ISSUE 13 VW-1 TRACKER MAY 2003

Reunion Registration Enclosed

Places to Go – Things to See

Although the purpose of the reunion is to spend time together and get to renew old friendships, there is free time built-in to go and enjoy those things in the Reno area that may be of particular interest to you. Here are some things that you may want to explore that are NOT part of the reunion package. Even if you don't bring your car to Reno, the Holiday Inn shuttle goes downtown frequently and cabs in the area are very affordable. And there is always the option to hitch up with a VW-1'er who does have their car and whose interests are similar.

The National Automobile Museum 10 Lake Street South, Reno

This attraction has received high marks from several people as a "must see". It is easily reachable - only two blocks from downtown. You'll find a century of automobiles: more than 220 antique, vintage, classic, special interest, and one-of-a-kind wonders. You can watch history drive by in the multimedia theater. Chat with mechanics in the Automotive Shop and then re-fuel with great food along the Truckee River at the Café; then shop in the unique Museum store. Seniors: $ 6.50 per person. Comes highly recommended by car lovers

The Wilbur May Center Rancho San Rafael Park, 1502 Washngton St., Reno

Located a few miles from downtown, The Wilbur May Center is a ranch, a museum, an arboretum, and a botanical garden. It is a collection of all that was important to local philanthropist Wilbur D. May. The tack room shows his life as a rancher and the trophy room provides a glimpse of his big game hunting years. You can see rare Tang Dynasty pottery from 618 – 906 A.D.; a genuine shrunken head from South American, Eskimo scrimshaw, Egyptian scarabs and Italian amulets that pre-date Christ's birth. The arboretum and botanical gardens include rock gardens, gazebos, waterfalls and a rose garden. If you have a computer, search for the Wilbur May Center and take a pictorial walk through the gardens during the fall. It will whet your appetite to see the "real thng". The indoor arboretum is a tropical retreat with a palm-fringed waterfall and two ponds stocked with Koe and goldfish.

Donner Memorial State Park Truckee, CA.

When researching the hotel for the reunion, a drive west out of Reno brought an an unexpected surprise when, as I was "following the Truckee River", I saw an exit that read "Donner Pass Road". Could it be THE Donner Party area? It

(Continued to Page 2)

* * * "Top Gun Cruise '03" * * *

Donny Martin, a VW-1 member, has informed us he is planning a 5 night cruise out of Tampa, FL being booked as "Topgun Cruise '03". Rooms have been blocked out on the Carnival Cruise Line "Sensation" for Nov. 10 to Sat., Nov. 15th. The ship will visit Grand Cayman and Cozumel; has 24-hour dining, a casino, nightclubs, pool, spa and even a library.

The special price being offered to the "Topgun" group is $ 310 pp for an inside cabin or $ 360 pp for an ocean view. Suites are available at $ 830 pp. In addition. there is a $ 152.33 charge pp for taxes and fees from the ports that they must pass on.

If you have an interest in this cruise, more information can be found at his website, DonnyMartinTravel.com. or his personal e- address is Email Removed

Sounds like fun!!!

Places to Go – Things to See (Continued from Page 1)

certainly is and for those history buffs that find the settlement of the West of interest, it is well worth the drive there. The museum there has a very interesting movie that tells the story of the Donner Party and their disastrous attempt to get to California. They were unable to cross the Sierras before the start of winter. They built rough cabins in three locations several miles apart near what is now Donner Lake. Heavy snowfall meant rescue was impossible until the following spring. Their ordeal has been chronicled in many books, by survivors and their families and by historians. Not only is it a fascinating place to visit, but the ride there from Reno, along the Truckee River, is delightful, especially for those of us who are unfamiliar with the Sierras.

Nevada State Museum, 600 North Carson Street, Carson City, NV

Carson City is a little further afield, but well worth the trip. This capital city is about 30 minutes from Reno. The Nevada State Museum is a treasure chest of information. It includes the Carson Mint which was the most famous of all the US mints from 1870 to 1893. A video on the mint runs every 17 minutes. See the coin press that struck the first coin minted there. There is a replica of a typical Nevada mine. The mine itself consists of a 300-foot tunnel, with the typical heavy timbers used in Nevada mines to support the rock walls. Full scale exhibits show the various mining operations, with some working models to illustrate the process realistically. There is also a replica of a ghost town as they appeared in the 1940's, before scavengers destroyed them. The 2nd floor includes an exhibit of the Imperial Mammoth found in Nevada's Black Rock Desert. The Museum is open from 8:30 to 4:30 and it will take the better part of the day to see everything offered there. If history is your passion, this is a must-see.

Although Reno caters to the gambling fans, you can certainly see that there is a wide range of things to do for those who are not attracted to the casinos. Our free time is limited, but think about what activities would enhance your reunion trip and get out and enjoy the area.



CREW 6 ..... 1967 – 1968. Front row: Mrs. Myers, Mr. Chalfant, Mr. Bruen, Mr. Harris, Mr. Troncale. Middle row: Webber, Yost, Rodriguez, McMullen and Fast. Back row: Dynesius, Stegman, Scheese, Yates, Fillpot and Chief Spurrell.
(Pictures courtesy of Mike Webber from the '67 – '68 Cruise Book)

Mailing Going Out to "All Hands" June 1st

At the 2002 VW-1 Reunion in Pensacola there was a question asked at the business meeting as to whether or not ALL the individuals we had ever contacted were notified of the reunion. The answer was "no". In the past we have notified only the current members of our VW-1 Association and provided them with reunion registration information. We have, however, listed each reunion in appropriate places, ie: Shift Colors, Naval Affairs, VFW Magazines; and about another half-dozen military oriented web sites.

After a discussion, the group voted to do it a little differently for the Reno reunion. They voted to notify everyone on our master contact list, not only our membership. We have a total of several hundred ex-VW-1'ers that we have contacted since forming the Association. Of these, only 170 are members. Moon Mullen volunteered to pick up the postage expense that would enable us to do a blanket mailing to all those who have been contacted about our organization in the past but chose not to join.

This mailing will go out to all non-members that we have addresses for on June 1st. It will include a letter reminding them of who we are and a registration form for their use. It will be required that they join the VW-1 Association should they decide they wish to attend the reunion.

News from Cyberspace, Etc.

John O'Brien Email Removed 2/14: "I was called into active duty in 1965. Wanted orders to flight training and got them; but the Navy found one of my eyes to read 20/30 and I was channeled into the NFO program. I found this a little upsetting but what can you do. Upon completing the NFO training I received order to VW-1, TACAMO component. Upon discharge, I returned to the Merchant Marine and have sailed for 33 years. (I retired after many years sailing as Chief Engineer. I was requested to return to sea as I am an old steam engineer and many of the ready reserve ships being retrofitted are steamships. I sailed during Desert Storm and then again retired. I was (once again, asked to return and have sailed for the past two years. I do not think I'll return. I cannot take it physically anymore and enjoy my modest ranch here in western Montana. Flying is still one of my hobbies. I hold a commercial, multi-engine, instrument rating and fly fire patrols in the Northern Rockies. As the Navy would not make me a pilot, I had to do it on my own – for a hobby."

Dean and Polly Marchione Email Removed 2/13: "I like all issues of the Tracker, but this latest one is special to me. I remembered most members of Crew 5 & 6. Alan Landon and I have been close dear friends since 1964. Gary Oulman was my crew leader when he worked in power plants. Back to the original purpose of this message. Polly and I have moved. Our new address is: Address Removed Norfolk, Address Removed Ph: Phone Removed

Ralph & Jane Link Email Removed 2/10: "Pete and you are doing a fantastic job recruiting new members and maintaining the old ones. If I ever retire, I'll be able to put forth more effort to help you out. Didn't know many of the new members with the possible exception of Wes Westberry. I also was on the first VW-1 crew to land in Vietnam. We were kept on station for returning carrier aircraft from air strikes over North Vietnam and not having enough fuel for the return to the Philippines diverted to Da Nang. Another new member may be Chief Mel Nelson. I think he flew with me on TE-00 once. Sorry to hear about Ruby Cruz, both she and Dan put up a valiant battle. I think we all have a special place in our heart for both of them. There will be a lot of hugs for Dan if he shows up in Reno. Really looking forward to Reno. Sounds like you have put together quite a party."

Tom Hull Email Removed 2/12: "I will be driving up from the Bay Area on Monday morning (Sept. 15). If anyone has a transportation problem, have them contact me. See ya' in Reno."
(**NOTE**: Tom lives in Vacaville, CA; phone Phone Removed If your interested in teaming up with him for the ride to the Reno reunion, give him a call. Thanks for your considerate offer, Tom.)

Dave & Carolyn Gerdeman Email Removed 2/11: "Got the newsletter in the mail today. I liked seeing all the new members. One name jumped out at me, LCDR Jack Hansen. Mr. Hansen or "Typhoon Jack" (called behind his back) was my boss on Crew 5. I have this memory of Typhoon Jack giving headings to the flight station from his observations through the Metro Plex-bubble, with the illumination of the landing

lights (pointing down). All the while an AT named Lonny Holloway and his gang tried to fix the radar in the eye of a Typhoon
_____? Exciting Times."

Jim & Peggy LaPosta Email Removed 2/11: "Just received the Tracker and our e-mail is listed incorrectly. The second letter is an L (small case, not an i. The Reno agenda looks terrific. Looking forward to it!!!"

Jay & Alice Hockenberry Email Removed 2/6: "I took my final drink of the MAC 321 "poison" (chemo) on 21 January. Thank goodness. As of 27 Dec. it had stopped the growth of the tumors, exactly what was the intent of the program. I'm already enrolled in some new program to be announced on 21 March. I've been feeling a good bit better for the past week or more and hope the progress continues. There are plenty of experimental programs out there from the various cancer organizations and I have the option of accepting or rejecting any or all of them. Thanks so much for the love and prayers during these trying times. Been battling this thing for more than 3 years now."

Gary & Gay Oulman Email Removed 2/14: "After selling two houses and buying one, we are still in a state of confusion. We are looking forward to the picnic in April and seeing everyone. New address is: Address Removed Port Charlotte, Address Removed Phone: Phone Removed

Don & Phyllis Martin Email Removed 3/1: "It's been over 40 years since I was an 18-year-old and assigned to VW-3 on NAS Agana, Guam. All of a sudden I have discovered that my old Navy WV squadron has an association and a web site! I thought I was the only one interested in this unusual squadron. Suggestion: Why don't we include VW-3 as part of the association? Most of VW-3's personnel and aircraft were transferred to VW-1 in June of 1960, when VW-3 was decommissioned. VW-3 had the last WV's built ...all 145 series ... and replaced all of the 143 series aircraft of VW-1, which were sent to Litchfield Park. I notice that most of these aircraft continued with VW-1 and VQ-1 for years. I had the opportunity to fly as a crew member when they were brand new ... only ferry hours from Lockheed."

Pete Armstrong Email Removed 3/22: "Been under the weather since Thanksgiving. It is no excuse for not staying in touch. As of now I must keep my feet elevated above my heart. Have legs wrapped to force fluid out. It is working. The doctors are on top of it and am slowly getting better. Have all the confidence in everyone taking care of me. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Reno."

Carl & Nancy Logdahl Email Removed 3/25: "My computer really bit the dust ... spent hours cleaning it all up. Had to be a virus of some kind. Pete is doing a super job on the web site and we wish him well in his efforts. Doing a lot of babysitting for our five-year-old granddaughter as our daughter goes for her Masters. Nancy is still working and I'm still the maid so I keep busy. As soon as the snow is gone it is wash and wax the trailer – house window washing - backyard leaves and limb pick up ... all so I can't watch too much TV !!

Ralph & Jane Link Email Removed 2/28: Note NEW E-MAIL. "Went with cable moden. Much, much, much faster. Looking forward to hearing from all."

(Continued to Page 8)

---NEW MEMBERS ---

Collucci, Gregory G. **AMH3**
Address Removed 3/69 – 6/71
Clifton, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Pat Email Removed

When arrived in VW-1, was assigned to the line crew. Shortly thereafter did 101 days in the galley (ate good!); then line crew, then SERE school and OWest in Coranoto, CA. 9/69 went to air frames shop. Made E4 in Oct; then check crew. In '70 started flying, augmented with Crew 7. Then was assigned Crew 3. Last det to Danang was mixed crew VW-1 & VQ-1, June '71.

Green, William (Bill) **ATW3**
Address Removed 1/65-8/66
Littleton, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Kathy Email Removed

Started out at Barbers Point where I attended a couple of aircrew schools. Arrived in Guam in March. My duties were in the CIC office and doing training for both enlisted and officers in the CIC trailer. I was assigned to Crew 6 and flew over 2500 hours as a CIC operator. I later changed my ATW rating to ATR. This period in my 4-year enlistment was the most enjoyable and the most memorable of my Navy days. I loved the Connie and have always thought of it as one of the best aircraft ever built.

Mancini, Ronald **AT2**
Address Removed 3/58 – 5/60
Bushnell, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Jane Email Removed

Was in VW-3. Started in electronic stores. Flight Crew tech. on PM3, electronics crew chief PM-6. Shipped out just before VW-3 was broken up and Made part of VW-1. Went to radar school in Biloxi, MS. with many shipmates that were then sent to VW-1.

Martin, Don (Martinez) **ACW3**
Address Removed 11/59 – 3/61
East Hampton, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Phyllis Email Removed

Reported to VW-3 and flew as CIC operator on Crew 7. When VW-3 was decommissioned (6/60) I was transferred to VW-1 and assigned to Crew 11, where I also flew as CIC operator.

NOTE:

Share Your Memorabilia

Another highlight at "reunions past" has been the memorabilia table. Look through your scrapbooks, your cruise books, pictures, etc. and see what you can bring to share with the group. Literally HOURS are spent at each reunion poring through the memorabilia.

This year we are going to have a larger area in which to display everything and that should make it easier to enjoy the memories.

Neely, Robert (Bud) **AE3**
Address Removed '63 – '65
Tempe, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Nancy Email Removed

On TE-6 – electrician and cook. Was on TE00's Trip to Korea for orphanage in '64. Flew into Viet Nam, PI, Japan, Okinawa and Hawaii.

Shaver, Richard **ATR2**
Address Removed 6/69 – 12/71
Bremerton, WA Phone Removed
Wife: Debbie Email Removed

Went to A school for radar, but VW-1 made me a Radioman. I did all the standard stuff of any crew – flew a lot of hours over a lot of ocean for a few moments of excitement. I also flew recon in the Gulf. Wound up doing a carrier approach there on our CO's last deployment. Almost also wound up flying into the mountains of N. Vietnam when We were flying blind trying to fix the radar and relying on a carrier to keep an eye on us.

Thomas, James (Jim) **ACW2**
Address Removed '57 – '59
Paris, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Beverly Email Removed

I transferred from VW12, Barbers Point, HI. Was on Crew 3, with Lt. Olsen as Plane Commander. Then assigned to communications office on ground. Loved the tours in Japan, Okinawa, Phillipines, etc.

Anyone for an Auction?

This question was asked in a survey following the Pensacola reunion and the answer was a resounding "YES". For some reason, our members seem to find this one of the most amusing parts of the reunions!!

We sure do get a variety of things brought for auctioning. For example:

A San Miguel beer from the Phillippines from Jack Gergal; a survival knife from Lowell Buswell, and a Guam banner from the Madsen's.

A US Navy buckle from the Stinson's, plus a wild rice blueberry muffin mix, plus tee shirts, etc.

A 1 oz. pure silver 85 Prospector Commemorative coin from Al Landon – very unique!

Wow! Talk about memories .... a jukebox token from Marie T's from Gary Oulman.

A NATOPS Manual from Bob Kral; a Fiddler's Green decal from Moon Mullen; and a sunflower tee shirt from the Lange's.

The list goes on and on – framed pictures, food, Christmas stuff, garden plaques, etc Your only limited by your imagination!

The hot sellers seemed to be those with a VW-1 logo on them somewhere. The clock with the Igoo in the center, brought by Larry Morris, had fierce bidding. Jack Gergal finally won out at a bid of $ 235.00 There was also a great towel set with the VW-1 logo, made by Maizie Rice, that Madsen's "won" for $ 65.00.

Big bidders, these guys! But, also remember that the decision had been made to purchase a laptop computer for the Association with the proceeds from the auction, so the bidding probably went "above and beyond" the usual.

The auction in Reno will be Wednesday evening, following the business meeting and dinner. Put your imagination to work and bring something to be auctioned off.

Also, don't forget your MEMORABILIA for all the gang to look at and ENJOY!



HANDS ON DECK .... at the VW-1 picnic included (l to r) Don Ray, Jim Reddy and George Dean.

VW-1 FLORIDA PICNIC

On April 5th a few of our Florida members got together and told sea stories. The weather cooperated and we enjoyed a beautiful day while eating and chatting.

Those who came aboard were:

Jim & Dora Reddy	Belleview
Don and Helen Ray	The Villages
William and Judy Rea	Satellite Beach
Bob and Polly Thomas	Sarasota
Bob Ricksecker	Leesburg
George and Christine Dean	**GA**

It was a particular delight that the Deans were able to come all the way from Georgia to spend the day with us. The big disappointment of the day was that Gary and Gay Oulman, who had planned to attend, had a death in the family and had to travel to Ohio. They were sorely missed and our sympathy goes out to them.

Spending time with old shipmates is always a pleasure and the picnic was no exception. There were big plans to take several pictures, but we got so busy visiting that we, unfortunately, only got a few.

News from Cyberspace, Etc. ..... (Continued from Page 5)

George & Christine Dean Email Removed 4/7: "Just spent a day or two in FL with a picnic at Ed Metzger's house. Happened to be mostly mechs, but Bob Thomas also attended. Also this past week, I had an e-mail from the son of Ralph Ptacek, who was a flight mech on TE-5 for a time. He passed away in '92.

Myron & Jackie Price Email Removed 4/8: "I sold my old place, so have a new address: Address Removed Citrus Heights, Address Removed Will be gone for a few months this summer, but will be back for reunion in Reno".

Jim & Beverly Thomas Email Removed 4/15. "What happened to "Red Devil Squad"? We weren't known as "Typhoon Trackers in '57 when I was there."

Roy & Pat Zimmerman Email Removed 4/25: "Note my e-mail has changed to Email Removed

Dave Cousineau Email Removed 4/27: "Would love to have the opportunity to get together with members of VW-1. I have only contacted Pete Wasmund, who now lives in Millington, TN. He reported to VW-1 with me. We spent our training days flying at the USNAVCIC school in Brunswick, GA. Some of my fondest memories are the days flying out of Agana."



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

Reno Reunion Registration Form

September 15 – 18, 2003

Deadline June 16, 2003

Please note that your registration money is 100% refundable through August 31, 2003. We ask for early registration to facilitate making contracts and arrangements for the proper number of people that plan to attend.

TOTAL PKG: COUPLES: **$ 580.00** SINGLE: **$ 420.00**

Name(s): _____

_____

Type of Room: Double _____ King _____ Smoking_____ Non-Smoking_____

Check here _____ if bringing a pet. Holiday Inn has designated floors & requires a surcharge.

Included above: Four nights at the Holiday Inn North w/continental breakfast each morning. Buffet Monday at Registration. Bus trip Tuesday to Ponderosa Ranch (with lunch),) and a cruise on Lake Tahoe. Wednesday dinner after business meeting. Thursday evening "Night on the Town" with buffet and show. Meeting room for entire four days w/soft drinks, beer and snacks. All tips and taxes also included

ABOVE EVENTS: **$ 160.00 Per Person**
Includes all of the above trips & meals; DOES NOT INCLUDE four nights at hotel & Continental Breakfast

Name(s): _____

_____

OPTIONAL EVENTS: Please note two of these trips are Wednesday, Sept. 17th
(You may select **either one – not both**. Please note additional cost to above prices for these optional trips)

Fallon Air Force Base: 7:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost: **$ 15.00** per person
Tour of Fallon AFB & Top Gun School. "All you can eat" lunch at Galley at your own expense.

Name(s): _____

Virginia City Tour: 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Cost: $ 15.00** per person
Tour of Historic Virginia City. Stop in Virginia City for shopping and lunch at your own expense.

Names(s): _____

Golf Tournament: 8:00 a.m. to ???

Name(s): _____
Green fees for this event will be collected Monday, Sept. 15th by Pete Wasmund

(Over)

Please circle the costs of those things you are doing and return with your check in the correct amount, payable to:

Sally Metzger, VW-1 Treasurer, Address Removed **Inverness,** Address Removed

* * * * * * * * * * * *

If you have signed up for the VW-1 Reunion on the reverse side of this form, you need not read any further. This section is strictly for those members who do not have plans to participate in the reunion in its entirety.

Think you "don't have the time"? Well, maybe you do!!

If your availability is limited, but you would like to visit the VW-1 Reunion, we recommend you visit at one (or both) of the two times listed below, since that is when most attendees should be in the meeting room.

Drop-Ins:

Monday, Sept. 15 – 1 to 11 p.m.: **$ 20.00** per person
(Includes buffet from 1 to 6 p.m.)

Wed., Sept. 17 – 5 to 11 p.m. **$ 30.00** per person
(Includes buffet dinner 6 to 7 p.m.)

Name(s): _____
Monday

_____

Name(s): _____
Wednesday:

_____

Please note that three optional trips are listed on the front of this form:

Fallon Air Force Base and **Virginia City** – both on Wed., September 17th.
and the **Golf Tournament** on Thursday, September 18th.
You may include these optional trip as selected events, if you so desire.

Please circle the dollar values of those events you have selected and make a check out for the correct amount payable to Sally Metzger, VW-1 Treasurer and send to::

Sally Metzger, VW-1 Treasurer, Address Removed **Inverness,** Address Removed

If you have any question, e-mail us – Ed and Sally Metzger –
at Email Removed or phone Phone Removed