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Dear Dan,

I wanted to pass on to you some news that should be included into our next Wolfgram. There is a significant book that is going to be written about the Wolves. The author is Dick Knott. He has been awarded a Smithsonian Fellowship to write a book on the Seawolves and Black Ponies which will be titled "Of Seawolves and Black Ponies". The Naval Proceedings Institute Press has expressed interest in being the publisher of this work although no decisions have been made concerning that. The fellowship actually begins in January. I spoke with Dick recently and he is going to Europe soon and will return in October and begin to get ready to start this writing project.

Dick's latest work, which was just published, is entitled "A Heritage of Wings" is about the Navy and is receiving much praise. That work is the 5th book he has published. He was a senior executive with the Naval Historical Center at the Washington Navy Yard for some years and, of course, has excellent ties to and working relationship with all of the individuals there. He is also intimately familiar with all of the Historical Centers assets and records to include the Seawolf records in storage in Suitland, Maryland. After the Seawolf reunion in Jacksonville in June I contacted the Navy Historical Center to offer the services of our members Capt. Otto Grecken, and another Wolf who would be available full time to help with the declassification of the Seawolf records. I then discovered that the Navy had, at last, established a declassification team. With some help of our friends I was able to have the Seawolf records moved to near the top of the declassification pile. This means that Dick Knott will have access to all 32 cases of Seawolf records (90 cubic feet of them).

Roy Grossnick is in charge of the Aviation Division at the Navy Historical Center and made the final decision to move the Seawolf records to the "top of the pile". Dick Knott was Roy Grossnick's boss for years at the Historical Center. So you can see that we not only have an accomplished writer of books on Naval Aviation but also an individual who has all the right connections to be able to pull off a first class book project. I have talked at length with Dick Knott and brought him up to date on many Seawolf historical resources and what made the unit so unique. Admiral Delaney and Admiral Z are both aware of Dick's book about the Wolves and Dick plans to interview Admiral Z and as many of the Wolves as is feasible. I plan to assist him in every way that I can. I know that this

has been a long time in coming and there have been several false starts but I feel like we have, at last, a book project underway that wil do the Wolves justice. Sometimes it seems as though a certain number of years have to pass before certain aspects of history become interesting to historians. I also think the time is becoming ripe for our Wolves to be able to have and take the time to tell their own stories. I think that Dan Kelley's book is just the beginning of this trend.

Dan you can help by making sure that some mention of the above information gets into the next Wolfgram. I also need you to forward a copy of Jim Sprinkles article on the Seawolves to Dick Knott. His Info. is as Follows:

Also please send to him any other items on the Seawolves and Seawolf Association in which you think he may be interested. Especially get him added to our Assn. roster and mailing list. You can catagorize him as "Seawolf Author" on the roster. Please send him any other info. or materials you have on the Wolves or our Assn. and if there is any charge you can bill it to me.

Thanks Dan. I think only the current and past Seawolf Assn. officers can truly appreciate all that you have done for us. If there is a Seawolf heaven I just know that some ^{one} has staked out some prime acerage up there just for you.

Best Regards,



Don C. Thomson