ISSUE 16 VW-1 TRACKER JANUARY 2004

Myrtle Beach, SC Reunion

May 2nd through May 5th, 2005

WOW! Wait until you see the great place we will be staying in Myrtle Beach in May 2005. It is right on the beach and all attendees will get ocean front rooms! Nothing like waking up in the morning and looking out to the sun and surf. They tell me that the May dates should make the outside water activities possible.

The host hotel will be Sand Dunes Resort. It is located on the northern end of the Strand, right on the beach. Our meeting room is on the ground floor with doors opening onto a patio that then flows into the beach. The package will include a full buffet breakfast Tuesday through Friday morning and they will cook your eggs, omelet or waffle to order.

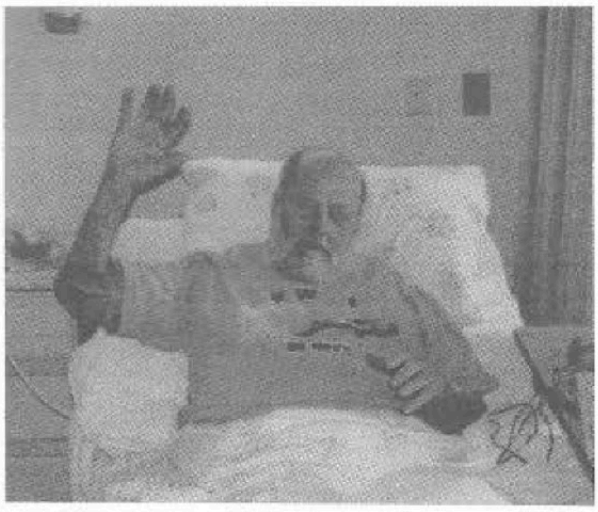
We (Ed, Sally and Morgan) took a trip to Myrtle Beach January 2nd to stay at each of the three hotels we had been considering. Number one was easy to decline, since it turned out to be less than clean. Number two would have been okay, but the very small buffet allowed smoking and the food was not very good. Still, we felt we might be able to make it work, so put it on our "maybe" list. We had saved the best for last and the Sand Dunes did not let us down.

We had a difficult time finding it, only because the Sand Dunes has several properties and their names are similar, thereby confusing. But once we did find it, it was well worth the search. We will make sure all attendees get specific directions so that you don't have the same problem we did. The group sales gal we will be working with is very cooperative and we are confident she will do right by our group.

The Sand Dunes also has a very nice outside pool complex that includes what they call a "Lazy River". For those of you who might not know what that is, you just grab a tube and jump in .... the current carries you round and round. It is so very relaxing. Hotel #2 had one indoors that we used. Morgan spent hours in it and when I gave it a try it was so relaxing to just "bob" along that I just wanted to nap. And, or course, for you beach lovers, you can not only listen to the surf, but go hunt a few shells and stroll the beach.

Now that we have the host hotel nailed down and the dates firm, check your calendars and make sure you do not schedule any conflicts. We want to see all the old faithful members from prior reunions in Myrtle Beach, and hope to see as many new faces as we had in Reno. You can count on having a good time.

Obituaries



Lt. Cmdr. Don Brouillard
Sept. 14, 1930 – November 21, 2003

Don died after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. He served with VW-1 in the mid-60's and was highly respected by those who knew him. We had the opportunity to make contact with Don during his last few months and In the picture above you can see he is wearing a VW-1 t-shirt.

VW-1 member, Charles Koeber, visited him in the hospital in mid-Nov. and reported "he spoke of VW-1 a lot."

At his memorial service, son Doug told how Don was always willing to help out and that he had the heart of a teacher. He knew the right way to motivate people. Those of us who had the privilege of work-with him can vouch for that.

Terry, Don's wife, asked we thank each and everyone of you for being a good friend and shipmate to Don.

Billie June (Nutt) White
January 11, 1924 – January 2, 2004

LeRoy White, Billie June's husband of 53 years, was a VW-1'er who served from 8/67 to 8/70. LeRoy and June have a daughter, Gerida Brown, who lives in Houston, TX.

Although in a nursing care center for most of the past five years, June never lost her presence. She remained cheerful and smart mouthed to the last – traits that endeared her to everyone around her. Always with a comeback to any question or remark made to her. She went to sleep Thursday night of New Year's Day and didn't wake up the next morning.

Trace Moore
Died October 26, 2003

Trace was with VW-1 from 2/62 to 8/64. He flew with Crew 4. He had only joined the VW-1 Association in June of '02, so was a recent member. His daughter, Angela, told George Dean "he thoroughly enjoyed speaking with you and receiving mail and e-mail about some old Navy friends".

On Trace's membership applicaton he wrote: "Great bunch of guys in VW-1. Loved every minute of it and would do it again in a heartbeat!"



CORRIGIDOR TRIP, NOVEMBER '64 .....
Notice the San Miguel beer. (L to R) C. Jordon, AMS2, Flight Metalsmith; G. Dean, AT1, Crew Chief; G. Mollencop, Ens., CIC Officer; R. Curran, Ltjg, Navigator; A. Horton, AG2, Flight Weatherman and C. Minter, ADR1, Flight Engineer. *(Photo courtesy of Bob Pregitzer)*

SMILING FACES . . .

One of the greatest things about the Reno reunion was the number of members who came to their very FIRST VW-1 All Hands Reunion. Just want to take this chance to introduce you to a few of them.



Bob & Flo O'Reilly, Edmund, OK
(11/59 – 2/61)



Buster & Kathy Tipton, Donaldsonville, LA
(AG3 – 1/65 to 9/66)



Fred & Simone Becker, Roseburg, OR
(ATN2 – 7/64 – 10/66)



Jerry & Mildred Brice, Chattanooga, TN
(AT3 – 1/60 – 12/61)

News from Cyberspace, Etc.

Ron & Carolyn Anderson (10/08) Letter: "We were delighted we were able to make the trip to Reno and meet all the VW-1 members. Some had even been in Newfoundland like we were. Ron was actually also in VW-16, VW-14 and VW-11, plus flew in the Connie at PMR for six years! So he has many, many hours of flight time in them. When he saw the real VW-Connie model, it was a must have for him. Thank you for the phone number so he can call and try to acquire one. The reunion was a real "upper" for Ron, and for me too, for that matter. Maybe we can make the reunion on the east coast in 2005, although I don't think I want to drive that far! We'll have to fly."

Dick Lee (10/15) Email Removed "I had a good report from my doctor. No more cancer. He got it all on the first try. I have a 2nd check up on December 8, then next September for another, but our Lord heard our prayers and the doctor helped. The Doc said if I had waited 3 or 4 months, I'd be in big trouble."

LeRoy White (10/17) Email Removed "The Photo CD project is done. I mailed 65 units today, one to each attendee address, plus a few extras to some who couldn't make it, but were at Pensacola. I have a few spare copies, and can make more if anyone else wants a copy."
(Thanks go to LeRoy for providing all Reno attendees with literally dozens of computer pictures of the reunion. Your greatly appreciated, LeRoy.)

Victor & Charlotte Zarich (10/22) Letter: "Ralph Link steered me to Pam (our hospitality room contact) late Friday morning on Sept. 19th and she called to reserve a couple of tickets for us at that fabulous Johnny Mathis show. I saw Dan Cruz in the lobby just before the show. Perhaps there were others that had stayed an extra night and saw the show, too."
(Right on! Ralph and Jane Link invited Ed and I to attend with them. Ed declined (being stuck on western music) but I went and we all agreed it was a great show! Mathis still has that wonderful mellow sound.)

Dick & Lowena Bleakney (10/24) Email Removed Note new e-mail address. "Thanks again for the bottle of wine and the certificate. It was an honor to be involved in the reunion and to help as much as I could to get this great bunch of people together. They were super guys when we served together and they still are. Now that most of us are married, we have added the enjoyment of getting to know all the ladies that are so special to us."

Carol Dodge (10/25) Email Removed "Sorry to be so late in writing, but I usually have to stand in line to get to my computer as the granddaughters are either on it or the phone. I just want you to know we had a blast at the reunion. It was so much fun and sorry we couldn't be there for all of it. Pam was so impressed and it was good for her to meet some of the friends her father and I made on Guam and through the reunions. She's looking forward to the next reunion. She laughed so hard at Ed and Mac's comments and enjoyed sharing the table with all of you. "

Dave & Mary Ann Cousineau (11/11) Email Removed "We enjoyed your article on how the VW-1 Association began. Both Mary Ann and I are looking forward to the Myrtle Beach reunion in 2005. As we in New York say, 'yuse guys" did a great job in setting up the Reno event."

Lowell & Sheila Buswell (11/13) Email Removed "Once again, thanks for a great reunion in Reno. It is amazing how much we both look forward to seeing you all. Many fine memories of VW-1 are lied about, chewed over and laughed about, but the final word is the new friendships, the renewal of acquaintances, and the sharing of our new lives together. Where else can one be with those who have risked their lives together, survived together and still feel the camaraderie so dearly. Loved the reunion, love you all !"

Bob & Robie Weaver (11/15) Email Removed "I decided to go back to work at Lockheed Martin. I am going crazy sitting around the house. I miss working as an electronic technician. After the eight years in the Navy, I worked in the Propane industry for ten years; then did accounting and tax preparation. Tweety work is more interesting to me. I neglected to let you know I really enjoyed seeing all of the VW-1 shipmates. After coming home on Thursday, went back to Reno on Friday to buy a refrigerator; then back again on Sunday for a family reunion. I am looking forward to Myrtle Beach. That is another reason to go back to work. I like to spend money. Saving it is fine if you are going to live forever." (Note new e-mail address}

Jay & Alice Hockenberry (11/21) Email Removed "There are many things in our lives which we don't know why, can't predict. The things foreseeable by the Almighty Himself are, understandably, the most difficult to gaze into the crystal ball and see the future, or lack thereof. I have come to the time in my life that has given the doctors a run at telling me that "it's a matter of weeks", which has now diminished to a few days. Mind you, there never was or never will be any giving up on my part, no trying to slip through the noose, etc. But, one by one, my bodily functions are shutting down. I am at peace with my Lord and that's all that matters. Please keep Alice and me in your prayers. (Note: Jay specified that when appropriate memorial gifts may be made to the Disabled Veterans, Chapter 32, Crossville, TN 38555)

John & Karen Martin (11/24) Email Removed "I am doing very well in my recovery from losing a kidney this summer. I was cleared by my surgeon for travel on Oct. 6, and we left just a few short days later to come south to Arizona for the winter. Cold as it is here today, it does not have the snow that they are getting in OR these days! We are sorry we could not make that VW-1 get-together. I know you always have a lot of fun with it."

Bob Weaver (11/24) Email Removed "I had the midwatch as VW-1's barracks Master-at-Arms the day that John F. Kennedy was assassinated. When I turned on Armed Forces Radio at 0600, all the news was about it. Remember that AFR went off the air at 2400 and did not resume broadcasting until 0600. I used the PA system and announced the news and advised the guys to listen to AFR. I had a reputation as a teller of tall tales, and I sure didn't want them to take my word for it. The barracks was deathly quiet as the men got up and went about their day. That is probably the most vivid memory I have of my time on Guam with VW-1."

(Continued on Page 6)

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 5

John Rice (11/25) Email Removed "I can only hope that Jay Hockenberry knows how much he has meant to many of us in an effort to better support the human race. It seems only yesterday when Jay put on the WO uniform. He inspired a number of us to better ourselves. He and Alice will always be in this households thoughts and prayers.

Jack Reese (11/30) j_ Email Removed "I have gone to a cable modem. What a change!! Note new address. There is an underline symbol between the j and the r.

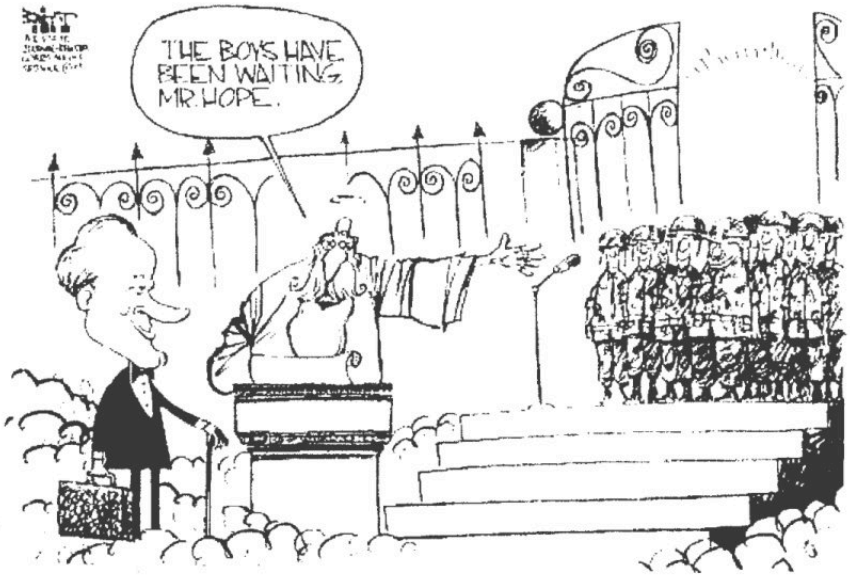
Bill & Kathy Green (12/05) Email Removed "I was saddened to hear of the passing of LCDR Brouillard. He was one of the good officers of VW-1. I always felt him to be approachable and an officer with whom you could discuss your problems. Kathy and I both had a wonderful time in Reno. I was surprised at the number of memories which came back to me about my fun days in VW-1. It was great seeing all those who came, and getting the chance to renew old acquaintances. I was disappointed some of the CIC guys I spent time with on Guam were not there, so I have set a goal to find at least four of these missing people by our next reunion and get them to attend."

Jay & Alice Hockenberry (12/8) Email Removed "It became necessary for us to change our e-mail address for a variety of reasons. First, there are too many 50-year-old jokes in my incoming box and I no longer have time to waste on them. With my tentative hold on life itself, there are much more important things involved with getting my affairs in order. Next, we've been wanting to get high-speed DSL for quite awhile, so when it came available we jumped right into it. So, we've been rather selective about who gets the new address, and necessarily so! We also wish to convey our heartiest and warmest seasonal greetings and best wishes to one and all. We love all y'all!"

Howard Kemp (12/11) Email Removed Note new e-mail address:

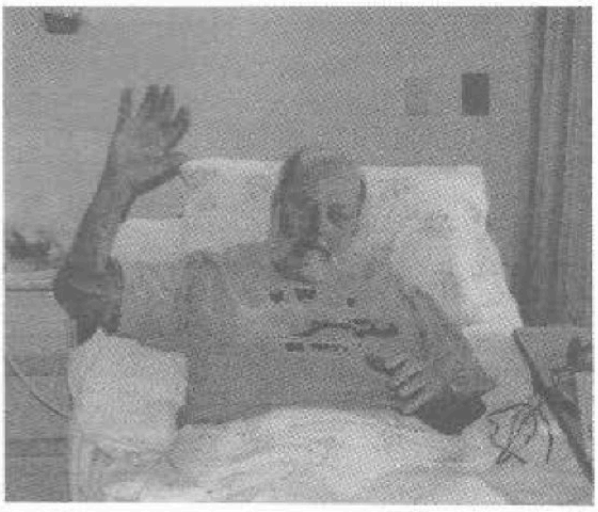
Ralph & Jane Link (12/22)
Email Removed
"To all our VW-1 shipmates and friends: Happy New Year! Jane and I are well and looking forward to the New Year. February 1st I'll be able to apply to the FAA for renewal of my medical certifcate and get back into the air. Also I can hardly wait till we meet in Myrtle Beach. God bless and good health to all."

Dervll Gross (12/23)
Email Removed
Note: new e-mail address



"Thanks for the Memories" 1903 - 2003

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Terry, Don's wife, asked we thank each and everyone of you for being a good friend and shipmate to Don.

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Aviation 101

Takeoffs are optional; landings are mandantory.

It's best to keep the pointed end going forward as much as possible.

The only time you have too much fuel is when your on fire!

Learn from the mistakes of others, you won't live long enough to make them all yourself.

The only thing worse than a captain who never flew with a copilot is a copilot that once was a captain.

A storm is never as bad on the inside as it appears to be on the outside It's worse!

Try to keep the number of your landings equal to the number of your takeoffs.

Gravity never loses! The best you can hope for is a draw!

New Members

Hagen, Al **AE3**
Address Removed '68 – '70
Crystal Bay, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Donna Email Removed

Flew with Crew 10. Was there during the transition.

Webber, Mike **AX2**
Address Removed '66 – '69
Yorba Linda, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Debbie Email Removed

CIC on Crew 4; CIC/LPO on Crew 6. Worked in training office; ran simulator and taught classes on CIC.

(Note this is the fewest number of new members we have had for a newsletter since we formed in 1999. Do YOU have any old VW-1 friends that are holdouts? Give them a call and let them know what they are missing!)



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





Mailing Code Removed