger.B.Miller@cox.net](mailto:Roger.B.Miller@cox.net). More information to come!

### MEN'S BASKETBALL STATS

	DATE	OPPONENT
L	1/9	Crichton College
W	1/10	Philander Smith
L	1/13	Chowan
L	1/15	UDC
W	1/17	Columbia Union
L	1/19	Bluefield College
W	1/27	Southern Virginia
W	1/31	Johnson & Wales
L	2/4	Southern Virginia
L	2/7	UDC
L	2/10	Chowan

**Overall Record:** 10-14

**Conference Record:** 7-1



Photo by Ricky Thompson

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STATS

	DATE	OPPONENT
L	1/10	Southern Virginia
W	1/15	Concord's CC
W	1/16	Central Maine CC
W	1/17	Southern Maine
W	1/22	Chowan
W	1/26	Allen University
W	1/31	St. Joseph's College
W	2/1	Briarcliffe College
W	2/7	Columbia Union Lady
L	2/11	Chowan

**Overall Record:** 12-10

**Conference Record:** 8-1



Photo by Chris Oxley

Stats compiled by Carlton Ballard, X11

“The Builder Bulletin regrets that we made an error in the article for the Awards Banquet. Mr. Brian Bowman should have been included as well in the awards for Secretary for 2008. We apologize for overlooking this information when gathering the names of the award winners.”

## BUILDER BULLETIN STAFF

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M A R C H	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Executive Council Meeting 11am	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13 Executive Council Meeting 9:30am Delegate's Meeting 11am	14 JA Bowl-A-Thon POC: Roger Miller Advisor:
	15	16	17	18	19	20 Executive Council Meeting 11am	21 Ski Trip POC: Billy Callis Advisor: Scott C
	22	23	24	25	26	27 Executive Council Meeting 11am	28
	29	30	31				

For any comments and/or suggestions please contact Darlene "Dar" Deerfield – [darlene.c.deerfield@ngc.com](mailto:darlene.c.deerfield@ngc.com)

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