ISSUE 17 VW-1 TRACKER APRIL 2004

AUCTION MADNESS

After the Pensacola reunion auction (which netted over $1,300 for a new laptop computer), there was serious discussion about NOT having an auction at the Reno reunion. In an effort to poll members, a questionnaire was sent to the Pensacola reunion attendees and the vote was overwhelmingly in favor of having the auction as a regular event.

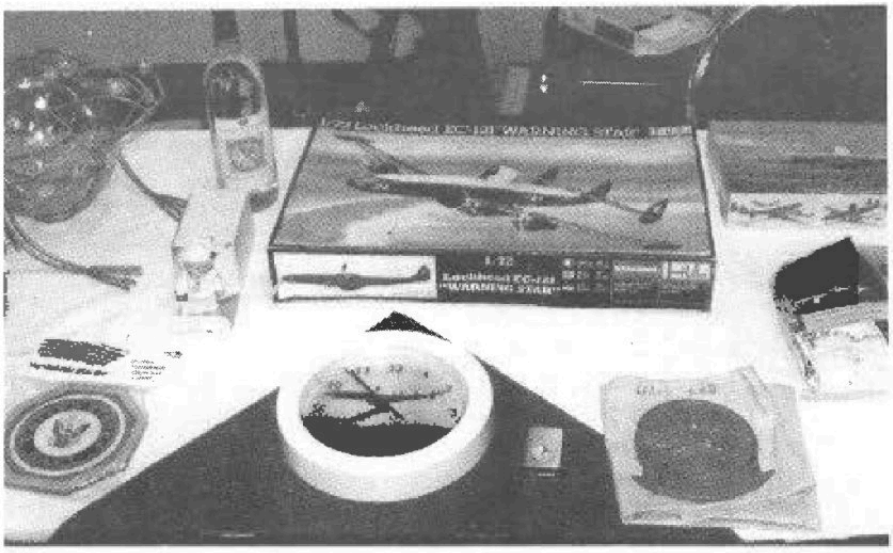
And, true to form, the auction once again stole the show. This is due, in no small measure, to the excellent job that President Ed does as an auctioneer. He begs, pleads, coaxes and cajoles the bidders into totally inexplainable and irrational behavior. Why else would Judy Stotts pay $ 50 for the Navy Chief's lighter brought by Jim LaPosta? One would think that all the accompanying laughter was at her expense; but not so. Truth be told, Judy herself laughed harder than anyone else! And, you know, it never was clearly established whether or not the lighter even worked! Does it, Judy??

Ed also makes the Guam memorabilia sound very valuable. Dottie Wasmund forked over $ 32.00 for a Guam plaque that probably cost a fourth of that years ago. Husband Pete was shaking his head in disbelief; but it didn't deter Dottie one little bit.

Of course, there are also the truly great items that are well worth the bid price. Sandra Lange made an impressive red, white and blue afghan that Tom Hull got for a bid of $ 36.00. And Maizie Rice made two hide-a-way blankets – a red, white and blue patriotic pattern that went to Bill Jones ($ 55.00) and the other to Dan Cruz ($ 47.00) There is a great picture of them in our scrapbook, but didn't want to run it here because it just didn't do them justice in black and white. Check out the scrapbook on the memorabilia table in Myrtle Beach and see how impressive these handmade items are.

In the picture that is shown, you can see some of the other unique items – a clock with the Connie imposed on it; a Lockheed Connie model; a glass garden frog; a Crew 1 AEWRON patch and the infamous lighter. The most unique item might have been the hydrogen thyraton (known as the "big jug") brought by Melvin Pendray. The bidding ended when Charles Lange hit the $ 20.00 mark. Whatever have you done with that "big jug", Charles? Or just maybe the most unique item was the Beetle Nut Yap Sack that the Oulman's provided and which Mack Stotts got for $ 15.00. Gary, you have to e-mail us an explanation

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What would YOU like to do in Myrtle Beach??

*** * * May 2nd thru May 5th, 2005 * * ***

The optional trips in Reno worked out very well and we will be doing more of them in Myrtle Beach. By doing this, those folks who do not wish to go on the trips will not have to pay for them in the basic reunion package; whereas those who like more sightseeing can choose their specific area of interest.

The Myrtle Beach area has lots to offer and the enclosed questionnaire will give us the opportunity to explore the interests of those of you who hope to attend the '05 reunion. This is in no way a commitment to attend, but just a guideline to make a decision as to what trips to contract for and some idea of the number or persons we might expect.

As we have not thoroughly researched activities yet, we do not have pricing on them, so you would be making your final decision once you had complete information and that won't be until the beginning of next year.

You will note that we are considering a diversity of interests in the hopes that we will have something for everyone. Please fill out the questionnaire and return it to us. It will be a tremendous help in planning the upcoming reunion in Myrtle Beach.

Auction Madness (Continued from Page 1)

of what that was exactly. There was an explanation at the time but darned if it would be possible to resurrect that explanation here.

Some of the other items included a USA mug and Sailor Bear; a US money clip; three cans of nuts in collector tins; and a US Navy Retired Flag brought by Bill Fellers that kept the bidding lively until Linnendoll got it for $ 46.00. The two most expensive items of the evening was the Iraqi Freedom Medal that John Stevenson got for a bid of $ 70.00 and the brass Aircomron One Plaque that garnered a contribution of $ 75.00 from LeRoy White. You can see that the items are both interesting and diverse and credit goes to the imagination of our members who come up with some great ideas for auction items.

There was also nine bottles of wine that were auctioned off in the $ 15 to $ 30 dollar range. They had a VW-1 Association name and logo on them. We thought they would be a keepsake, but the Stotts and their table had their bottle empty before the auction ended. Maybe that had something to do with Judy's wild bidding???

As you know, the auction netted $ 1,151. That money will help to offset the reunion expenses in Myrtle Beach, keeping the price more affordable in the hopes that more of the VW-1 membership will choose to attend.

So it appears that the auction will be part of the agenda when Myrtle Beach rolls around. We all will rack our brains trying to find that unique something that will give everyone a laugh. Keep in mind that it isn't the dollar value that is important. In fact, it is preferable not to have high dollar value items to avoid the possibility of a $ 100 item going for much, much less, resulting in some hard feelings. It more often is the smaller items that provide the most entertainment. After all, that is what the auction is about – entertainment - and the money that it earns is just an added bonus to the riotous good time that the auctioning process seems to provide.

Reunion Attendees Come From Far and Wide



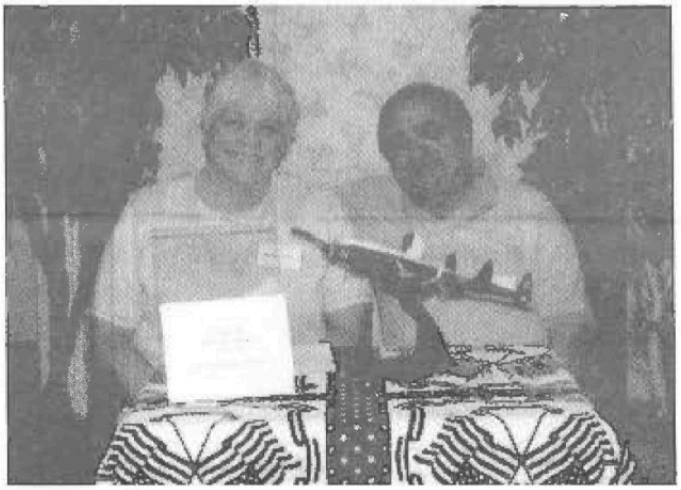
Larry and Marge McGarry
Simi Valley, California



Carolyn and Ron Anderson
Williams, Oregon



Paul and Hazel Morgan
Hagerstown, Maryland



Mary Ann and Joe Vilsack
Upland, California



Eldon and Karen Eskew
Yuma, Arizona



Geri and Jim Goodson
Crestview, Florida

New Members

Bailey, Lenn **ATW3**
Address Removed 6/65–8/66
Denver, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Jane
Email Removed

Communications Shop. Flew with TE-1

Bearss, Pat **ACW2**
Address Removed 4/57 – 2/58
Pineville, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Virginia Email Removed

Flew with Capt. Woods on Crew 1. CIC Radar Operator. Working in education office when not flying. A.A. Podgorny was the senior enlisted. CPO Ballard was senior enlisted in crew.

Birdman, Steve **ATR3**
Address Removed
Tucson, Address Removed 11/58-7/60
Wife: Marilyn Phone Removed
Email Removed

Flew as 4th Electronics Tech on TE-4; Then Trained as Radio Operator and be-. came 2nd Radio Tech.

Christensen, Earl **AE2**
Address Removed 3/69-'71
Hollis Center, Address Removed
Wife: Murielle Phone Removed
Email Removed

AE Shop, Battery locker, AIMD. Transitioned to VQ-1

MacAdams, William **Cdr**
Address Removed '69 – '72
Hanalei, Address Removed

Ops Officer (Sponsored by current VW-1 Member)

Richardson, John (Skip) **LT**
Address Removed 9/68 – 8/70
Kernersville, Address Removed Phone Removed

Wife: Linda Email Removed
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- Obituaries -

Jay Hockenberry

March 10, 1993 – January 25, 2004

Jay waged a long and courageous battle against cancer. His frequent e-mails kept us informed of his continuing battle and he had informed us in November of 2003 that the doctors could do no more.

Jay was in VW-1 from twice – from 4/60 to 2/62 and again from 3/69 to 3/69. Although never able to attend a reunion, he was very much in touch with several members and a regular contributor to the "News from Cyberspace" feature.

Dora Reddy

May 15, 1934 – February 10, 2004

Dora was an ardent supporter of the VW-1 Association. Having married Jim in 1956, she was a vital part the Guam experience.

Considering the traditional woman's role in the 1950's, Dora was before her time in that she enlisted in the Navy in 1953. She served in Brooklyn and then was transferred to Patuxent river where she served as Secretary to the Ops Officer. It was there she met and married Jim in 1956.

We reunion attendees will remember Dora dancing with the entertainers in Branson and Dora shouting for attention from the inside of the locked historic home in Pensacola.

We were proud to be able to attend Dora's internment in the Brooksfield (FL) National Cemetery last month, along with two other VW-1 couples – Gary and Gay Oulman and Don and Helen Ray.

News from Cyberspace, Etc.

Email Removed VW-1 Web Page: http://vw1assoc.tripod.com/

Dave Gerdeman (1/15) Email Removed New e-mail address.

Nick Simmons (1/15) New address: Address Removed Mission, Address Removed

Vaughn Callison (1/17) Email Removed New e-mail address.

Bob & Polly Ricksecker (1/27) Email Removed "Got the newsletter today and wondered if you had gotten my new e-mail address. Please update your records. Love the newsletter. If you need a hand putting it together, let me know. I am here in Leesburg and am willing."

Steve Birdman (1/26) "I read some of the history of the squadron on the web site. I noticed where it was written that on 1 July 1961 the assignment of flying typhoon missions first commenced. We actually flew some Typhoon patrols in 1959 or 1960. At the time the Air Force had a Weather Squadron of WB-50's based at Anderson AFB. They had a lot of maintenance problems with their aircraft, which caused numerous mission aborts, so VW-1 (and I believe VW-3) were assigned to fly some of the typhoon patrols in their stead."

Thomas Dunn (1/28) Email Removed "I have sent your web page to several of the guys that were with me on Guam, and I also let them know about joining the VW-1 All Hands Association."

Leroy White (1/28) Email Removed "I'm doing okay. Trying to get all the paperwork and notifications done. Most of it is complete, or will be soon. I'm looking forward to Myrtle Beach. Hope it works out for me to go. "

Jim Goodson (1/28) Email Removed "Received the VW-1 Tracker yesterday and was saddened to hear of Trace Moore's death. I flew with him on TE-4 quite a few times before I got my own plane. He was a great guy to be around. My heartfelt sympathy for his family."

Lonnie Hall (1/27) Letter: "I don't have a computer, so I can't cyber-chat with other members. I remember Cruz Martinez. I was in his shop with AE-1 Dick Campbell and AE-1 Skinner. I don't remember too many others. I retired in 1996 from the USS Dixon and have trouble remembering some of their names. Getting old. I am disabled and cannot travel to the reunion events."
(Note: Lonnie's address is Address Removed Address Removed Cheney, Address Removed for anyone who might like to drop him a card now and then.)

Alice Hockenberry (1/28) Email Removed "Dear Friends: Just a quick note to let you know that Jay passed away Sunday morning, Jan. 25th. He didn't have much pain and talked to me almost to the end. I am doing pretty well, considering all our days were spent doing things together. It will take some time to be self-sufficient again. God is
(Continued on Page 6)

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 5)

giving me the strength to get through this. I'm still learning how to use this computer, so won't be sending many e-mails for now. Thanks for all your prayers and support."

George Dean (1/30) Email Removed "Was informed by Ted Parsons that Jack Reavis passed on from heart failure in a hospital in San Diego. Lcdr. Reavis was not a member of the VW-1 All Hands Association, but had been in VW-1. He was the A/C of TE-5. He was the brains behind, and the final arbiter of the "Good Guy' patch. Immediately after Crew 5 sported their patch, all the other crews developed one for themselves. Reavis and Barton were the main men in the developing and writing on the VW-R7V NaTops. Reavis was a crackerjack pilot and a fine person."

Jerry Kastigar (1/29) (Letter) "Great news about the reunion in '05 being in Myrtle Beach. This will be my first reunion and I am really looking forward to it. Personally, I have some fond memories of Myrtle Beach. I spent several months there in the recent past when I finished my first novel. By the way, it will be published this month by 1stBooks.com. It is also available through Barnes & Noble. Just use the title "Insights" and my name to find it in their book listing. The 1stBooks website will give you an overview of what it's all about if you wish to know more."

Bob Weaver (1/3) Email Removed "Moved to Fallon, NV on Jan. 1, 2004. New address is Address Removed Fallon, Address Removed Phone: Phone Removed

Myron Price (1/27) Email Removed "Did you know that VW-1 and the ships that supported the Taiwan Straits are listed for the Military Exceptional Service Award? Steve Powers, an AE that lives in the New York Area, found out VW-1 was listed and a guy I grew up with was on the Princeton at the time and he got it."

Roy Hermecz (2/1) (Note:) "I'm hoping to beat this laryngeal cancer I've had. I seem to be getting a little better. One more quick operation next week and that's to be it for me. Hope to see you both at Myrtle Beach in 2005."

Moon Mullen (2/1) Email Removed "Just received Issue #16. Suggestion: Somewhere put your e-mail address (probably on the cyberspace heading) and people will know where to send messages." (Good idea, Moon. Thanks)

Steve Birdman (2/3) (Letter) "I wish I had known of this group earlier as I would have been delighted to attend the reunions. The 45 or so years that have passed since I was in VW-1 seemed to go by in a flash, but I still have vivid memories of my time with the squadron. I have read many of the comments on the web sight from squadron mates, and all, like me, reflect the fond memories we have of servicing on the "Willie Victors". As an 18 and 19 year old, I had one of the best times of my life while flying the Connies, and it was the start of my life long career in aviation. How lucky can one get?

John & Karen Martin (2/8) Email Removed "Good to get news re. VW-1 reunion coming in 2005! We are thinking seriously of getting a pickup camper this summer, after 13 years of using a 5th wheel. If so, it will be easier to travel to SC in '05!"
(Continued to Page 7)

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 6)

Carl & Nancy Logdahl (2/15) Email Removed "COLD – the coldest we have had in a long time. Born and raised 71 miles south of International Fall, MN. I have seen some cold, but the east coast (NH) is so damp it goes right thru you. The doctors think I've got psoriasis – shoulders to fingertips – being tested like crazy. May be delayed reaction to agent orange. We went to Nam as you know – and then I spent all that time on the carrier in the Gulf of Tonkin and, according to the Docs, the winds blew a lot of chemicals out into the Gulf. So just have to wait and see. I will be applying for agent orange disability – but won't cost VA anything as I am already 100% disabled thru hearing and a bunch of back injuries. Nancy is still working for the school system in the high school cafeteria as the head cashier. We still baby sit six days a week and will be doing so all summer for a few more years. Now – Myrtle Beach – don't know. We also would love to see everyone. Would probably rejuvenate many memories, but as of right now? We just don't know."

Ray Rea (2/16) Email Removed "Judi and I have a new address. Address Removed Address Removed Phone: Phone Removed Sorry we couldn't make it to Reno. Sounds like a good time was had by all. We will make the next one for sure."

Bob Frazier & Marilyn Cohen (2/17) (Letter:) "Our computer is still in its box, so we must continue using snail mail (hence this handwritten letter). I guess we're destined to remain dinosaurs. We were sorry that we had to miss the Reno reunion, due to Bob's impending pacemaker replacement. But everything went well. We are certainly looking forward to joining VW-1 in Myrtle Beach next year, especially me – as I've never been there. We've been doing a lot of traveling since we last saw you. Bermuda cruise and a week in Disney World; then visited two more baseball stadiums in Florida - the Atlanta Braves and the Pittsburg Pirates, which was our 20th stadium to date. Only ten more to go! Our latest trips were to St. George, Utah with side trips to Las Vegas, Bryce and Zion National Parks, and to weeks in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Will drive up to LaJolla for five days in March; two weeks in Cancun in April and a 3-week cruise in May in the Mediterranean and then to Scandinavia and St. Petersburg.. Right now we are enjoying the wonderful Palm Springs weather."

Pat Bearss (3/4) Email Removed "I saw two names in your membership list who I remember well – Richard Presgrave and Benjamin Steers. I will be sending a membership check today. You have done a great job and service with the website. I didn't know it existed until yesterday. I look forward to communicating with the VW-1'ers and possibly making the 2005 reunion in Myrtle Beach."

Larry & Sheila Morris (3/16) Email Removed Note new e-mail address.

John & Rockie Stevenson (3/21) (Phone Call) New address. Address Removed Summerville, FL Address Removed Phone: Phone Removed No e-mail change at the moment. (Welcome to Florida, folks! Long way from Nevada!)

Dick & Gwen Lee (4/4) Email Removed "Things are about the same with Gwen's eyes. Health wise we are in good shape. I want to recommend the book "The Purpose Driven Life" by Rack Warren to all. I found it answered a lot of my questions. It can help to balance your life."

New Web Site Address

http://vw1assoc.tripod.com/

Pete has been working hard on the web site, adding sounds effects and all sorts of things. He is even taking classes to increase his proficiency and to help figure out how to get on additional links that may be of interest to the group.

He requests that if something seems out of place or does not display correctly, to let him know via the e-mail link provided on the web-site. He is working to correct some things, such as slow-loading pictures and the need to change the text/comments around some of the pictures. He is interested in your input and eager to improve the site.

Also, a lot of his e-mail addresses seem to be outdated, so if you have any doubt he has your correct one, please e-mail him so he can display it correctly on the site.

Pete seems to be his own worst critic. From where we sit, he is doing a fantastic job and we are very fortunate to have him in charge of this monumental task.

Thank you, Pete, for all your hard work!

New Members (Continued from Page 4)

Reported as Asst Legal Officer to Jim Arnett. Moved through usual billets, 2nd NAV, 3rd Pilot, 2nd Pilot, Aircraft Cmdr Flew as 3rd Pilot on Apollo 11 launch/ Recovery WC Recon w/Lcdr. Jack Voorhees on TE-5/Crew 5. Performed Presidential flight following mission for President Nixon at Apollo 11 recovery. Deployed to ChuLai and Danang for Many AEQ detachments '65 –'70. Ap-Pointed Aircraft Commander on TE-3/ Crew 1970. Flew w/ADRC Brundage.

Williams, Richard **AE2**
Address Removed 6/64 – 2/68
Honey Grove, Address Removed
Email Removed

Electronic Shop and Flight Crew 8



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





Mailing Code Removed

Optional Trip Questionnaire

Check your interest in the events listed below: If two members filling out, use two checks:

Golf Tournament Yes _____ Maybe _____ No _____

This will definitely be an option. Pete Wasmund wouldn't have it any other way! Since Myrtle Beach is considered one of the golfing capitals, there are sure to be some who spend their free time exploring the golf courses.

USS Yorktown Yes _____ Maybe _____ No _____

Located on historic Charleston Harbor, Patriots Point is home to the USS Yorktown, the Fighting Lady. She contains all the evidence of her past; one can see, touch, feel and smell where young Americans fought and died to turn the fortunes of war in the Pacific. Onboard the Yorktown are dozens of displays devoted to maritime and naval history, the Congressional Medal of Honor Society's museum; and more than two dozen historic military aircraft are on exhibit. Plenty of walking.
Approximately 1 ½ travel time each way.

Brookgreen Gardens Yes _____ Maybe _____ No ____

This is considered one of the finest sculpture gardens in America. It boasts more than 2,000 varieties of carefully tended flowers, shrubs and trees, as well as the country's most extensive outdoor exhibition of figurative sculpture. Can be lots of walking.

Programs include a 10 a.m. Introductory tour with an overview of Brookgreen's history, sculpture and plantings. Lunch at the Pavilion Restaurant The program at 12:30 is a guided tour providing in-depth facts about the sculpture in the Sculpture Gardens.

Daily programs at Brookgreen Gardens also include a one hour riding tour, known as The Southern Trek: The Oaks and Alstons. Tour back roads to the Oaks Plantation, former home site of the historically prominent Alston family. Hear accounts of Joseph Alston, an early governor of South Carolina, his wife Theodosia, daughter of Vice president Aaron Burr and the slaves of the plantation.

Brookgreen is located about 20 miles from Myrtle Beach.

Plantation River Tour Yes _____ Maybe _____ No _____

Cruise up the peaceful rivers past Plantation Mansions, abandoned rice fields, majestic old oaks and even a ghost story or two. Little walking

Old Historic Charleston Yes _____ Maybe _____ No _____

On the 90 minutes trip to Charleston from Myrtle Beach, you can enjoy a narrative talk about the local history and folklore, ghost legends and the 300 year history of Charleston. Tour includes lunch and a tour of an historic mansion

On your drive through Charleston, an experienced guide will provide a narrative of the people, places and things that have made this one of the top historic cities in the USA. Step off the coach onto the famous Battery Sea Wall and look at Fort Sumter. The tour includes lunch and a chance to shop at the Old City Market. Little walking.

Boone Hall Plantation Yes _____ Maybe _____ No _____

This National Historic Site dates back to 1681 when Major John Boone received the land grant. Located just 9 miles north of Charleston, it is about a 90 minutes bus ride. The tour includes both a trolley tour of the grounds and a walking tour of the mansion; plus a trip on one of the few remaining slave streets in America where the skilled and house slaves resided.

Deep Sea Fishing Trip Yes _____ Maybe _____ No _____

This could be either a half-day or a full-day of fishing. Depending on the interest the trip could be on a small charter (6 to 8 persons) or on a larger head boat. All equipment is provided.

Comments:

_____

_____

_____

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_____

_____

Note: A few of the other things to do in Myrtle Beach that you can consider during your free time that will not be offered as a planned group activity include:

Barefoot Landing & Broadway at the Beach
(Boardwalk shopping, dining and entertainment)

Ripley's Aquarium: Ripley's Believe It or Not and Ripleys' Moving 4D Theater

The Tangier Outlet, the Pottery complex & the Myrtle Beach Flea Market
(for all you ardent shoppers)

Southern Elegance Casino Cruise (for all you gamblers)

PLUS THE BEACH RIGHT AT OUR HOST HOTEL, SAND DUNES

NAME(S): _____

Return to: Ed Metzger, Address Removed Inverness, Address Removed