ISSUE 21 VW-1 TRACKER APRIL 2005

We're counting the days .....

It's Been a Long Wait

It is generally 18 months between reunions and sometimes it seems like the planning has gone on and on forever. But, eventually, the time does pass and that is where we find ourselves at this moment. Deposits have been made; the optional trips are all arranged; the final counts are being readied; the menus have been selected. Soon it will be PARTY TIME!

We have an offer from a photographer to come and visit with us Wednesday night and take photographs on request. They will do the group, buddy or couple pictures ... whatever you want. Then you can order what you like, IF you like. It is a "no lose" situation as there is no money up front. They work strictly on the basis of what is ordered from the individuals in the group.

This does NOT mean that you are not encouraged to bring your own cameras and do candid shots. Pete Wasmund can always use them for the web site and they are often used in our scrapbook and newsletters. So by all means, take your own pictures and think about duplicating the best of them for our use.

Hate to confess, but we, the Metzgers, have not yet settled on an auction item. It seems to get harder as time goes on to come up with something interesting and unique. We are looking and will come up with something. Truth be known, we have no hope of finding that very special "item of the year" that all the folks want and that dominates the auction. Who will have that privilege this year? Think we will put our "top two contenders" guess in a sealed envelope and open it at the auction; after the fact ... just to see if we are right.

You will see from the attendee list included in this newsletter that we have members coming to Myrtle Beach that have attended at least one of our reunions before; but we also have some new names and are looking forward to putting a face to those names and making new friends.

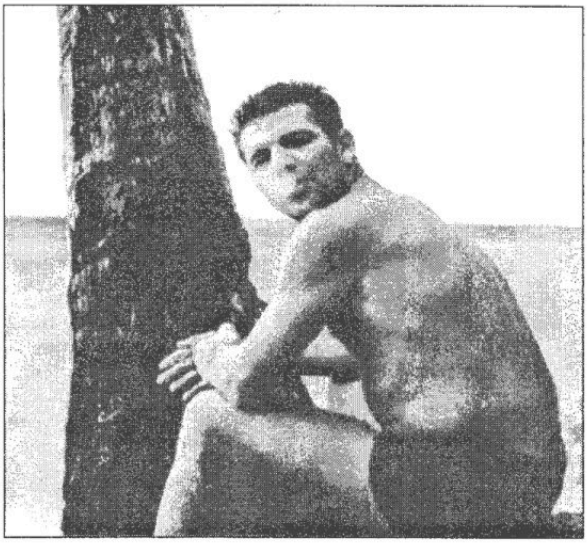
It is always easier to add someone at the last moment than to cancel, so if any of you folks out there have suddenly realized that you CAN make this reunion, please call us immediately Phone Removed and we will do whatever we can to make it happen.

We would like to have ALL our members come; but realizing that is not possible, we certainly want as many there as possible. Want to reconsider???

Myrtle Beach Reunion Attendees

Roger Atchison
Lenn and Jane Bailey
Richard and Carolyn Baker
Darold and Mary Borrowman
Jerry and Mildred Brice
David and Joan Brundage
Carl and Velma Bryant
Joe and Mary Ann Vilsack
John and Jerie Chitwood
David and Mary Ann Cousineau
George and Christine Dean
Frank Doty and Jackie Kuykendall
Ann Gagnon
Jesse and Betty Garcia
Jack and Sydnie Gergal
Jim and Gerri Goodson
Ryan and Moni Grubbs
Howard and Jean Hamilton
Charles and Barbara Hedges
John and Kaneko Houdek
Virgle and Dixie Inman
Charles Johnson
J.V. and Patsy Johnson
Gerald and Sheila Kastigar
Charlie Koeber
Jerald and Tomi Kolterman
Jim and Peggie LaPosta
Charles and Sandra Lange
Dick and Gwen Lee
Ralph and Jane Link
Larry and Janet Markowitz
Ed and Sally Metzger
Norbert and Linda Monohan
Moon and Nadine Mullen
Bob and Flo O'Reilly
Floyd Orsini
Gary and Gay Oulman
Don and Helen Ray
Jim Reddy
Jim and Mazie Rice
Ben and Dee Steers
Jim and Nancy Stinson
Jim and Ruth Tandy
Buster and Cathy Tipton
Scott Wagner
Larry and Charline Wallis
LeRoy White and Ruby Berry
Cary and Pat Williams
Victor and Charlotte Zarich

Guests:
J.V. and Patsy Johnson
Lynn Sandusky
William Spicer
Joe and Lynn Taney



GUESS WHO??

Clues:

Picture was taken in '60 or '61 (Could this really be almost 45 years ago?!)

He is a current member of the VW-1 Association

The photographer was Dave Cousineau

Send your guesses to
Email Removed

Who knows, you might win a prize if you're the first to get it right!

News from Cyberspace, Etc.

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

Al Behr (12/14/04) Email Removed "Please note the passing of Charlie O'Connor (AT-2, VW-1 – 1960-1963). Charlie was a member of the Harvard Police Fraternity and 2nd in Command of the Monmouth County Detective Division when he passed away. We not only went to school together, but flew together and married cousins ... not OUR cousins, the two girls were cousins!! I just thought I'd clear that up! Also, the last time I saw Radioman Don Willow was in Pax River – had to be about 1967. I left the Navy in '67 and went Air Force, only to retire and keep from going to WESTPAC for yet a fourth trip!!!"

Bill Thomas (12/14/04) Email Removed "About old timers – has anyone ever heard from "Olie" Olson? When I was the second radio on DoubleNuts, he was the first radio. After I got discharged I never heard from him again. Also would like to find Jim Hieldabrant. He flew on TE5, I think, and his Dad was the squadron E9. Any news about either of these guys?"

Charles Lange (1/12/05) Email Removed "Looking forward to Myrtle Beach in May. Note new e-mail address."

Anita Grenier 1/12/05) Email Removed "I am Leo's daughter and am writing this from Dad's email box. I know some of you may have heard already that my Dad passed away last Wednesday, Jan. 5th. This happened after a short battle with cancer of the tongue and complications that his body was just too weak to fight. If any of you have further questions or need to contact anyone in the family, you may email me at Email Removed Dad's account will be closed soon as my Mom has no interest in using email."
(Note: Anita was contacted and a request was made for obituary information and a picture on Leo Grenier. Leo was an AG1 assigned to Crew 5 and Crew 8 – 10/66 to 6/68. Anita responded she would try to get something for us and we hope to have it in a future newsletter.)

Charles Rice (1/28/05) "Barbara and I have moved to the country. Please change our address to: Address Removed Sour Lake, Address Removed Our new email is Email Removed

Jim Dorsey (2/3/05) "My new home address is Address Removed Highwood, Address Removed Sorry about that." (Note: This email was in response to one from us because the Tracker was returned as undeliverable. Please let us know when you change your snail mail or your email address."

Jim Geiger (2/25/05) "I saw the write up about my problem in the January newsletter. I have received several responses and some have been very good. I was able to get several pictures of our operations in Chu Lai showing VW-1 did, in fact, exist there. I was contacted by a few other folks and some of them were willing to write me a "buddy

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--- WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS ---

Baker, Richard **ACW3**
Address Removed Address Removed
Ellijay, Address Removed 1959 – 1961
Wife: Carolyn Phone Removed
Email Removed

Flew with TE5

Baxter, John **ACW3**
Address Removed 6/59 – 9/61
Kenmore, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Vyonne Email Removed

Radar operator and plotter for Early Warning. Switched to hurricane tracking in late '60. Flew on Crew 2.

Crossman, Paul (J.P.) **LT**
Address Removed 6/67 – 6/69
San Antonio, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Kay Email Removed

3rd Pilot, 2nd Pilot, Aircraft Commander; 2nd Nav, 1st Nav. Flew primarily on TE3. Ground job: Ass't Personnel Officer: Assisted w/transfers, TAD orders. Co-pilot on the storm flight when the tip tank was ripped off by a wall cloud.

Goodwin, Jim **AE3**
Address Removed 7/61 – 12/62
East Longmeadow, Address Removed
Wife: Lois Phone Removed
Email Removed

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For Your Information

Newcomers to VW-1 All Hands Alumni Association reunions often often ask about the proper dress.

It was determined some time ago that ALL activities during our reunions will be "casual dress". No suits and ties are required – but "shoes and shirt" are a must!

Don't forget your bathing suit!

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Electric shop – Line Maintenance and Inspections.

Grubbs, Ryan L. **ATW3**
Address Removed 2/63 – 6/64
Virginia Beach, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Ramona Email Removed

Avionics Shop, Crew 3

Hedges, Charles E., Sr. **CS (AT)2**
Address Removed 11/57 – 5/59
Wichita, Address Removed
Wife: Barbara Email Removed

Transferred into squadron as cook; received an inservice training number for AT; went to Radio CW School, Yakosuka. Assigned to TE-9, second radioman.

Inman, Virgle **ADR1**
Address Removed '67 – '68
Marietta, GA 3008 Phone Removed
Wife: Dixie Email Removed

Crew Chief on Crew 7

Kopey, Michael **ATR3**
Address Removed 12/60-4/62
Lincoln Park, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Peggy Email Removed

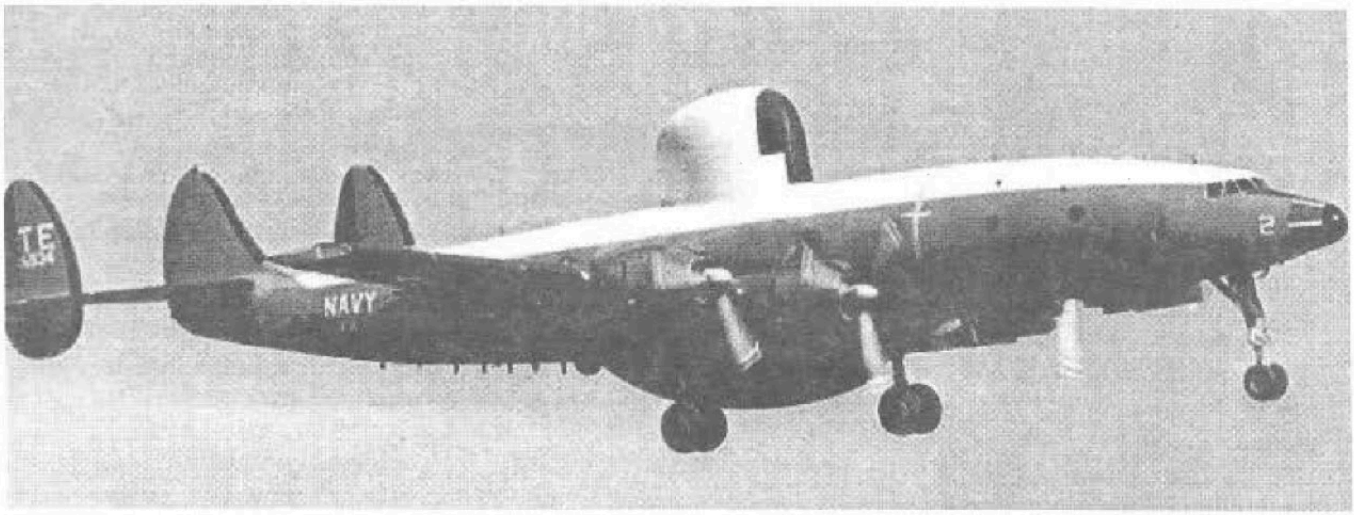
Flew on Crew 7. Flew 2000 flight crew hours, deploying to Okinawa, Phillipines, and Japan.

Kornfein, Randy **AG2**
Address Removed 6/69 – 7/71
N. Potomac, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Jeri Email Removed

2nd, then 1st AG.

James Larry Wallis **ATC**
Address Removed 1965 – 1968
Middleburg, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Charline Email Removed

Flew on Crew 2 and Crew 3



MISSING TIP TANK ..... shows in this picture of TE2. Paul Crossman mentioned that he was co-pilot of this flight and both LeRoy White and Bill Dutra's names have been mentioned in connection with it. Who out there among our membership has the story of this adventure??? We sure would like to have it written up for an article in the newsletter. It must be a sea story worth telling. How about it??

Announcing the Third Willy Victor Reunion

(E-mail from Wes Mortensen on 2/22/05)

The third reunion of "Willy Victor" sailors will be held September 16th, 17th and 18th of 2005 at Rantoul, IL, at the Chanute Aerospace Museum. This reunion will include an invitation to our Air Force partners, who flew the EC-121's of the 551st and 552nd.

We are expecting a great turn out and there will be plenty to do in the short time of a three-day weekend. Information about the reunion will be posted on "The Willy Victor Page" web site (http://www.willyvictor.com). Updates will be posted as they come in. There are currently application forms on the web site that you can download. You can also call the museum directly (toll free) and use your credit card to make reservations for the reunion. The number is 1-877-726-8685.

There will be a list of hotels on the web site very shortly. The hotel on the premises is now called The Quarters Inn. It's about $ 50.00 a night and the place is being totally renovated. It is already half sold out for the reunion! They have about 200 rooms. The phone number is 217-893-1234.

The cost of the reunion is $ 80.00 per person. This will include all food for the gala get together at the golf club on the evening of the 16th, the banquet on the evening of the 17th and, of course, full access to the museum over the weekend. The best part will be the fellowship and revisiting the restored WV-2 at the museum! It's a party you can't miss.

Lee Kalsch will host the golf tourney, where there will be prizes and a whole lot of duffin'. Should make the Air Force guys feel right at home. We'll be looking forward to seeing you there.

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 3)

letter". I received four "buddy letters" in all. Also, I found the write up about VW-1 in the Pensacola Web page that you folks have submitted. The roster at the end was a great find with my name listed as a crewmember. I might add that the service years are incorrect as listed. They should be 1967 – 1968 instead of 1969 – 1970. I have resubmitted my claim, along with the pictures, letters and a reprint of the web page article. The local VA rep is very sure that I will be successful getting the benefits I have been seeking.

Again, thank you all for your help. I will keep you posted on my progress. This situation that I have been dealing with is one that I feel should be discussed at the reunion at the business meeting. I have found out from the people that responded to my story that others have had similar problems. Other shipmates need to be aware of the benefits that are available to them, including surviving spouses. Please refer any questions about this subject my way, if you care to."

Ben Steers (2/26/05) Email Removed "Thanks to you fine folks, I got a call from Doug (Merlin) Pendray today. He is in Yuma, AZ. If anyone knows how to get in contact with ADR2 Morrison, I would appreciate it. He was Flight Mech and, I think, from Texas. I do not remember his first name, although we spent many hours together in the barracks, on flights and at liberty. Does anyone remember a 2nd class named Potter on crew three? He had a problem with the physical and would starve himself to pass it."

Ralph Link (3/9/05) Email Removed "Just a note that I will be taking the second leg of my journey of getting my medical back and getting back behind the controls of an aircraft. I have passed the cardio-cath and will do the 100% Maximal cardio-life stress test tomorrow. Whatever happens, I have come to accept the results – good or bad. However, it looks very encouraging.

Simone Becker (3/4/05) Email Removed "I don't think Fred has told anyone in VW-1 that he suffered a stroke on Dec. 10th. That was a shock to both of us. I always thought that I'd be the one to have a stroke, as I've struggled with high blood pressure for over 30 years. Fred has always tended to have low blood pressure. He was under a lot of stress at the time, though, due to the illness and death of his mother at the end of October and continuing struggles with the business. Owning and running a business in today's world is a constant challenge.

Fortunately, the stroke wasn't as bad as it could have been. In some ways the actual event was a little amusing as Fred insisted on feeding our two cats their dinner while the stroke was happening, and even walked out to meet the ambulance. That may not surprise some people who have known Fred, but it sure surprised the EMT's. The stroke did affect Fred's fine motor skills and his language ability. For several weeks he could not write, read, or speak. That was horribly frustrating for him (me, too)) to have a million thoughts in his mind and not be able to communicate them.

The entire family is very proud of Fred because he has fought back mightily. Neither of us has been through an experience like this before so I have to trust what his medical

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News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 4)

providers say when they tell us that Fred has been "exceptional;" in his recovery. Fred does work hard at it. Following the stroke, Fred spent Saturday and Sunday in the hospital, came home Monday morning, and Tuesday morning he was back at work part time.

Fred has also regained most of his computer skills and is beginning to reply to e-mail messages and will hold short telephone conversations with the family and people who know him well. The strength in his hands has returned along with most of the fine motor skills. He can't quite dash off his signature as he used to, but that means it is still legible. (I plan to tease him about that forever!) Fred has also been practicing playing the guitar, but is frustrated that the fingers are not quite as strong or dexterous as they had been.

We are hoping that we will be able to make it to the reunion in May, but everything is still up in the air. (No pun intended in regard to VW-1). We both need a good vacation and Fred would very much like to see everyone again. I think he is still hoping that he will be able to have a re-match on the golf course. He may need a higher handicap, of course. Sort of reminds me of the joke where the blind man bet a man with sight that he could beat him at golf. The sighted man thought that was an easy bet and accepted. Then the blind man told him that they would play golf at night."

Larry Markowitz (3/16/05) Email Removed "I find it hard asking someone to make a donation. But today I'm writing to you about a cause that's important to me and a cause that I know you will want to support. I have decided to take steps to fight against multiple sclerosis (MS) by joining the MSWalk and I'm asking you to join me in this important fight by sponsoring me.

MS is an unpredictable and devastating disease that can attack any of us in the prime of life. Imagine, one day you are ready to take on the world ... and the next you are faced with the diagnosis of an incurable and debilitating disease. That is why I'm participating in the MS Walk and asking you to help me make a difference.

MS researchers have made extraordinary progress these last few years searching for a cure and your contribution will help support these vital efforts. Funds will also be used to support local programs for people with MS and their families. You can help me reach my fundraising goal of $ 1,000 by sponsoring me in the MS Walk. It's easy. Just click on the "To Sponsor Me" link below and sponsor me online today. Your support will mean so much to me and the over 400,000 Americans living with MS.

I was diagnosed with MS in 1998. Living with MS does not get any easier, but only gets worse as time moves on. I still walk okay, so I have a team that will walk with me for five miles on April 17. I can be sponsored with an e-mail pledge or a check can be made to NMSS and sent to me at this address.

Larry Markowitz, Address Removed New Castle, Address Removed

OR start a team of your own and take part in a MS Walk near you! Thank you all"

(Continued on Page 8)

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 7)

George Dean (3/17/05) Email Removed "Larry Markowitz needs your help. Larry was one of the guys in my crew in the early to mid 60's. He was a radar operator flying into and around typhoons - one of the Crew 5 "good guys". I have seen him now and then at VW-1 reunions or when I go home for a family reunion. Some of you may remember him, but didn't know of his problem. I will send my donation and know that anything anyone might be able to contribute will not be for personal gain or glory, but strictly to the MS research."

Larry & Sheila Morris (3/24/05) Email Removed "Reluctantly, we're going to have to cancel on attending the upcoming VW-1 Reunion at Myrtle Beach. Sheila has been having health problems and seems like it's been one thing or another all winter. First the flu and a cold and then a terrible case of hives for the past several weeks. A few days ago she woke up with a large raw place on the side of her head and around her eye which was extremely painful. The doctor diagnosed it as shingles and informed us that they can last from a few weeks up to a few months. There's a chance she could be better before May 2nd, but I had rather not risk it. We'll miss seeing and visiting with all you great people and hearing the wonderful sea stories."

Randy Kornfein (3/26/05) Email Removed "I flew with Chief Mullen, AG1 Hank Likes, AG1 Al Zahne, AG2 David Gerdeman and AG2 Bill Chitty. Had three 100KT penetrations, including super Typhoon Tess in 1970. Moon probably remembers that storm!"



VW-1 Association
c/o Ed & Sally Metzger
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