VW-1 TRACKER

ISSUE 11 FEBRUARY 2003

Reno Reunion Agenda for Sept. '03

Monday, September 15:
Registration 1 to 6 p.m. We know from experience that many of you will arrive early and be ready first thing Monday morning! In that case, you will probably be put to work setting up and getting things ready! There will be a deli style buffet open all afternoon, along with soft drinks, snacks and beer. A short orientation meeting will be held at 6 p.m. and then everyone will be free for the evening. The meeting room will, of course, be open until 11 p.m.

Tuesday, September 16:
After a Continental breakfast, board the bus to Ponderosa Ranch, the home of TV's "Bonanza". Tour the famous Cartwright Ranch, complete with series props and an informative Ranch House film presentation. Explore the Old West town including the Silver Bar Saloon, the blacksmith shop, etc. Lunch at the Hoss Burger Café – enjoy either the HossBurger or a chicken sandwich – before boarding the bus to be taken to a cruise of Lake Tahoe. The 2 to 4 p.m. cruise aboard the M.S. Dixie cruises Emerald Bay, the lake's most photographed spot. A narrative complements the natural beauty of Lake Tahoe as you view the Sierras, Fannette Island and the unique Vikingsholm Castle. A video of the "Sunken Treasures of Lake Tahoe" allows you a view of underwater canyons and amazingly colorful formations. Upon completion of the cruise, the bus will return to the Holiday Inn (prox. 5:30) and the remainder of the evening will be free time. Once again, the meeting room will be open until 11 p.m.

Wednesday, September 17:
Two optional trips will be offered Wednesday, which will be an additional cost to those who choose to participate. One will go to Fallon Air Force Base where a tour will center around the Top Gun School; followed by lunch in the Galley. The other will be a narrative tour to Virginia City; with time to shop and lunch in this historic town before returning to the hotel about 3 p.m. For those who choose not to take one of the tours, this will be a free day to explore those things that may be of interest to you. The first "official" function of the day will be the business meeting at 5 p.m. Immediately after the meeting, approximately 6:30 p.m. a buffet dinner will be served in the meeting room; followed by our traditional reunion auction. Attendees are encouraged to bring an auction item.

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Welcome to the VW-1 Web Site

It is our pleasure to announce that we are now on the web. Thanks to the efforts of Pete Wasmund, we now have a very informative and attractive site. The site is, at present, a work in progress, and we welcome input from everyone. Pete has stressed to us that he wants to hear from anyone with ideas that will help improve the site. Please visit the site at http://vw1assoc.tripod.com/home.html Contact Pete at Phone Removed with your comments or e-mail him at Email Removed We know he would appreciate hearing from you. Sally and I have told him what a great job we think he is doing for our organization.

At present, we have listed on the site all active members with their names, rate, tour years in VW-1 and major job assignment. If anyone wishes to have their name removed, please let Pete or Sally and I know and we will see that your information is deleted.

Reno Reunion Agenda ..... (Continued from Page 1)

Thursday, September 18:

Golfing tournament: The golf tournament will be early in the day for those who have signed up. For all of the non-golfers, the day is free for you to explore the area, visit in the meeting room, or lounge by the hotel pool. Frontier Tours has a variety of tours that you might opt to take and they will pick you up at the hotel; or you can do it on your own. Dinner Thursday evening will be at a casino, followed by a show. We are looking at two different places and plans are not yet finalized.

Friday, September 19:

Our Continental Breakfast in the meeting room will provide us with the chance to meet one last time and say our farewells. It will be a "wrap" and we will each go our separate ways --- hopefully to meet once again at the predetermined time and place as selected at our meeting.

All of the items included in this itinerary (with the exclusion of the optional trips) are included in one reunion fee. As everything is not yet final, we do not have a FIRM price, but it is shaping up to be $ 500 to $ 600 (per couple) and $400 to $ 450 (per single). Included are the four nights at the Holiday Inn, four Continental breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners, the Ponderosa Trip, the Lake Tahoe Cruise, the Casino buffet and show, bus fees and all tips and taxes; as well as the meeting room offering soda, beer and snacks when we are not engaged in outside activities. As usual, casual attire is suitable for all activities planned.

The registration form will be in the May issue of The Tracker and payment will be due by June 15th. The only other costs to you for this reunion will be your transportation to Reno, any optional trips you may select, the meals not included in the package (4), and your own incidentals. Oh, and gambling bucks, if that is your thing. Come and ENJOY!!

News From Cyberspace (and Snail Mail)

Ray & Sue Keighley (11/15) "Received the TRACKER today. Lots of good stuff. Sue reminded me that I had not contacted you since Pensacola, so thought I had better at least say "hi". When we left Pensacola we drove straight thru to KC. Long drive for a one day trip, especially for a couple of old folks. We really had a wonderful time with the old air dogs of VW-1. I communicate with Ed Nafus frequently and he has some old photos, some of our crew (#4) and others of just some of our travels in the far east. Gearge Dean also sends me some good stuff. It is always pleasant to hear from old friends, and even better to visit with them at the reunions. See you in Reno."
Email Removed

Roy Eshom (11/18/02) "Received the TRACKER today. I was surprised to see myself on Page 6 in the VW-1 photo. I usually flew on Crew 3 as the meteorologist and navigator, but on this and a few other times in 1962 and 1963 I flew with Crew 5 and LCDR J.B. REAVIS. My guess is that the picture was taken in 1962."

Roger & Pat Atchley (11/16) "It is my guess that the Crew 5 picture on Page 6 of the TRACKER was taken in 1964. Although I was CIC/LPO on Crew 1, I deployed several times with Crew 5 in Nov. and Dec. of '63 --- transferred out of VW-1 in early January '64. There are a couple of unfamiliar faces in the crew photo, so think they came aboard after I departed." Email Removed

Robert & Ginny Johnston (11/23) "We were in Reno for the Great Reno Balloon Race this Sept. The weather was great and the sight of over 100 balloons taking off and filling the sky was quite spectacular. Hopefully, the weather will be as nice next Sept. for the Reunion. In case anyone happens to go to Reno early, they might be interested in two events. One, Sept. 5 – 7, 2003 is the Great Reno Balloon Race at the Rancho San Rafael Park. More than just an exhibition of these gorgeous flying machines, the Balloon Race features the nation's top balloonists competing in events like the Hare and the Hound, Target Drop and Key Grab. Call: 775-826-1181, or go to www.renoballoon.com. Secondly, Sept. 11 – 14 , is the National Championship Air Races at Stead Airport. The world's longest running air race is an international event featuring a variety of race classes, military and historic airplane displays and aerobatics exhibitions. Call 775-972-6663 or go to www.airrace.org. I am looking forward to meeting everyone in Reno." Email Removed

Moon & Nadine Mullen (11/24) "Sure you guys will look the area over but we might be able to visit NAS Fallon, just 55 miles away from Reno. This is the home of Top Gun and maybe lunch at the Chief's Club would be nice. Nadine and I went to Germany in August to play softball (me, not her). The Sr. Softball has a great tournament each year in Europe. Tomorrow off to Japan to play there for ten days. Hope to have one in Ireland/Scotland next summer. Anyone interested? Contact me."
Email Removed

George and Christine Dean (11/25) "Drove down to Statesboro, GA and met Bill and Ann Kemp for a sandwich and 1 ½ hours of conversation. All seems well except Ann had one knee replaced a few years ago. Needs the other done and needs hip replacement, but she's the same pleasant person we knew on Duva in 70-71. Bill hasn't changed, 'cept for age. Was really a treat to see them. Been

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- NEW MEMBERS -

Brice, Gerald (Jerry) **AT3**
Address Removed 1/60 – 12/61
Chattanooga, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Mildred Email Removed

AT Shop, Crew member with crews #1

Clark, Ernie **AT**
Address Removed '63 – '64
Spearfish, Address Removed
Wife: Bev: Phone Removed

Crew 2, CIC. Bob Pregitzer joined our group recently and sent along Ernie's dues as his Christmas gift. Neat idea!!! Ernie, Surprise!!!

Clarkson, Arnet (Arnie) **ATW3/ATR3**
Address Removed 4/65-10/66
Kailua Kona, Address Removed Phone Removed
Email Removed

Worked out of Avionics Shop and flew CIC on Crew 5; plus several others when they were short. A fun and enjoyable time at VW-1. Guess Island life grew on me so much I retired in one. Aloha

Eskew, Eldon **AT1**
Address Removed (1st) 6/63 – 6/66
Yuma, Address Removed (2nd) 7/70 - 6/73
Wife: Karen Phone Removed
Email Removed

Electronic Tech; flew w/Crew 1 on first tour. Will probably attend the Reno reunion. We have a motor home and a pet.

Fleming, Robert (Bob) **AE2**
Address Removed 1/57 – 12/58
Coronado, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Lucile Email Removed

1st Electrician, Crew 2. Did Cubi Pt. detachment summer 1957 in Red Devil, Crew 2.

[illegible] **AT2**
Address Removed 10/59 –10/61
Pensacola, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Mary Email Removed

Believe I flew with TE-8. My VW tours include VW-1, VW-11, & VW-13 – short tours as every time I got orders to them, they decommissioned them! Retired CTM1 8/73. Found some slides from the VW-1 era and will scan soon. Sorry I missed the get together in Pensacola. Didn't know about it.

Gowenlock. Harry **AE2/ 1**
Address Removed 1/68 – 6/71
Mesa, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Vicki Email Removed

Primary line and deployed aviation electrician. Flew primarily with Crews 5 & 7.

Hansen, Jack **LCDR**
Address Removed 6/68-4/71
Oak Harbor, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Lois Email Removed

Comm Officer, Environmental Science Officer. Metro TE5. Merged into VQ-1 and was there until 12/71.

Johnston, Robert (Bob) **AE1**
Address Removed 4/60 – 10/61
San Diego, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Ginny Email Removed

Spent the first few months working in the battery locker, which got me the nickname "Dry Cell". Then was devoted to performing Willy Victor electrical "100 hour inspections". My last few months I flew as 2nd Electrician (and 2nd cook) on TE2.

Kreutzer, John L. **LTJG**
Address Removed 11/69-5/71
Parker, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Susan Email Removed

(Continued on Page 5)



CREWS 5 AND 6 ..... Swapped sea stories at the Pensacola Reunion. Back Row, I to r: Gary Oulman, Richard Lee, Jim Tandy, Cary Williams, Lowell Buswell, Alan Landon and Richard Bleakney. Sitting: Ed Metzger, Al Madsen, Jack Gergal and Jim Rice. Front and center: Pete Wasmund.

New Members (Continued from Page 4)

Schedules Officer, RCO, CICO. Crewed On TE 7, 10, 3 and 2Left active duty 9/1/71, and joined the Naval Reserves. Changed designator to Intelligence in 1986. Commanding Officer of IPAC 10/89 to 9/92. Retired 6/93.

LaPosta, James E. **LTJG**
Address Removed 6/56 – 7/58
Troy, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Peggie Email Removed

Reported in VW-1 in Barber's Point, Hawaii; then participated in moving to Guam in 1957. Was ACICO – CICO; flew on TE8 in Hawaii; TE-6 in Guam.

Martin, Don **LT**
Address Removed 9/69-9/71
Charlotte, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Connie Jean Kelly
Email Removed

Worked in scheduling; then security. Designated PIC in early 1971.

Martin, J.L. (Marty) **ADR3**
Address Removed '65 – '67
Address Removed Phone Removed
Conway Springs, Address Removed
Wife: Deborah Email Removed

Flight Mech, Crew 7

Mosness, Randy **ADR2**
Address Removed 6/66 – 6/67
Fallon, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Janice Email Removed

Started in Power Plants; then went to Crew 8 as Flight Mech. Mr. "C" was PC; JJ Reddy and Leo Wynn pushed throttles.

(Continued to Page 6)

New Members (Continued from Page 5)

Nelson, Melvin **ADC**
Address Removed 7/65 – 7/67
Waukegan, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Rose Winter: Phone Removed

Night Maintenance Chief; Line Chief

O'Reilly, Robert (Bob)
Address Removed 11/59 – 2/61
Edmond, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Flo Email Removed

CIC School 6/29-10/59. AEWBARRONPAC 3/61 – 3/63. Worked in Com Office when not flying with Crew #12. Comm Office was the best duty you could have – 8 on/32 off.

Pendray, Merlin (Doug) **AT 1**
Address Removed '62 – '65
Grants Pass, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Ethel Email Removed

First Tech and ECC; Crews 6 and 7.

Pregitzer, Bob
Address Removed '63 – '65
South Lyon, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Sally Email Removed

Crew 5, CEC and Air Operations

Price, Myron **AEAN-AE2**
Address Removed 1/57 – 1/59
Penryn, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Jackie Email Removed

Flew R7V – WV-2 as 2nd electrician. Dec. '57 picked up new plane #143228. We covered 7th fleet – Russian ships – weather.

Stewart, George **AD3 – AD1**
Address Removed 6/52 – 11/55
Gainesville, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Carmen Email Removed

Fatal Errors

We have recently attempted to do mass e-mails to the VW-1 membership. Each time, we receive back multiple **fatal error** messages, indicating that we have bad addresses. We would like to ask everyone who is on the web to send us a short e-mail so that we may copy your e-mail address directly off the web into our address book. We'll be looking for your e-mails.

Engine maintenance/line crew; PB-1W Plane captain (crew chief); Section leader, WV-2 Crew Chief and WV-2 Flight Eng.

Wade, Keith **ADRC**
Address Removed '69 – '71
Clarkston, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Sue
Power Plants Chief & Maintenance Chief. With Squadron in detachment to Vietnam. Retired 1971.

Walsh, Marvin **AT 2**
Address Removed 1/58 – 2/60
Pearl City, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Adelina (Dee} Email Removed

2nd Tech & 1st Tech on deployment to Naha, Atsugi and Cubi Point.

Weiszhaar, Robert **AE2**
Address Removed E. '62 – '62
Mobridge, Address Removed Phone Removed
Email Removed

AE on TE6. VW-1 was one of my happiest times in the Navy. Hope to go back someday.

Westberry, E.L. (Wes) **AT**
Address Removed 12/64 – 6/66
East Palatka, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Pat Email Removed

Flew with all crews. Began with Crew 3. Flew mainly with Lt. Harry Bartz. Was a member of the first VW-1 crew to land in Vietnam.

Naval Flight Log

Ed Nafus, an active member of our VW-1 Association, has approached us and the Bob Fuller group, in regards to listing the squadron on the Naval Flight Log, which is a part of the Pensacola Naval Aviation Museums web site. Go to <Naval-Air.org> and click on Naval Flight Log to view this site. Ed has generously provided the contribution to the Museum which is needed to allow us to put on the site a short history of the squadron, a copy of the patch, and up to 400 names. Working with the Fuller group, we will share equally on the submission of the names. Everyone will be listed as a member of VW-1. The listing will include name, rank or rate and years assigned to the squadron. By doing this we contribute to maintaining an accurate history of Naval Aviation. In the event that anyone should not want their names listed, please notify us and we will see that your name is not submitted. The Naval Flight Log should not to be confused with the VW-1 Web Site (which is explained in another article in this newsletter). They are two separate and distinct listings.

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 3

31 years.! Their son, Bob, used to stay overnight with our Scott and was in the same class with him." Email Removed

Doug & Ethel Pendray (1130) "Your package of info took a long time to find us as we are on the road now. Leaving Palm Springs for Yuma, AZ Monday. We are planning to attend the reunion, but will come in a small 5th wheel and we have a dog. Is there an RV park associated with the Holiday Inn? If not, I am sure we can find an RV park around Reno or Carson City. Please note I have a home e-mail address and one for when I am on the road. Email Removed (home) Email Removed (on the road)"
(Note: Anyone out there have insider information on RV parks near Reno? Let Doug & Ethel know)

Marvin & Sarah Jortner (12/1) "We have moved to Address Removed Arlington, TN Address Removed **Tel.** Phone Removed **e-mail:** Email Removed

Norbert & Linda Monohan (12/07) "I do not want to change any program information, but have a possible addition. Do you think that a on or off road motorcycle tour would be of interest at the reunion? I have been riding two wheelers since 1955. I still ride off-road (that is one reason for living in Nevada). My wife and I ride and tour on a Honda Goldwing with a sidecar. There are great places to tour in the Sierras!" Email Removed
(NOTE: Taco, this sounds right up your alley! This will not be a part of the reunion planned events but there is plenty of free time for anyone who might want to join the Monohans. Send them an e-mail and let them know if you have an interest.)

John & Karen Martin (12/08) "Wishing you a Merry Holiday. Hope to see you in Reno! Enjoying our winter on the desert once again and keeping busy. " Email Removed

Pete & Dottie Wasmund (1/24/03) "Went out to dinner with Marv and Sarah Jortner. They have moved from Memphis to our area and we enjoyed getting together and talking about old times. They just about had to throw us out of the restaurant so they could close up."

(CONGRATULATIONS TO PETE AND DOTTIE on their first great grandchild. It's a Boy – 5 lbs. 10 ozs and doing well.)

In Memory of
Bob & Marguerite Yonke

On November 19, 2002 we received a letter from an attorney in Eustus, FL informing us that both Bob and Marguerite had passed on.

Bob joined the VW-1 Association in June of 1999 and, although he did not attend a re-union, he and Marguerite did come to the Florida VW-1 picnic in the winter of 1999. They were enjoying RV'ing at that time.

Bob was an ADR1 and flew with Crew #4 as a flight engineer. He was in the outfit from 9/61 to the fall of 1962, leaving after typhoon Karen damaged the Island.

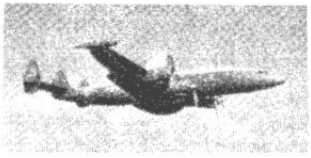
When the 2001 dues notices went out, Bob wrote a note saying that their life as they knew it was over as Marguerite had Alzheimers. He expressed his interest in the VW-1 Association and was eager to stay in touch.

Ruby Cruz

We were informed by Dan that Ruby died last year after a long time of courageously fighting with health issues.

We had the pleasure of meeting Ruby at the San Antonio reunion. In spite of the necessity of using a wheelchair, she attended all the functions, did the tours, put up with the inconveniences - yet always had a smile on her face.

Dan served in VW-1 as an AE in the early 60's and has been a member of the VW-1 Association since 1999. Ruby was a strong and unique lady and we know she will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her.



VW-1 Association
c/o Ed & Sally Metzger
Address Removed
Inverness, Address Removed

VW-1 Association Tracker News



We formed the VW-1 Association in 1999 and had our first reunion in October of that year in Branson, MO. There were about 60 attendees. We held our first business meeting and elected officers. Since then we have had two more reunions, the second in San Antonio, TX, in the fall of 2000 with 78 members attending: the third in Pensacola, FL in early May 2002, with 84 members attending. In Pensacola the membership voted to go to Reno, NV for our next get together. It will be held September 15th through the 18th, 2003. As you can see by the numbers we are growing and we believe the more the better.

Enclosed is the latest issue of the "Tracker News". This is the VW-1 Association's newsletter for keeping in touch with one another. We put out four issues each year. We hope you like what you see and will join our group. Upon receipt of your membership application, we will forward to you an up to date "Active Membership" roster.

It is our belief that VW-1 was one of the finest tours of duty we experienced during our Navy years. We not only had a challenging job, but we also had the opportunity to meet some great people. It is our intention, with this organization, to help rekindle the many fond memories, to renew old friendships and, hopefully, to make lasting new ones.

We hope you will consider becoming a part of the VW-1 family once again.

Wishing you Fair Winds and Following Seas

Ed & Sally Metzger
President & Secretary/Treasurer
VW-1 Association
Phone Removed
Email Removed

P.S. If you have stayed in contact with any other VW-1 Shipmates, please give us their address so we may send this information to them also.