# The odyssey of John Monroe Hawk Smith, Navy fighter pilot

## iUniverse - Roger Ball! by Donald E. Auten, Paperback



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#### **Black Lion ONE**

His hand-eye coordination skills and reflexes also were above average. He was confident that he could get this beast back onboard even if the weather was poor.

### Donald E. Auten (Author of Roger Ball!)

Some of those early exploratory efforts had ended in misadventure, but they also became the source of many of his greatest lessons.

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Hawk joined the Black Lions at the beginning of their turn-around cycle in preparation for their deployment in March 1979 aboard the USS America CV-66. Still, it was great just to get out and fly, to enjoy the magnificence of their surroundings, which were strikingly beautiful. It was a seemingly titanic task marked by political intrigue, doctrinal apoplexy, and sadly, petty politics.

#### **BLACK LION ONE**

Finally, there were the competence and confidence factors. He saw nothing recogHe knew the ship was close and getting closer, but all he saw was a distorted film of water. In naval aviation lexicon Roger Ball! After several snorts, coughs, and backfires, the little engine sputtered to life.

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