



## **REPORT OF THE 2007 ANNUAL ALPHA OMEGA CLUB REUNION DINNER DUBROVNIK , CROATIA – SUNDAY , 18 MARCH 2007**

The A-O Dinner took place during the IFALPA 62<sup>nd</sup> Conference in this beautiful and panoramic city (with an Old City Fort) on the Adriatic Sea ; at the Elafiti Restaurant (named after a chain of impressive islands, seen along the city shore).

A-O Club members who attended the dinner (all properly with club's ties) were : Bakker Bart & Mianne , Bahat Eli & Sara , Denke Chris & Gudrun , Eglet Skip & Kathy , Greeves Brian , Ho Jimmy & Anna , Julian Stu & Carina , Kreamer Tom & Susan , Lagarhus Otto & Sissel , McCarthy Paul , Olden Dennis & Boki , Puff Jo , Raulf Hans-Ulrich & Anette and Skaar Johnny & Lise. Heinz Fruhwirth was about to join us when he was called to an urgent European Cockpit Association meeting. He, later, apologized and gallantly offered to share the mutual cost of the dinner, which he did – Kudus !

Following the club's tradition we invited the following persons and their Ladies, as our guests of honor : The President of IFALPA , Dennis Dolan – he was unable to attend and sent his apology.

The President of Croatia ALPA , Capt. Vladimir Hodko & Nives.

This year IFALPA 'Scroll of Merit' awardees: Wim Schuurman with Nellie and Fanie Coetzee with Alet.

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Some updated correspondence. & apologies:

Apologies received from: Bryan Roberts , Knut Anfindsen (was lately in Israel attending his grandson marriage) , Aart van Wijk (who suggested establishing a section with the stories behind each club member), Barry Pate (60<sup>th</sup> birthday , 27-March-07, will fly to LON with his family and his son as First-Officer – congratulations !), Raul Estrella , Jon Hutchinson (got stuck with his plan to arrive with a private airplane) , Ed Smart (plans to be in Mexico City) and Peter Jenkinson (in Rome to cheer the Irish Rugby team against Italy – championship match) . Post-Dinner received mail : Apologies and regards from NG CA and Ted Murphy.

Correspondence: Ms Elizabeth Ryall, granddaughter of Laurie Arthur (Alpha) – requesting info. and photos/documents about him , and a notice of Fernando Garcia death last January- from his son.

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After pre-dinner drinks all were seated around the table. Eli Bahat opened the event, welcoming all the A-O Club members and their Ladies (with special acknowledgement to the newcomers – Tom Kreamer, Hans-Ulrich Raulf , Johnny Skaar & Otto Lagarhus). Then the guests of honor were introduced: Capt Vladimir Hodko , Wim Schuurman , Fanie Coetzee and their Ladies.

Current matters of the club were raised and discussed :

(a) The new A-O Club chapter in the IFALPA Internet web site ([www.ifalpa.org](http://www.ifalpa.org)) : Eli thanked Stu and Paul for assisting in getting the IFALPA Executive Board approval and the Interpilot House staff (Mark Bentley & Heather Price). Planning of a new section "IN MEMORY OF ..." – to honor members who passed away. Ideas about new LOGO/TIES (purchasing options ?) and how to arrange the membership list (re the non-registering ones).

(b) Next 2008 A-O Dinner: In Mexico City (around mid-April 2008 in the InterConti PRESIDENTE Hotel) where local club member(s) will plan and arrange the dinner.

Bart Bakker was honored with the task of introducing Wim and Fanie to the A-O Club. Bart , with a remarkable ability and flair, introduced each one of them, mentioning their background and achievements , and then performed the 'A-O Ties' Ritual' .

A delicious meal was served. During the meal some humoristic tales were thrown in from around the table. Following Ms Mianne Bakker suggestion - each club member told his story of serving IFALPA and the background of his being awarded (two of the attendees received the two awards !). These personal tales were well handled and excepted and will probably be practiced from now on – Thanks Mianne. With more stories and laughter the dinner was finally adjourned (properly proposed and seconded). All of us rushed to Mexican extravagant happening at the Hospitality Suit , to find that all the Mexican T-Shirts and Caps were already gone! But the celebration and dancing carried on for hours.

The strong show-up for this annual dinner – made it a special and an enjoyable one.