ISSUE 14 VW-1 TRACKER AUGUST 2003

ONE LAST TIME .....

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

After 18 months of waiting, Reunion #4 is right around the corner. Thanks go to all of you who were able to register early. It helps tremendously in the planning process to be able to make the necessary deposits, determine bus requirements, etc. We have 44 rooms at the host hotel and approximately 95 guests planning to come. It is our largest reunion turnout to date.

For those of you who were unable to make an early commitment, this is a reminder that it is not too late to join us in Reno. If you now find you can come, get in contact with us asap. Phone: Phone Removed or e-mail: Email Removed
Final counts for all events are due August 29th.

MEMBERS WHO ARE "RENO BOUND"

Anderson, Ron & Carolyn	OR	LaPosta, Jim & Peggie	NY
Becker, Fred & Simone	OR	Lee, Dick & Gwen	NM
Bleakney, Richard & Lowena	NV	Linendoll, John & Joetta	CA
Borrowman, Darold & Mary	MN	Link, Ralph & Jane	IL
Brice, Gerald and Mildred	TN	Madsen, Al & Joanne	WI
Bryant, Carl & Velma	CA	Martinez, Cruz	TX
Buswell, Lowell & Sheila	OR	Metzger, Ed & Sally	FL
Cousineau, Dave & Mary Ann	NY	Monohan, Norbert & Linda	NV
Cruz, Dan	CA	Morgan, Paul & Hazel	MD
Eskew, Eldon & Karen	AZ	Morris, Larry & Sheila	OK
Galinsky, Jim	CA	Mosness, Randy & Jan	NV
Garbani, Dave & Nancy	CA	Mullen, Moon & Nadine	CA
Garcia, Jesus & Betty	TX	O'Reilly, Bob & Flo	OK
Goodson, Jim & Gerri w/	FL	Oulman, Gary & Gay	FL
Johnson, Jim & Patsy as guests		Pendray, Merlin & Ethel	OR
Green, Bill & Kathy	CO	Price, Myron & Jackie	CA
Hamilton, Howard & Jean	TX	Ray, Don	FL
Houdek, John & Kaneko	CA	Rice, Jim & Maizie	CA
Hull, Tom & Jerry Graham	CA	Stinson, Jim and Nancy	MN
Johnston, Robert & Ginny	CA	Stotts, Mack & Judy	TX
Jones, Bill & Lou	AZ	Tandy, Jim & Ruth	TX
Keighley, Ray & Sue	KS	Tipton, Buster & Cathy	LA
Kleinhesselink, Art & Jan	CA	Vilsack, Joe & Mary Ann	CA
Koeber, Charles	CA	Wasmund, Pete & Dottie	TN
Koshlap, Don	NJ	White, LeRoy	TX
Lange, Charles & Sandra	MS	Zarich, Victor & Charlotte	MN

News from Cyberspace, Etc.

Emmett Owens (5/2) Email Removed "I found your address in the Legion Magazine. I still have a thing for the Connies. I have looked at the 1049 of "Save a Connie" whenever it goes to Oshkosh. I have two planes of my own and would love to have an EC121, but who can afford one."

Scott Wagner (5/6) Email Removed "As I look back, I remember VW-1 and Guam fondly. No company or other Navy squadron would have given that kind of responsibility at the age of 21 to 23 years of age with only two years of college."

Pete Wasmund (5/9) Email Removed "Received the VW-1 Tracker today and it looks like I have some updating of my data base to do. Enjoyed reading it, however, I do have one comment. The picture of Crew 6 shows one of the officers as MRS. Myers. Is this a typo or is there a story there? (No story, Pete, just a senior moment.)

Bill Green (5/12) Email Removed "Just got the latest Tracker, which reminded me about the reunion and your plans to drive out. My plan is to leave here on Sunday and stop overnight in Utah, making it into Reno early afternoon on Monday. It was odd to see the picture of Crew 6, circa 67-68 My guess is it must be '68 as I do not recognize one name that flew with me. How quickly things change!! I am looking forward to reacquainting myself with my old VW-1 friends and making some new ones."

Pete Armstrong (5/17) Email Removed "Still improving, but not out of the woods yet. Looking forward to Reno."

Donn Sjolander (5/18) Email Removed "It is questionable if I will be in attendance at the '03 Reno reunion. I haven't yet adjusted to traveling alone, etc. following Bev's death last year. Have a good reunion."

Arthur Winter (5/21) "Sorry I won't be able to attend this year's reunion. "Hi" to all.

Dan Gimmel (5/28) Email Removed "Great making contact with your group. Unless my physical condition changes, I won't be able to join you in September in Reno. Best regards to all. Will appreciate the newsletters."

Alan O'Martin (6/8) Email Removed "Forty years ago – 12 April 1963 – I was 17. I joined the Navy. A year later I was flying barrier patrols in AEWBARRONPAC, then chased typhoons and other things in VW-1; then chased junks in Market Time in VP-50. All before I was 21! WOW!"

Randy Mosness (6/9) Email Removed "Can't get a lot of time off during the reunion time in September. Planning on coming up on one of the nights and maybe (if it is possible) joining one of the tours. Anyway of paying for these separately? I was really looking forward to spending a few days visiting, but we will have a Top Gun class going at the time, so have to work."

(Note Randy's name on our "attendee list, page 1. A short visit is better than no visit.)

Wes Westberry (6/10) Email Removed "I am a teacher; however, only for two to three more years. My wife is also a teacher and we will retire together. Almost five years ago my ticker required a quad bypass. Would not retire then so years of rehab has done wonders. My next goal is to secure my medical and continue being a birdman and never grow up. We will not be able to make the reunion; so please have some fun for us. I have tried to contact Ralph Link but couldn't connect. If you have contact, please hyper-link me. Thanks."

Ernie Clark (6/12) "I made ATW-2 before I left Guam. From Guam I went to Barber's Point and flew the barrier for about a year before I got out of the Navy. Now I teach people to fly. I'd like to come to the reunion, but I have to stay here and fly my plane. I'm trying to earn enough this year to buy a second plane next spring. This new one would be in the light sport plane category that is expected to be announced at Oshkosh this August."

(Note: Ernie, you need to get together with Emmett Owens and talk planes.)

Al Madsen (6/14) Email Removed "Only put around 400 miles on my motorcycle so far this year. Will get a couple hundred more this coming weekend though, as I am going to a rally. Enjoying it and plan on making a couple more short trips. See ya' in Reno."

Dave Brundage (6/24) "Don't see how I can make Reno. Too much on the schedule. This being retired keeps you too busy. I was looking forward to Reno, but just too busy.

LeRoy White (6/26) Email Removed "Wife June has been doing fantastic in PT. She also has a new hat. I saw a cotton Hawaiian Boater at Wal-Mart and said "that is her". She has a collection at Deer Creek, and is known as the Hat Girl. Almost a different one every day. The PT session today was walking in the parallel bars, forward and backwards. Then about 20 feet down the hall with a walker and 20 turns with the ground bicycle pedals. She had a day. First time that she has been on her feet in over a year. It is beautiful to see !!!

Darold & Mary Borrowman (6/27) Email Removed "We do plan to attend the Reno reunion, even have the forms filled out. Darold has had some health issues this past year, so wanted to make sure things were on the uphill swing before we committed. Things are looking good, so we will send in the registration this weekend. We have enjoyed the reunions. Looking forward to seeing all of you. Have a wonderful summer."

Roy & Linda Hermecz (7/3) Email Removed "Just got home from hospital in Mobile after total larynx removal for cancer. Will not be at reunion in Reno, but maybe next time." Address: Address Removed Summerdale, AL

Frank & Charlotte Mackey (7/11) "Oops! We have moved and forgot to notify you! New address: Address Removed Milton, Address Removed

Nick Simmons (Note of 7/14) "Sorry the dues are late, but just got out of the hospital last night. I had six bypasses in 1992, now I am having chest pain again. I feel great today. I was an ADR in VW-1 from Dec. 1965 until Dec. 1967. Flew with Crew 7 with Dan Cruz and Chief Beckworth pushing throttles. Tell everyone I said hello."

(Continued to Page 6)

New Members

Amaral, Joseph Jr. **AK1**
Address Removed 5/63 – 5/65
Wildwood, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Catherine

Assigned to Supply/Material. PO in charge of Material Division

Frederick, Becker **ATN2**
Address Removed 7/64 – 10/66
Roseburg, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Simone Email Removed

3rd Tech on TE6; 2nd Tech on TE7; and Crew Chief on TE6. Flew with many crews as Electronic crew chief.

Joseph (Joe) Cloud **AT2**
Address Removed 10/68/10/69
Bothell, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Sandy Email Removed

Radio operator w/Crews 2 and 5, mostly 5. Worked on TACAN, etc. at Chu Lai.

Jim Dorsey **ATW3**
Address Removed 1961 – 1964
Highwood, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Lee Email Removed

"Scope Dope" on Crew 7; also deployed with other crews, as needed. Best duty tour I had in 20 years!

Dave Cousineau **AT2**
Address Removed 1960 – 1962
Penfield, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Mary Ann Email Removed

ECC aboard TE-4. Flew mostly task force 77 Fleet Air coverage, some weather recon, and survival.

Daniel Gimmel **CPO**
Address Removed 1955 – 1957
Connellsville, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Clara Email Removed

Power plants, night check CPO. Promoted to CWO and transferred to Barrier Squadron. Retired after 31 years as Lcdr.

Harry Jaggard **ATR3**
Address Removed 3/67 -8/69
Canyon, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Linda Email Removed

Survival training Instructor. Flew with Crew 4 ; occasionally with Crew 9 to Det"C", PI, Tainwan, Japan, Wake and Kwaj.

Charles (Chuck) Johnson **ACW3**
Address Removed 6/58 – 1/59
Coeburn, Address Removed Phone Removed

Flew as aircrew with TE-1.

Donald Koshlap **Lt**
Address Removed 8/68 – 8/70
Matawan, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Betsy Email Removed

Flight schedule officer/Division officer-parachute loft. 3P & 2P with Crew 8; A/C with Crew 1 when CO didn't fly.

John L. Moody **AT2**
Address Removed 12/58 – 6/60
Pembroke, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Yoko Email Removed

APS-20D "C" School at Barbers Point; Electronics supply room, radar tech w/TE-7

Paul Morgan, Jr. **AT3**
Address Removed 7/54 – 7/56
Hagerstown, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Hazel Email Removed

Radioman on PB1-W, WV-1, WV-2. Worked in electronics office. TDY to Atsugi for three months with flight crew.

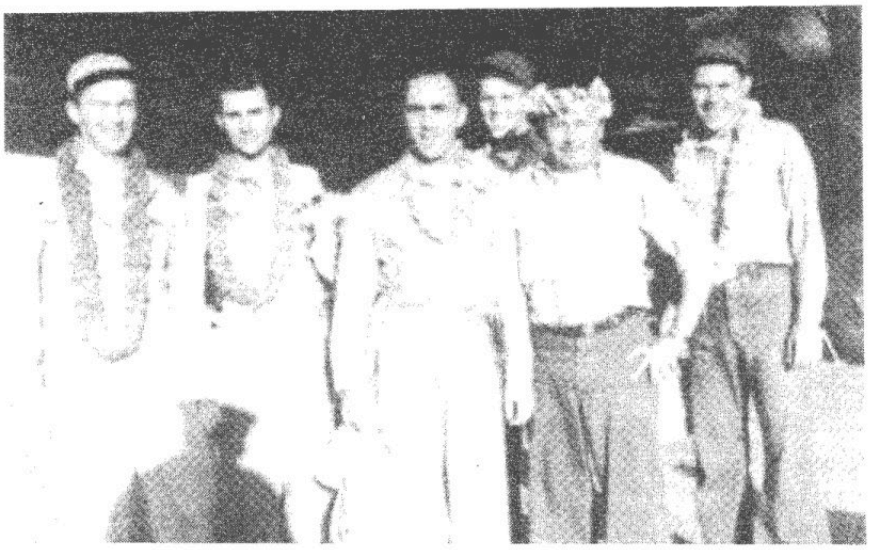
Emmett Owens **AE3**
Address Removed 0/69 – 06/70
Madison, Address Removed Phone Removed
Email Removed

Worked in check crew first six months; rest of the time in the AE shop.

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Bit of History on BuNo 77226

BuNo 77226 was built by Douglas in Long Beach. Construction Number 32496, and was delivered to the USAAF as B-17G-95-DL, serial number 44-83857 on 3 July 1945. It was then transferred to the Navy on 14 July 1945 and after conversion at NAMU it was assigned to VX-4 in December 1947. In June 1948 it was assigned to the Special Project Unit at NAS Squantum, MA.



TransPac Crew of BuNo. 77226 – 7 June 1952 ..... arrival at NAS Barbers Point, Territory of Hawaii. LCdr. Mill, Plane Commander; Lt. Sokol, Co-Pilot; LtJg. Goodman, Navigator; Al Dalton (AR1), Radioman; A. "Pappy" Herzing (AD1), Plane Captain; and George Stewart (AD3), Ass't Plane Captain.

In February 1951 it was transferred to Norfolk for overhaul and in November 1951 it was assigned to VC-11 at Miramar. It was one of the four aircraft that moved with the VC-11 group from Miramar to Hawaii in June 1952, just prior to commissioning as AEWRON ONE. 77226 was one of three PB-1Ws flown by VW-1 crews in February and March 1953, operating out of K3 airbase at Pohang, Korea and NAS Atsugi, Japan, providing AEW service to 7th fleet units during combat operations.

These were the last "B-17s" in U.S. Colors to engage in wartime operations for the United States. After overhaul in 1953, 77226 continued to serve in VW-1 until January 1955 when it was transferred to storage at NAF Litchfield Park. It was stricken from the Navy inventory on 10 July 1956 with 3,026 flight hours logged.

77226 was sold to Aero Service Corp. of Philadelphia in 1957 for $ 15,010. It remained in storage until resold to Aero Enterprises of Fresno, CA, who in turn sold it to Aero Flite of Cody, WY in March 1966. In June 1967 it was modified with four 600 gallon fire retardant tanks. It was destroyed during fire bombing operations on 29 August 1967.

VW-1 Web Site a Huge Success

http://vw1assoc.tripod.com/home.html

If you haven't "tuned in" to the VW-1 web site, you are missing a treat. Pete Wasmund has done a fantastic job with it. It is very complete in showing just what our VW-1 Association is all about. There are pictures of past reunions, the membership roster, some history, ship's store information .... you name it, it's there!

On the commentary page are contributions from many of our members, including: George Stewart, Jay Hockenberry, Rick Clarke, Larry Morris, Jerry Kastigar, Carl Logdahl, Jim Tandy, George Stewart, Ben Steers, Bill Fellers, and John O'Brien. It is obvious the web site is appreciated. In July we received a membership from Harry Jaggard, our first member who took the application from the web site and joined up. It works!!

GREAT JOB, PETE .....

WHERE SHOULD THE VW-1 REUNION #5 BE?

GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT AND BRING YOUR IDEAS AND "SALES POINTS" TO RENO

LOCATION AND DATE OF REUNION #5 WILL BE VOTED UPON AT THE BUSINESS MEETING ON WEDNESDAY EVENING

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 3)

Jim & Dora Reddy (7/11) Email Removed "We need to cancel out from the Reno reunion. The doctors have discovered a spot on Dora's throat and she is scheduled for surgery next Wednesday."

(Note: Our thoughts and prayers are with Dora. For you reunion goers, you may remember the great job the Reddy's did in Pensacola manning the Ship's Store for the duration of the reunion. Dora, along with Gwen Lee, was locked in a historic house – also in Pensacola. Their address is: Address Removed Belleview, Address Removed

Frank Mackey (7/14) Email Removed "We have been busy and have experienced some minor medical setbacks, but nothing serious. We will not be able to attend the September event due to other family members health conditions that warrant our assistance. Wish we could go, but timing is not right. Our phone number has changed and I also have a fax number. Phone: Phone Removed and fax: Phone Removed Keep the newsletters coming!"

Bill & Kathy Fellers (7/15) Email Removed "Kathy and I are not going to make the reunion in Reno. It seems like everything is happening this year with kids and family. We have been back East twice to see the new grandson and need to go again in August. Kathy's Dad died a few days ago so we are going to move her mother to Joplin in August. We are both really sorry we will not make it. Please tell all hello, and wish them good years in the future. I will mail you two items for the auction. I think you'll get good vibes in selling them. I would expect you to get top dollar for each."

Ralph & Jane Link (7/20) Email Removed "I tracked down my old buddy and fellow flight engineer, Charlie Gagnon. However, it was sad news. Charlie died in 1990. I'm waiting for more info from his wife Ann, who lives in Imperial Beach, CA, so I can give it to Pete to post on the web site. For the short time I talked to her, I found she is one of us. I told her about our reunion in Reno and asked her if she could come to meet a few of Charlie's old shipmates. If at all possible, she would like to attend. I've e-mailed her all the info about the reunion and will stay in touch."

Charles & Barbara Rice (7/20) Email Removed "We were looking forward to another great time with all you guys in Reno, but the timing is just not right this year. We both have mothers needing our help, plus we are trying to build a new home in the country. We are still very interested in the goings on and look forward to getting together again soon.

Dave & Carolyn Gerdeman (7/23) Email Removed "We are about to move again. My job here in San Antonio is about finished and I am looking for my next position. I've been looking on the east coast – maybe Norfolk or Langley AFB, or Florida. Maybe even back in Ohio. I want to stay out of the DC area. We purchased four wooded acres with a boat dock in Pamlico County, NC. I could retire next year but want to get our youngest girl through college first."

Maintaining Membership

From Ed Metzger, VW-1 Association President

Since 28 VW-1 Association members have not yet renewed their dues for the current year, we take this opportunity to remind folks that the dues expire on the 31st of May each year.

Please **look at the date on the label** that is attached to this newsletter to see your expiration date. If the date on the label is 05/31/03 or earlier your dues have expired. Widows are exempt from paying dues.

When a members dues expire, they stay on the roster as an active member until August 31, allowing a three month grace period. After that date, they are removed from the mailing list and will receive no further newsletters.

We do understand how things can change in one's lives and how things can be put aside and forgotten. If you have over-looked your dues and wish to continue your membership, just drop a check in the mail for $ 15.00 made out to Sally Metzger, VW-1 Treasurer.

If you are unable to continue your VW-1 membership, you will be missed.
We wish you good health and happiness.

New Members (Continued from Page 4)

Robert Spare **ENS**
Address Removed 4/57-12/59
Pasadena, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Judy Email Removed

Crew 5. AI Officer, Navigator

Irvin Tipton (Buster) **AG3**
Address Removed 1/65 – 9/66
Donaldsonville, Contact Details Removed
Wife: Cathy

Meteorology Shop; 1st Weather on Crew 6

Jack Tow **LTJG**
Address Removed 8/62 – 10/64
Marietta, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Betty Sue Email Removed

Admiin/Airframes. Assigned to Crew 7. Airframes under Cdr. Big Ed Miller.

Anthony Vilsack (Joe) **AE2**
Address Removed 1957 – 1959
Upland, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Mary Ann Email Removed
Flight Crew Assignments were R7V; TE6 and TE1. Flew as 1st Electrician.

Scott Wagner **AX3**
Address Removed 11/65 – 7/67
Elgin, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Marie
Email Removed

Worked in CIC; also as clerk for CO's Gibbs and Barton. I was CIC operator with crews 7 & 6; then Tactical Coordinator for crews 3 & 6.

New E-Mail Addresses

As the dues renewals rolled in, we found that many members have new e-mail addresses. Following are those we changed in our records:

Richard Bleakney	Email Removed
Vaughn Callison	Email Removed
Cecil Cook	Email Removed
William Dutra	Email Removed
Robert Garrison	Email Removed
Dale Gladden	Email Removed
Ron Golden	Email Removed
Taco Hernandez	petecrew.1Email Removed
Jerald Kolterman	Email Removed
Bob Kral	Email Removed
John Kreutzer	Email Removed
James LaPosta	Email Removed
Cruz Martinez	Email Removed
Ralph Nelson	Email Removed
Bob Orsini	Email Removed
Fred Parkhurst	Email Removed
Arthur Phillips	Email Removed
Merlin Pendray	Email Removed
Don Ray	Email Removed
Jack Reese	Email Removed
John Rice	Email Removed
John Sill	Email Removed
Donn Sjolander	Email Removed
Jim Stinson	Email Removed
Eugene Thiele	Email Removed
Lee Thompson	Email Removed
Phil Toops	Email Removed
Bob Weaver	Email Removed
Ben Steers	Email Removed

FINAL GOLF TOURNAMENT PLANS PENDING

Pete Wasmund

So far, 20 reunion attendees have signed up for golf. They are listed on the Association website on the Reno Reunion roster page. The three courses who responded to me were North Gate, Rosewood Lakes, and Wild Creek. We will be playing North Gate at $ 40.00 per person, including clubs, green fees, etc., which is the least expensive of the three.

I have been considering getting golf balls with our logo on them and include a sleeve or two for each of the golfers. This would require that we get 12 dozen golf balls minimum at about $ 20 per dozen. Prices will vary $ 5 or so, depending on the brand. This cost would have to be distributed amongst the golfers and it would be about $ 10 to $ 15 per golfer, if we get average quality balls. Leftover balls would be distributed as prizes such as closest to the pin, fewest putts, etc. It takes about two weeks to order and receive balls from the supplier, so your quick response to the questions below would be appreciated. Thanks to those who have already responded via e-mail.

Also, if any of you VW-1 Association members unable to attend the reunion would be interested in these personalized balls, let us know. Contact:

Pete Wasmund Email Removed
Address Removed Arlington, Address Removed
Phone Removed

Ed & Sally Metzger Email Removed
Address Removed Inverness, Address Removed
Phone Removed

Would you be willing to pay the extra for logo golf balls? Yes or No

Would you prefer to play using your own score or best of two or four balls (scramble)?
Or do you have another format in mind? Feel free to make any other comments.



Address Removed

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