VW-1 TRACKER

ISSUE 11 NOVEMBER 2002



ALAN O'MARTIN ..... (9/12) "Just got back from vacation in Las Vegas, Grand Canyon and Hoover Dam. Coming out of the Grand Canyon I saw this airplane along side a hanger. Had to stop. This was McArthur's VIP plane. Nothing like our planes, way too nice! Strange thing was I recognized a lot of the equipment. It is supposedly airworthy. One of the Save-A-Connie groups in Valle, Arizona."

Who's For Some Golf?

Plans are in the works to have a Golf Tournament during our 2003 Reunion in Reno. Pete Wasmund and Jack Waterworth have been polling members who have e-mail addresses and have, to date, about a dozen interested persons

This event would be held Thursday morning, Oct. 18th; details to be worked out depending on what the majority of the group wants and the number of players involved. Both the guys and gals would be welcome to participate.

Please think about this event, and if you think you might like to be included, provide the information below to Pete Wasmund

Name(s):_____

_____

Preferred Format: ____Scramble _____Individual

Other Format: : _____

Preferred Course : _____ Muni _____Star Rating
Circle: 2 3 4 5

All suggestions and comments appreciated. You can write, call or e-mail this information to:

Pete Wasmund
Address Removed
Arlington, Address Removed / call Phone Removed
Or e-mail Email Removed

Reunion Package Coming Up in May .....

We'll Do the Work – You Relax and Enjoy

Reunions are listed by the dozens In all the Navy publications, local newpapers, and on various web sights. Our VW-1 Association is not unique.

What may be unique is how we handle the whole process of organizing a reunion. For the benefit of members who have not yet attended one of our W-1 reunions, let me say we try to make it as easy as possible for participants. Our goal Is for everyone to relax , have fun, and ENJOY!



REMEMBER THIS? ..... Depends on if your memory is good! Did you ever think that a simple sign could bring back such a torrent of memories?

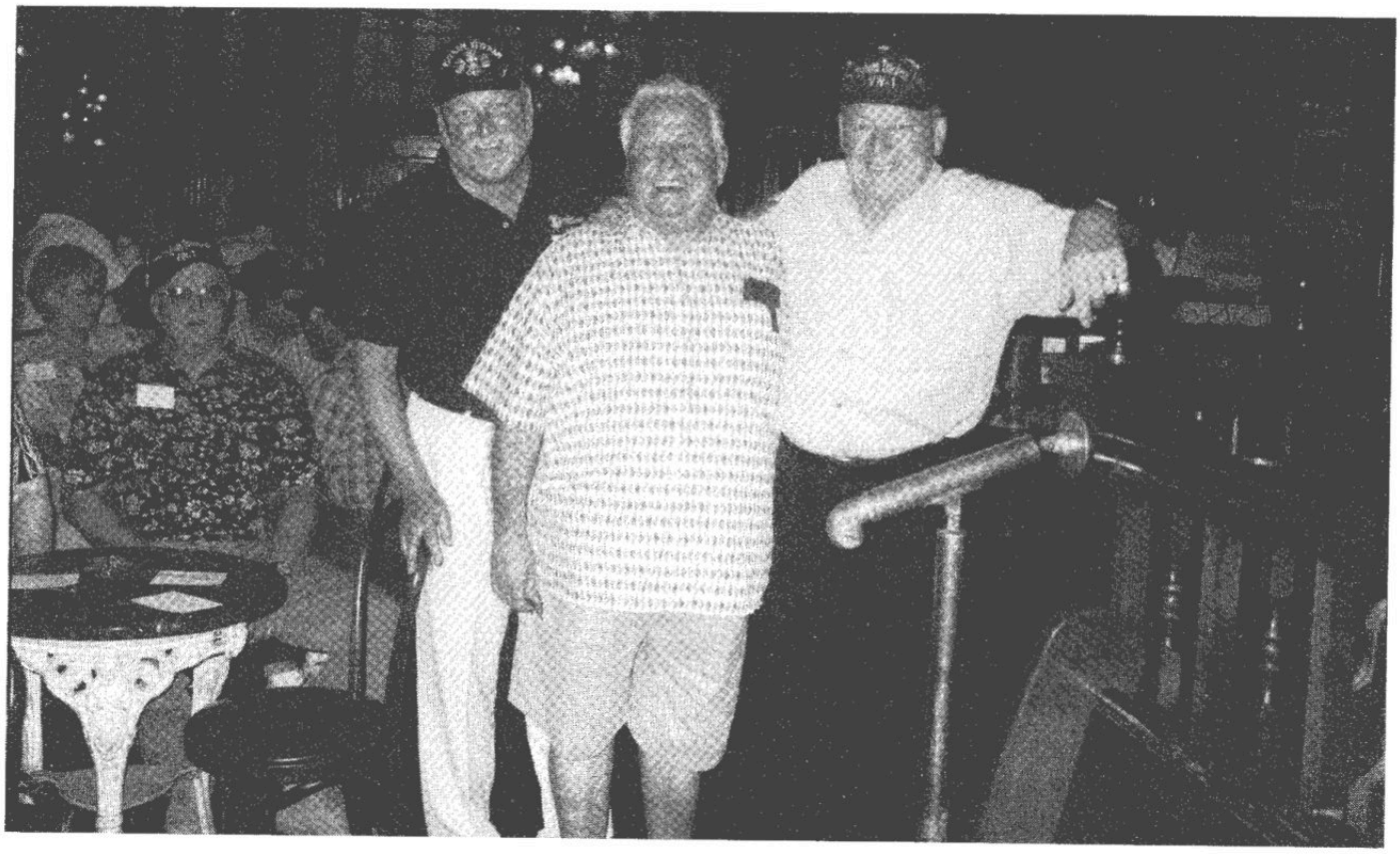
We, the reunion organizers, plan and price out all the activities for the four days. In May our newsletter will include complete details, along with a reunion registration form. You fill it out, select the accomodations and activities you want to include and send it back to us with a check for the appropriate amount. That does it. Then, once you are at the reunion, your only expenses will be meals not included in the package and any recreation and incidentals you choose.

We take care of the hotel; the trips, the tips; etc. We encourage our members to work through us as the greater number of attendees we have the more negotiating power we have and we can often get more comps and better deals for the entire group. There is power in numbers.

The only thing **you** need to consider is whether you intend to arrive early or stay later than the days designated for the reunion. If that is the case, you are then responsible for making your own reservations for those **additiona**l days only. Deena Smout, at Holiday Inn, (775-786-5151) would be happy to assist you and has provided a firm quote for the days both before and after the reunion. The prices are:

September12 & 13	(Friday/Saturday)	$ 102.00 per night
September 14	(Sunday)	55.00 per night
September 19 & 20	(Friday/Saturday)	72.00 per night

We do not have a firm price on the whole reunion package yet because the trips are still being worked out, but it is our goal to keep it affordable The past reunions have run about $ 400 per couple and that includes room, meeting space, several meals and some group trips. It is our expectation that it will go a bit higher this time out, but expect it will still be under $ 500 per couple.



THE SECRET WAS OUT .... Pete Armstrong (center) called about 3 o'clock on the third day of the reunion and said he was steaming toward Pensacola as fast as he could. He asked to be told where the Mystery Night was to be so he could join the group there. Of course, he was told to go to Rosie O'Grady's in the Historic District. When he arrived he got the warmest of welcomes from Bob Frazier (left) and Jim Tandy (right). Pete was a little late in arriving for the Pensacola Reunion but we were all delighted he was able to make it.

ERROR–ERROR !

In the August newsletter it was incorrectly reported that the Holiday Inn in Reno had a "no pet" policy.

That is **NOT CORRECT**. They do, in fact, allow pets on selected floors for a slight surcharge. Just let us know on your registration form if you plan to bring a pet so we can inform them when we give them the rooming list. You will personally be responsible for the surcharge, of course.

'Atta Boys" go to Jim & Dora Reddy for researching this matter and getting us the correct information.

VW-1 Lap Top Computer

Funds for a lap top were raised at the 2002 Pensacola reunion and we were specifically charged with getting a unit so we could bring complete records to future reunions without having to bring boxes of paper!!

We have bought a Dell Inspirion 2650. Our operating program is Microsoft Windows Office XP Professional.

We want to thank everyone for donating so generously at the auction A special .thanks goes to LeRoy White, who donated a brand new printer to go with the lap top.

Looking forward to seeing y'all in Reno.

News from Cyberspace ... & "Snail Mail"

Cary & Pat Williams (8/19) "Cary and I are keeping busy as usual. He has a million projects. He is restoring a '57 Chevrolet, redoing a floating dock for our camp, keeping the boats and jet ski running, reroofing our daughter's old playhouse, etc. He has a lot of honeydo's left and he is working full time, too. I have a new job. I'm not a principal anymore. After 12 years of being principal, I have been renamed Administrative Coordinator for Staff Development for the school district. I love it! No more stress and fear of being sued each day. I'll miss the kids, but not the responsibility." Email Removed

Jerry Kastigar (8/22) "... snail mail address listed is incorrect. Street should read Address Removed ... the "D" stands for the condo designator. Really enjoyed the newletter of yours, and who knows, maybe things will work out for the Reno reunion for me. Lotta time ' tween now and then. I got a nice e-mail from Bill Fellers who was with VW-1 when I was. I also think I remember the name Kremer. Sure is neat hearing from old friends like that. Email Removed

Cruz & Grace Martinez (8/23 Phone Call) Cruz said he is going to try to make the Reno reunion and perhaps combine it with a trip into the northwest. They missed out on Pensacola; hope things work out so we can see them in Reno.

Trace Moore (8/23 Phone Call) Trace informed us his e-mail address is incorrect in the newsletter. It should be Email Removed Sorry, Trace.

Norbert & Linda Monohan (8/22) "Just received our first newsletter. We live about 45 minutes from Reno so my bride and I will be there. We are looking forward to it. Email Removed

Gary & Gay Oulman (8/30) "Want to let you know that we did sell our house and the closing is Oct. 25th, so we will be fellow Floridians soon. We will live in the little "winter home" in Englewood until we decide where and when to do what. Hopefully, we can plan a get-to-gether with the other Floridians in the reunion group this winter."

Jay & Alice Hockenberry (9/4) "Things (for Jay) have deteriorated with the cancer situation. The Doc tried hormone therapy in May and the tumor actually grew a little. There are also two new tumors in the abdominal area. The oncologist at Vanderbilt tells us that surgery is not an option, and I'll be starting treatment with experimental drugs in about a week at Vanderbilt through the NCI. Keep on praying. Sorry I couldn't make it to the reunion – I'm sure a great time was had by all. Maybe next time I'll be healthy enough to make it. Thanks to all for the prayers and kind thoughts. My new e-mail address is Email Removed

Bill & Lou Jones (9/06) "We have had a lot of medical problems, but are finally feeling better and back on our feet. We have been visiting relatives in the north and Midwest and I (Lou) had a checkup at the University of Iowa hospital for my kidney transplant. Everything is still okay and I don't have to go back for another two years. I'm thankful for that. It is still hot and dry here in the desert, but we are used to it now."

Lee & Martha Thompson (9/19) "Crop time is about over, all except harvest. Right now we're harvesting the dry edible beans; but we also raise great northerns, navys, black turtles, printo; and corn harvest starts Monday. You asked about R & R time? That must mean repair and rework which is what we do to the sprinklers. They're high maintenance items in the winter. This year's reunion was right down the middle of planting season and we didn't feel we could leave, even for a short time. Son John is now home and plans to take over the farm (we're ready) - so we should be foot loose and fancy free for Reno."

Bob & Robie Weaver (9/28) "It seems strange to be back working as an Electronics Technician after being out of the field for thirty years. It all seems to be coming back and I feel that I am able to contribute something to the Nation's security by working where I am. I still plan on retiring next year. Us old gray beards don't get around and bend as good as the young ones. It will be a blast to have the reunion in Reno next September. There are so many things to do there that it is hard to find something to recommend. If you like historical sites there is the old Carson City Mint; the first settlement in Nevada; maybe Genoa or Dayton, take your pick; and not too far away is Fort Churchill, a Civil War outpost. Reno has a theater group at the Pioneer Theater, a Reno symphony orchestra and other artistic venues. I am looking forward to seeing all of you."

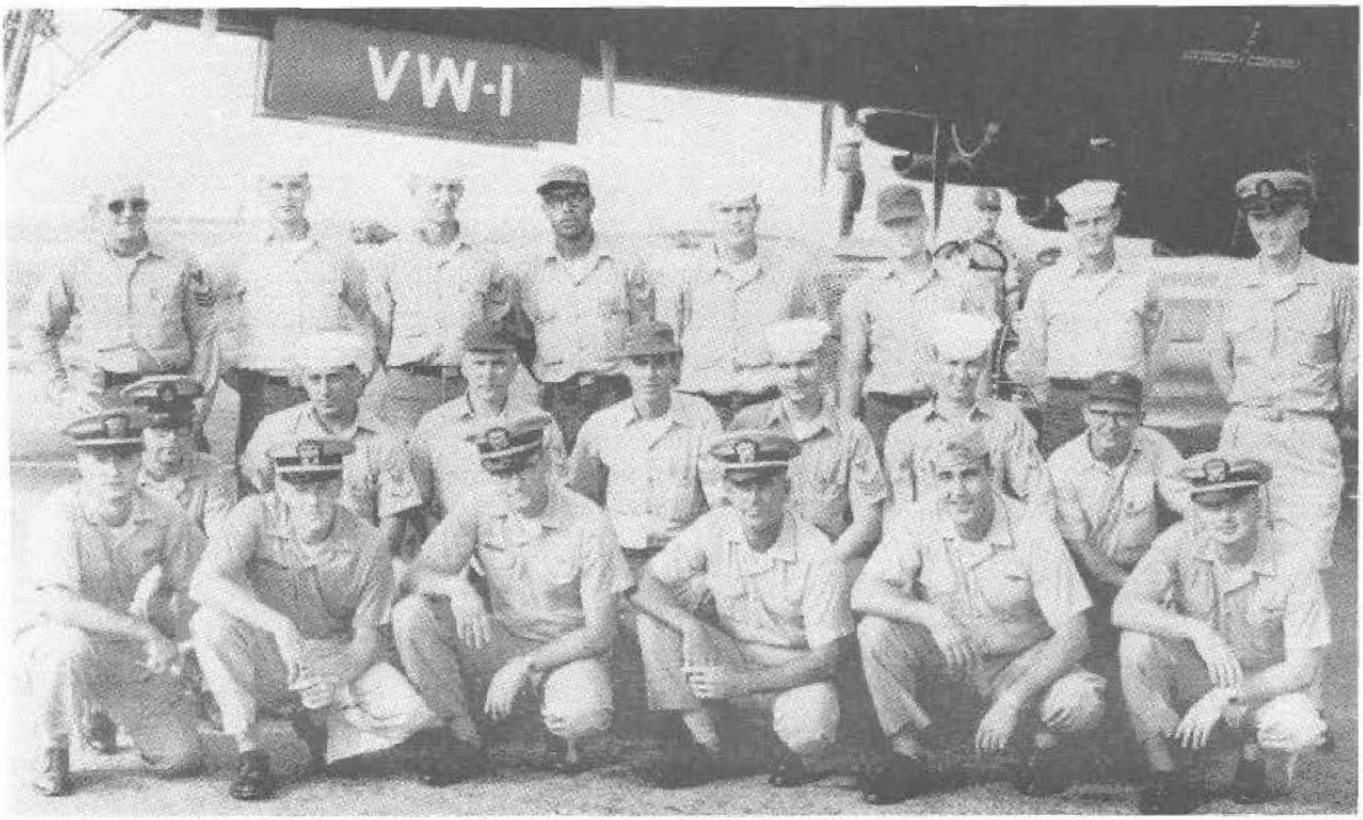
Dick & Lowena Bleakney (9/25) "Went to the Air Races last week. It was good. Not a lot of airplanes on display, maybe 30; but some nice vintage planes. Just as we were arriving one of the race planes pancaked in front of the stands about 300 yards away. Didn't see the crash but noticed the smoke and didn't know what happened until we were on our way home. The pilot didn't make it. Other than that the races we saw were quite exciting. P51's and Typhoons doing over 500 mph in the straights"

Roy & Pat Zimmerman (10/18) "New e-mail: Email Removed

John & Carole Sill (10/18) "Recently totaled my plane on landing in Mexico. We walked away! Now have a new plane (used) and a new address: Address Removed
Address Removed E-mail remains Email Removed

Al & Joanne Madsen (10/25) "It's cold here in Wisconsin and has been for over a week now. Snow and the works. Leaving for Texas Monday the 28th. Managed to get about 3,000 miles on my new motorcycle this summer. E-mail address will stay the same in Texas."

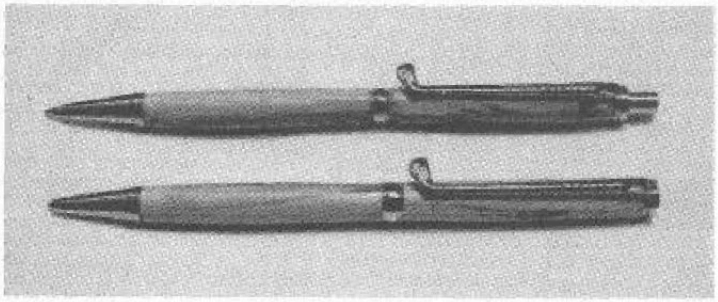
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CREW FIVE ..... who can guess the year? Rear Row (left to right): Dean, G., ADR1; Woodall, M. ATWAN; Pregitzer, R.A., ATW3; Lynch, J.E., AT1; Evans, D.W., AC1; Gilbert, J.A., ATR3; Haggard, D.E., AC2; Inman, G.C., ATC. Middle Row: Church, D.L., ADRC; Foote, W.H., ATW3; Price, D.P., ADR1; Minter, L.F., ADR1; Johnston, R.P., AT1; Morgan, T.P. AG3; Hieldbrant, J.E., ATN3. Front Row: Lt. (JR) R.J. Dean, Ensign G. Mollencop, Lt. (jg). R.I. Eshom; Lcdr. J. B. Reevis; Lt. (jg) D.F. Bitonti; and Ensign K.G. Graue. {Believe this came across our desk courtesy of George Dean.)

- An Artist in our Midst -

At the auction in Pensacola, one of the unique items brought was a pen made by Dick Lee, who we learned was an expert carver. Gary Oulman was the lucky bidder who went home with it. It was a quality Cross pen with a model of a Willy Victor on the end of it.



Dick makes a wide variety of pens, using various exotic woods. One can choose the design clip that makes the pen even more personal. The prices start at $ 30.00 a pen- a bargain for such an quality item. To take a look at some examples, go to his web site at

woodandbeads.com.

He could have just the unique Christmas gift you need this year for that someone special!



SHIPMATES

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

AND THE

MERRIEST CHRISTMAS EVER

****

MAY THE LORD EVER BE BY

YOUR SIDE

Willy Victor Rantoul Reunion

The WillyVictor group run by Wes Mortensen has a union planned September 5, 6 and 7th in Rantoul, Illinois. There is a hotel on the grounds of the Octave Chanute facility, the Fan Marker Inn and the reunion organizers have 198 rooms blocked for this event.

It is recommended you place your reservation as early a possible as the Bears Football team plays that weekend and rooms could get scarce.

Complete information on this reunion, along with maps and photos, can be obtained from Mortensen's web site at: www.willyvictor.com

This reunion, of course, has nothing to do with our VW-1 Association reunion on Sept. 15th through the 18th in Reno, Nevada. . Do know that at least one member of our group is planning his itinerary to attend both these affairs.

Another Frequently Asked Question

How do you select the activities at the reunion for the group?

This is always one of the easiest and most enjoyable parts of planning a reunion. There is always more than enough things to choose from and the fact there isn't the time and money to do more is the only frustration. As we look at the possibilities there are several factors to consider.

1. Is it an activity that most of the group could relate to and enjoy?
2. Is it within a reasonable distance so the bus trip does not become burdensome?
3. Is the physical aspect (ie: amount of walking, number of stairs, time away from restrooms, etc.) going to be appropriate for our group?
4. Is the entertainment involved unlikely to be offensive to anyone for any reason?

Another issue is that many of the group want to participate in activities on their own and do not want all their time scheduled. So there has to be a balance between not requiring folks to pay for activities they do not attend and still providing activities for those who require more structure and like more planned activities.

The optional trip to Alabama at the Pensacola reunion was an experiment in trying to accommodate those two diverse groups and it seemed to have worked very well. We are looking at doing two optional trips while in Reno so that reunion attendees have greater input into how they wish to spend their time.

The Reno trips at the planning stages at the moment. If any of you have any suggestions, please let us know your preferences.

New E-Mail Address for Ed and Sally Metzger

Email Removed

(Note: The rr is not very clear. It is an R and R, standing for Road Runner)

News from Cyberspace *(Continued from Page 5)*

Jim & Ruth Tandy (10/25) "New e-mail address: Email Removed
Bluelight is Kmart at only $ 8.95 per month for internet and e-mail service. Going to give it a try. To look into their offer go to www.kmart.com. Ruth and I just returned from a short trip down to South Padre Island, about a 12 hour drive each way. I only spent about 1 hour on the beach and several days visiting kinfolk. I walked along next to the sand dunes looking for treasure and WOW! I found two seabeans, some pumice stones, a sponge or two and, of course, several pretty sea shells. These sea beans won't be for sale – just protection against evil spirts."

Carl & Nancy Logdahl (10/30) "Good way to teach kids how to spell FAMILY … Father And Mother I Love You …. Blew my mind the first time I saw it !!!



Address Removed

VW-1 Association
c/o Ed & Sally Metzger
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