ISSUE 25 VW-1 TRACKER MARCH 2006

SAN DIEGO ADVENTURES

The clock is ticking and time is passing quickly. Before we know it, October will be here and we will be meeting in San Diego. As usual, we have those who like to prowl about on their own; and those who like to have planned activities, so we try to have it both ways. Here are the optional events that have been arranged for those interested.

Guided Tour of San Diego and Surrounding Area **Tuesday, Oct. 24th**

For those of us who are unfamiliar with San Diego, this tour will be a comprehensive overview of several important areas. We will leave the hotel at 9 a.m. We will be touring the city of LaJolla, including Mt. Soledad, which has a 900 foot panoramic view above sea level. We will visit the impressive Veteran's Memorial in Coronado, with a stop at the beach front to admire the Pacific. We will continue on to Balboa Park, which was established in 1915 in commemoration of the opening of the Panama Canal. The Gaslamp district is a must, with its late 1800 buildings and we will spend an hour at Seaport Village to enjoy this quaint harborside locale. Lunch will be at the famous Bali Hai restaurant on Shelter Island. The luncheon will be included in the price. Walking will be moderate or light ... your choice. The all inclusive cost is $ 49.00 per person.

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Balboa Park is a lushly landscaped oasis in the heart of San Diego, where interests from art, music and theatre to sports and science can be entertained in the fifteen museums housed there in some of the most beautiful architecture ever assembled in one place.

News from Cyberspace, Etc.

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

LeRoy White (12/13) Email Removed "In July we drove up to Denver and Steamboat Springs for the Triple Crown Baseball World Series for 15-year-olds. Ruby's son has a boy who is an outstanding baseball player. His team took the championship. He is now 16, a sophomore, and plays varsity baseball at his high school and is being scouted for the pro teams. When we got back we found Ruby's mobile home at Canyon Lake had been flooded from a broken ice maker water line. Insurance wrote it off as a total loss. We made Thanksgiving dinner here for 21 of her family and had a great day. They asked if Christmas dinner was next. My daughter, Gerida, and her boyfriend came up from Houston, too. They stayed overnight and took some of the stuff I wanted to get out of the way. We had a beautiful visit. Ruby's family took to her right away and she to them. We have moved a lot of items that were on the closed in porch, or sun room, to the storage building, so Ruby could remake it into a second living room. She has done a beautiful job on it.!"

Roger Atchley (12/13) Email Removed "L.A. and I were on Crew 1 together for most of my VW-1 tour – 5/62-1/64. CDR Gaibler was the squadron C.O. and Crew 1 PPC. I have photos w/L.A. (full crew and candid,) squadron history book, TE#1 moniker, etc. that I would be honored to share. Somewhere I may even have the negatives to enlarge the prints w/o distortion. I transferred from VW-1 to AEWBARRONPAC in January ;'64. L.A. was respected and liked by all of us lucky enough to have known him."

Rich Minter (12/14) Email Removed "My wife and I go to Northern VA often and, when we do, we usually stay in the guest quarters at Ft. Belvoir, an active Army base. Every evening they play bugle calls over a PA system. It brings back a lot of memories of my youth. I have never been up early enough to see if they play reveille in the morning. They probably do. Did you know that a move is afoot to start working on the Connie at Warner Robins? Things have gone sour with the museum board and curator at Rantoul and their demands and attitude toward the VW group have become untenable. The museum people at WR have expressed a desire to have the Connie there spruced up. It will probably start next spring."

Bob Warren (12/23) Email Removed "I just read the latest Tracker and noticed that Shannon Sharpe, ATCS, is looking for validation of his duty in Chu-Lai, RVN-1968-1970. Thanks to my wife being a pack rat, I have in my possession some old TAD orders to Det "C". which was in Chu-Lai. These orders have Sharpe's name on them, and the orders are stamped by the Detachment Duty Officer. Further note of interest: I was the first F.E. on his crew and I do remember him. These TAD orders that will make a good Holiday present for our old radar "tweet" God does work in mysterious ways. I am just glad that I could be of service. I wrote him a chatty letter and included two copies of the orders, which have names and tango numbers on them, so they should be good evidence of his service."

Alan O'Martin (12/28) Email Removed "After 25 years of service to the USN and after an 8-year "cooling off" period (special deal for reserves), I just received my first retired paycheck! Just think! You get a paycheck for the rest of your life and you don't have to do a darn thing for it. And it's good enough that Yvonne and I could take a vacation in Europe on the annual amount, and have money left over. So, I'm feeling pretty good about this. One thing we should all lobby for is for reserve retirement to begin as soon as you retire (not age 60) and at a rate determined by your points, with no upper limit as there is now. All the reserves in Iraq, etc. don't get the same retired pay benefits as active duty people, plus they have to wait until 60. Talking about something different now – we have established a non-profit foundation to help fund Melanoma Research. Our non-profit status became official this month. We plan to have events throughout

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SAN DIEGO ADVENTURES (Continued from Page 1)

USS Midway Aircraft Carrier **Wednesday, Oct. 25th**

Board the Midway and become a part of a "city at sea", via dozens of exhibits, restored aircraft and self-guided audio tours from the mess deck to the flying bridge. It is quite possible that some of our VW-1 members served aboard the USS Midway. Depart the hotel at 9:30; the bus will return to the hotel at 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be on your own at your convenience and your expense. Cost: $ 25.00 per person.

Old Town Historic State Park (Guided Tour) **Wednesday, Oct. 25th**

This colorful old town of San Diego is full of history and unique shops. It is the site of the first Catholic Mission. An experienced guide will provide interesting details and facts about this famous community that was settled back in 1769. Lunch will be at 1 p.m. at the Cantina Casa Guadalajara. The luncheon will be a choice of steak or chicken (Mexican style), with rice, beans, tortillas and guacamole, chips and salsa, along with a complimentary margarita or beer. Departure at 9:30 a.m. return at 2:30 p.m. The cost, including lunch, bus, guide and tips is $ 39.00 per person.

Golf Tournament **Thursday, Oct. 26th**

Pete Wasmund, your VP, is working on this aspect of the trip. Knowing you golfers, many will have already been golfing once or twice before Thursday rolls around. You can bet that the golf courses in San Diego are great. Details at a later date.

So for those of you who like to be kept busy, this should offer you a variety of choices, but you are certainly not limited to these choices. You can hang out at the hotel and enjoy the pool; you can arrange a shuttle with the hotel to take you to Balboa Park, from where you can catch shuttles to about anywhere in the city. If you aren't intimidated by the San Diego traffic, you can drive your own car out and about and explore the world famous San Diego Zoo, the gambling casinos, or any number of other places

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Chance To Be a Part of History ....

Historian Interested in VW-1

The VW-1 web site has reached out and made contact with many, many folks and continues to be a force of communication. A recent case in point was brought about when Pete was looking for some Guam pictures to put on the web. A friend of George Dean's supplied Pete with the e-mail address of Riene Steffy. Riene is a historian and is currently collecting photos of Guam for use in some historical pieces.

Riene expressed an interest in having our group share their oral history accounts and some of the best stories of the typhoon watching days. Interviewing could be on a volunteer basis. Anytime our stories were used, we would get a copy of the finished product. The greatest reward would be that VW-1 would be counted as part of Guam's history. Riene is also interested in any pictures of Guam and photos of those weather-watching days.

Riene has been invited to attend the San Diego reunion and we are hoping that her schedule will be such that it will be possible. Pete has warned her that several of our

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News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 2)

the year and we'll keep you posted. The first event is an awareness seminar on 28 January. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Kevin Kim from Md Anderson, who will describe current research in Houston. He is the associate professor of research there and also a melanoma specialist. Other details of the event – there will be a melanoma awareness talk by a skin specialist, information about the foundation and upcoming events for 2006, which will include walks, casino night, maybe a golf outing and other community events. I have created our first website. It will continue to evolve, so bookmark it and check back with us once in awhile. The address is www.BradsMelanomaFoundation.org. Have a great 2006!"

Cheryl Davis (12/29) Email Removed "My father served as part of the Air Borne Early Warning VW-1 Squadron One (1952 to 1956) stationed at NAS Barber's Point, Hawaii. I am trying to plug him into some related groups and perhaps put him in contact with anyone serving at the same time and who may have known him. Would appreciate any direction or help. My father's name is David Lee Wilson."

Christy Winchester (1/3) Email Removed "I got the surprise patch in the mail today. I have to say, that a lump came up in my throat when I saw it. I realize now, although I had hopes of finding a my uncle was a POW, that that would not have been good. It would be so nice to have him here with us, but after talking with some of his friends, he woujld rather be where he is now than to have been a POW. So I will do my best to keep his memory alive and you all are helping me so much! One member, George Dean, sent me a magazine with an article about the incident. I got it today and sat down and read it as soon as I walked in the door. It was really interesting. I have received some really neat pictures and, even better than that, stories about my uncle. I forward most of my emails to my aunt and I found out she's printing them and sending to another aunt. I'm glad to know they are interested. So, we're all getting enjoyment from them. Thank you so much for helping me."

Ron and Carolyn Anderson (1/4) Snail Mail "We wished we could have made it to the east coast reunion last year, but it was just too far to go. We are certainly hoping to make it to San Diego in October. That is where Ronnie was stationed when we were married in 1950 and, in looking at the San Diego map, the reunion hotel is not too far from where we lived at the time. We're wondering if our little duplex apartment is still there after all these years!! Hope to see you in October."

Shannon Sharpe (1/5) Email Removed "Thanks to Bob Warren for the copies of orders and letter. They are more than I ever thought I would receive. Thanks again and many thanks to his wife for being a "pack rat"! I flew with both LCDR (LT at the time) Hansen and LCDR Linendoll. After my tour in VW-1, I went to F-8's for four years. In 1975, I returned to Guam and flew with VQ-1 until I retired in 1984. I then went to work for Lockheed on the U-2 program for 18 years. Shortly after leaving there, the Air Force called and asked to me come to work in their U-2 Flight Test detachment. Been here at Palmdale, CA for four years now as their lead engineer and Deputy Commander for the detachment. I turn 60 years of age this year and plan to retire for good in the very near future. Thanks again for the orders. I'm sure it will help with my VA claim. I also have received letters from LCDR Bob Schmidt and Lt. James Galinsky."

Ray & Sue Keighley (1/9) Email Removed "Today we feel truly blessed. This is just a short note to friends and relatives. Craig, our son, who is in the Army, returned home today. He has survived his tour of duty overseas and returned in one piece. He still have all his extremities, all his fingers and toes ... I counted them to be sure. Really, I am so pleased to see him home again. To all of you who have children – you know the feeling of relief when we can determine that our offspring are no longer in unnecessary danger. A special thanks to those who have shared our concern, and have prayed for the safe return of all our service men and women. We are eternally grateful for your prayers."

Tom Endy (1/9) Email Removed "Thank you for the invitation to join the VW-1 Association. I have seen the web-site and last year I bought a squadron patch to put on my grandson's flight

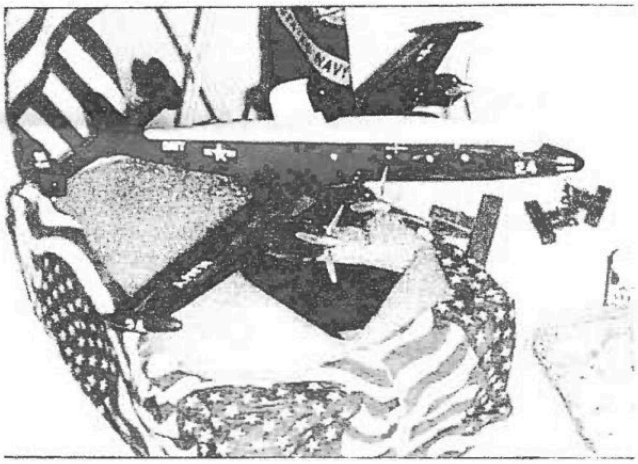
A Departure from the Usual

"Different" can be good -- and we expect that is going to be true in the three cases here.

Difference #1:

First and foremost, there will not be an auction in San Diego. No need to start searching for that perfect item that will be the roaring success of the night. The auction will be back, never fear, at some future reunion.

In order to replace the dollars usually generated by the auction, we have another moneymaker in mind. Our trademark EC121 Model is going to go be auctioned off to a lucky winner.



Raffle tickets will be available from registration on Monday and the drawing will take place after the entertainment on Wednesday evening.

Difference #2:

As for the entertainment ... in the past, the auction had provided both dollars into the treasury and the entertainment. for the evening. This year we will have a special. unique treat.

The Lafayette is an old established hotel that was often visited by the Hollywood establishment. There are a wide variety of stories, some reflecting the belief that the hotel is haunted. It will be very close to Halloween and we will be entertained by Marilyn Dear, our reunion coordinator at the Lafayette hotel, with some very intriguing tales. Who knows, after hearing about them, you, too, may have a "sighting" in your very own room! Wouldn't that be a special Halloween treat?

Difference #3:

We have been spoiled in the past by the host hotels allowing us to bring in our own beer, snacks and sodas. We found that California is a tough place to work a deal. We cannot have our keg of beer without a bartender. The hotel has graciously given us a bartender for a total of ten hours, absolutely free. However, when the bartender goes, the keg goes with him.

What it basically means is that when the group is in the meeting room in large numbers, the keg will be available, but during those intimate times when there is a handful of people, that will not be the case.

There are two solutions for those of you who might miss their beer. There is a hotel bar just outside the meeting room which will be open afternoons and evenings where you can purchase your drink of choice. Or you can bring your own beer into your rooms and then bring it down to the meeting room in hand, one at a time.

The sodas and snacks will be available, but in more limited quantities than we have become accustomed. Maybe the upside of this is that we will eat and drink a little less. These older bodies just can't process stuff like it used to!

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 4)

jacket. I was saddened to see two of my good friend's name on the web memorial list. Pappy Herzing was the crew chief on TE-2 and I flew with him the entire time I served in VW-1. The other was Bob Stickelberger. The listing shows him as an AT3, 1952-1956. Bob actually shipped over in 1955 and was an AT2. He was still with VW-1 when I left in July 1967 and was an AT1. Several years later he came to my home in Los Angeles to visit. At that time he was a LTjg LDO officer. I served in the Navy from July 1953 to July 1957. I was assigned to VP-40 at North Island after AT school. I flew as a radio operator on a P5M during the 1955 WestPac deployment to Sangley Point. When we returned to San Diego, I was an AT3 and they sent me to Keesler AFB at Biloxi, MS to a radio operator's school with TAD orders to VW-1 at Barber's Point. I served in VW-1 from Feb. 1956 to July 1956, when I was discharged from the Navy. During the time I served, VW-1 was based at Barbers Point with a three plane detachment at Atsugi, Japan. In July or August of 1956 they transferred the detachment to Cubi Point. Prior to the transfer, TE2 was sent down from Atsugi to static display for the public. I was released from the squadron just a month or so before the move to Guam. Several months prior to the move, the squadron received an R7V cargo plane to haul squadron equipment out to Guam. I flew radio on two of those trips. Prior to the move to Guam, VW-1 was a tactical squadron, not a hurricane hunter. Our missions were to operate with carrier task forces. The association may want to consider making up some hats that say only "Early Warning Sguadron. One" to accommodate us older folks."

Joseph Bradish (1/12) Email Removed "I am researching to see if I can find any information on the Super Constellation Buno 131659 that I flew on out of NAS Agana, Guam in the time from mid 1969 until early 1971. My searching through MATS led to me to your web site. I have gone through every bit of it and, needless to say, it stirred up a lot of great memories. On a hunch, I searched through the members and came across Gary Oulman's name. During my time as a flight crew member, he was one of my flight engineers. I have often thought about him throughout my Navy career of 23 years and still today in my retirement. I don't know if this is appropriate or not, or if you can even do what I am going to ask. If possible, I would appreciate it if you could pass this on to him. My information:
Joseph Bradish AEC Ret., Address Removed Chesapeake, Address Removed Phone Removed

Amanda Martin (1/14) Email Removed (e-mail to Pete Wasmund) "Thank you for writing me. I would like to have all of you keep in touch with me. Last year Dawn Wynn passed away and I did not know how to let you all know. She died on November 13th of 2004. I would like to still hear great stories about my uncle, Leo Wynn, and if anyone has pictures, I would like them, too. Amanda Martin, Address Removed Address Removed Pocatello, Address Removed

Howard Kemp (1/27) howard Email Removed Note new e-maikl address.

John Boyd (2/6) Email Removed "I can't begin to tell you how pleased I am that we have made the connection to our VW-1 past. Merlin Pendray's call came out of the blue and, with it, the VW-1 connection. We have a Fl winter home in The Villages, but right now it is rented out. We purchased it in October of 2004, but have not had much free time to spend down there as I still have business ties to southern Maryland. Hopefully, they will be severed some time this year. Then, on the road again! I have been spending some time browsing the web site and find a few folks I remember. Hmmm... wonder if I would recognize them as they are today? Yeah, Merlin is a dead ringer for a guy I knew back on Guam a lifetime ago. Will be sooooo great to renew old friendships. Especially true for us, as we have been sort of isolated in the Civil Service ranks since I quite the Navy in 1970."

Bob Welch (1/7) Email Removed "I was in AEWRON ONE from 3/58 to 10/59, stationed at Agana Guam and flew with Crew 3. Did many "round robins" fleet coverage, flying out of Okinawa for a couple of weeks, then on to Japan for a couple of weeks, and on to the Philippines, then back to Guam. A few weeks later we would do it all over again. November '59 to August '60 I was stationed at Airbarronpac VW-12 at Barber's Point. Flew out of Midway and I agree that these were some of the best times of my life. I have checked the membership list and have yet to

(Continued on Page 8)

-- New Members --

Boyd, John **AT2**
Address Removed 4/63-4/65
Valley Lee, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Penny Email Removed
Flight Crew – TE[illegible] just prior to leaving.

Endy, Tom **AT3**
Address Removed 2/56–7/57
Westminster, Address Removed
Phone Removed Email Removed
Served in Navy 7/53 – 7/57. Went to school in Memphis, then served a year in VP-40. Flew radio on P5M; returned from P.I. 11/55 as AT3. Received TAD orders to Radio school at Keesler AFB, Biloxi; then went to VW-1 and was assigned to TE2. Two West Pac deployments – one to Atsugi and one to Cubi.

Ragan, Dan A. **AT3**
Address Removed 11/54-9/56
Salt Lake City, Address Removed
Wife: June Phone Removed
Email Removed
Flew TE6 Radioman flying first communications evaluation between NAS Barbers Point, Midway Island, Adak and Kodiak Islands. Flew on TE1, 4, 6, 8 and 9.

Teague, Terry L. **ATN2**
Address Removed 2/70 – 1/71
Galveston, Address Removed Phone Removed
Email Removed
Flew mainly with Crew 10.

Winchester, Christy
Address Removed
Ben Franklin, Address Removed
Email Removed
Phone Removed
Christy has joined our VW-1 group in memory of her uncle

Grenier, LaVerne
and in appreciation of the response she has received from the article in our December issue. Christy wrote:

"The newsletter is interesting to read and makes me feel like I am still in touch with Laverne's Navy "family". I know if he were still alive, he would be a member."

Where are those Great Recipes?

Seems that at the last reunion a couple of ladies mentioned that they would like to see recipes included on the website. Pete says that he has forgotten exactly who the women were; but that he has not received any recipes.

If you have a favorite recipe – especially those of the Pacific area that VW-1 frequented – please send it to Pete at Email Removed or drop them in the mail if you are not a computer user. Pete added that lumpia was what came immediately to his mind.

Pete's address is:
Address Removed Arlington, Address Removed

Historian (Continued from Page 3)

members were meteorologists and could give her a good deal of detail about the various storms. He added "probably more than you would ever want to know"!

Pete is the primary contact on this and if you have pictures to contribute, or want to write up some recollection that you think would of interest, you can work through him to get it to Riene.

Or, if you prefer, you can contact her directly at her web site:
http://www/reienelive.com/

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 6)

find the names of anyone I flew with. I am a "plank" owner of Airbarronpac Barber's Point/ Midway. When I get a chance I will take a photo of the certificate and e-mail it to you. I live in Virginia, near DC, and would like to make one of your reunions held on the East Coast"

Tim Ball (2/14) Email Removed "New mailing address: Address Removed San Antonio, Address Removed

Moon Mullen (2/22) Email Removed "I received two e-mails from an ATN2 who flew with us out of Danang on Crew 10. He has numerous health concerns and the VA won't accept that he was in Nam since he has no orders showing that. Remember, we used to show leaving Guam and returning to Guam. The VA has told him that they will accept the Nam TAD duties if he can have a "buddy letter" from someone that was with him. I will write that letter (and have it notarized) and send it to him via USPS. LCDR John Linendoll was probably his Radar Officer on TE-10 and I sent along his street address. Anyone else knowing/flying with ATN2 Terry Teague, please contact him. Capt. Sill and Bill Chitty were in VW-1 when he was also. He needs help. Hey, was looking for the cost of membership in the newsletter, but can't find it. I mentioned before ... why not establish a "Gift Membership" at reduced price for the 1st year. Lots of folks who are now members might consider giving a gift membership to a former VW person that will end up continuing after the first year."
(**Note**: Terry Teague is now a member of the Association. See new members in this issue for his contact information. As for the "gift membership", good idea, Moon. Let's have it on the agenda at the San Diego reunion.j

Dick and Gwen Lee (3/11) Email Removed "Just wanted you to know that we are moving back to Colorado next week. Will be in touch soon as we have a new email address. Our new home address will be Address Removed Address Removed Phone: Phone Removed Note our new e-mail address. We are about half moved in.



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

GAINESVILLE/GNV
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Mailing Code Removed