ISSUE 30 VW-1 TRACKER OCTOBER 2007



VW-1 GOLFING GREATS ... are gathered round after a "round" of golf during the reunion in San Diego in Oct. of '06. Front (sitting) L to R: Tony Watson, Joe Vilsack, Jack Gergal, Don Ray and Dave Cousineau. Kneeling: Fred Becker, Pete Wasmund and Jesse Garcia. We think they look "pretty darn good" for oldtimers!

Educational Vacation Planned

Your secretary/treasurer is going to go get an education on reunion planning! I'm very excited about it. There is a Reunion Network that has seminars in various locations several times a year. It is a three day event and they take you around the host city, showing you their attractions, restaurants, etc. They give lectures on how to negotiate contracts with hotels, etc.; how to select a hotel that best suits your group's needs, insurance information, etc. For the past four or fives year we have been receiving their magazine and we have wanted to attend one of their events. It is finally going to happen.

I will be going to Shreveport, LA for the November 12th Seminar. I hope to pick up some great ideas and info from other planners that will improve our own reunions. Ed gets to stay home and take care of Morgan, but I'll listen hard and bring home any pertinent information for him. The vacation part happens because I'm going a day early and returning a day late so I can do a little gambling on the side. The Reunion Network folks have an itinerary that keeps you hopping from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. so I'll be theirs for the three days of the event. I'm really looking forward to the opportunity to compare notes with other planners and get a new perspective on the whole reunion concept.

News from Cyberspace, Etc.

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

Dan Cruz (Phone Call) Dan informed me of a correction on his departure date from VW-1 that was incorrect in the July issue. He left Guam in Oct. of '67, not '68, as stated.

Mary Lou Golden (7/21) Email Removed "Just a note to say now nice the write up for Ron was in the July VW-1 Tracker. I just showed it to my daughters and they thought it was so great!"

Don Martin Email Removed "I read with interest Charles Lange's story about TE-7. I was the investigating officer and spent a week in Atsugi to determine what had happened. Just a few weeks before the story in the April newsletter, I came across my accident report, but for the life of me can't find it now. When I do (if ever!), I'll scan it to my computer and send it along."

Gordon Olson "I just signed a contract with a publisher so my book may be out in six to eight months. "Flight to Nowhere" is the title of my book referring to our lost flight. It also represents the series of many events that are reflected in the title. It could refer to the flight we took into China in 1956 in an unarmed radar plane from VW-1, when they were our enemy. It could also refer to the romance that went nowhere when I had to leave Japan, because the Navy at the time would not let their men marry Japanese girls. Of it could refer to the Air Medal that was promised, but never received, for what was called the most dangerous mission since the Korean War. The Navy said that there was never such a mission. So you see this title is very apropos. Recently my Senator, at my request, is in contact with the Navy Department to find out about the flight that never happened and the medal that never was."

Duncan Sprinkle Email Removed (7/27) "I was stationed in VW-1 in '64/'65. I was a flight mech. I am trying to get info on flights into View Nam. This is for a VA claim that I am working on. I have looked thru the list of names on the web site and found some names that might have the info I need. I would appreciate it if you could contact these men and give them my e-mail address, along with my phone number – Phone Removed

Ralph Link Email Removed (7/29) E-mail to Duncan Sprinkle: "It was great visiting with you Saturday morning. I was looking in my cruise book and your smiling face is in the first row of the enlisted crew. So you must have been attached to Crew 3 when this was taken. The VA benefits are tricky to apply for. I've helped several veterans of Viet Nam apply for eligibility. Based on income you might have to co-pay for some or all benefits. The best advice I can give you is to reapply with the attached form and in Section IV you need to mark "Exposed to Agent Orange". With your DD214 listing of awarded medals, the Vietnam Service Medal is your proof of serving in Vietnam. If you do this there should not be any question. This VA web site has info on conditions by being exposed to Agent Orange HYPERLINK
http://www/vba.va.gov/bin/21/benefits/herbicide/AOno1.htm
Let me know how all this turns out and if I can be of further help. Look forward to seeing you in Colorado Springs."

Bill Green Email Removed (8/12) "I have just gotten out of a couple of days in the hospital, so now I am trying to catch up with my life. As you may recall, I have had

(Continued on Page 7)

NEW MEMBERS

Wiliam A. Bell — **LTjg**
Address Removed — 10/69 – 12/71
Walnut, Address Removed — Phone Removed
Wife: Mickey — Email Removed

Aircraft Commander. Operations, logs and records; schedules, training.

Melvin A. Bonds, Jr. — **AE-3**
Address Removed — 10/58-6/60
Hazelwood, Address Removed — Phone Removed
Wife: Mary Ann
Email Removed

Navy history: NTC San Diego 3/58 – 4/58; "P" School NATTC Norman Okla 5/58; AE "A" School NAS Jax, FL 5/58 – 10/58; VW-1 10/58 – 7/60; VR-8 Moffett Field, CA – 8/60 to 3/62. Then I left the service. While in VW-1, I was assigned to the line maintenance shop.

Floyd (Bud) Horn — **LTjg/LT**
Address Removed — 12/64-12/66
Orange Park, Address Removed — Phone Removed
Wife: Lois — Email Removed

OPS – Weather Div. Officer. Crew 6 Flt. Metro, 2nd and 1st Navigator.

Thurman (Bud) Hummel — **AE-3**
Address Removed — '66 – '67
Haysville, Address Removed
Contact Details Removed

Electrical shop, did "C" check for 6 months. Two tours to Chu-Lai. Was a ground-pounder. Did fly on occasion when paid, so crew member can have a date.

John L. Johnson, Jr. — **ATW2**
Address Removed — 4/65 – 7/66
Address Removed
Wife: Susan — Email Removed

Arrived by Army ship from AEWBARRON-PAC. Worked in operations hut doing pilot/crew logs. Flew with flight crews 6 and 7 about 1450 hours. CIC scope operator, radio operator.

No Offense Intended

Bob Warren called our attention to a comment made in our July Tracker that was less than complimentary to Chief Harold Eastman. We regret having included anything that could be construed as being negative.

Chief Eastman flew with Bob Warren as Flight Engineers in the North Atlantic in VW-11 prior to their duty in VW-1. After Chief Eastman left VW-1, he was stationed in Washington D.C. He was assigned to the NavAir Safety Office. He later went to sea and advanced to AFCM. When he retired (after 30 years) he was Command Master Chief for an Atlantic Command. He then settled in Florida and enjoyed his hobby of tinkering with boats in his shop.

Duncan Sprinkle — **ADR**
Address Removed — '64 – '65
Carmel Valley, Address Removed — Phone Removed
Wife: Patti — Email Removed

Worked in variety of departments: Flight crew, engine change, line crew.

Chuck Sweitzer — **ATR2**
Address Removed — 3/61 – 9/62
Rantoul, Address Removed — Phone Removed
Wife: Nancy — Email Removed

Started as ATW, flew as CIC, worked in Avionics and Chart Office. Transferred to AEWBARRON Pac

Carroll Walker — **AT3**
Address Removed — 1/58-7/59
Lake Forest, Address Removed — Phone Removed
Wife: Judy — Email Removed

Upon arriving in Guam I was transferred to Yokosuka, Japan for three months to attend Morse Code School for the regular Navy. Then returned to Guam and flew with Crew 7 as 2nd Radioman; then to 1st. My assignment while flying barrier was to maintain radio communications via Morse code only.

Colorado Springs Reunion ... June 16 – 20

The 2008 reunion is shaping up. Specific details and pricing will be finalized in the January Tracker. The format will be the usual:

Monday, June 16

Registration w/lunch

Tuesday, June 17

City Bus Tour w/lunch
Evening – free time

Wednesday, June 18
Two Optional Tours
to choose from
Evening Business meeting
with dinner & auction

Thursday, June 19
Free Day
Golf
Dinner/Entertainment

Friday, June 20
Checkout in a.m.

And, Yes, there will be an auction this year (by popular request)

VW-1 Vanguard Reunion Group Meets

By Pete Wasmund

Dottie and I just returned from Nashville, TN where the VW-1 Vanguard group was holding their reunion. I talked with Floyd Yancy, George Stewart, Dan Ragan and Ernie Ruff, along with several others of their members. A truly wonderful group of guys .... typical of all VW-1'ers. They had mustered 49 people, including the wives, for this reunion. I did convey our well wishes to them.

I was a guest in attendance at the business meeting. Floyd has announced that he is giving up the presidency of the association due to medical problems. As there were no volunteers for the position, Dan Ragan said he would take the nomination under advicement. Floyd mentioned the golf balls we have for sale to his membership and a couple of people expressed an interest.

Dan Ragan has rewritten his booklet on VW-1. He will be providing a copy to the Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola.

Just before I left I learned that Dan Ragan will be traveling to Memphis to visit some old friends. I asked him to join us for lunch in Jackson, TN and he said that they would make every effort to join us. We may have four guests at this lunch, both the Links and the Ragans! Dan also stated that he planned on being at our reunion in Colorado Spring.

Note: Following is e-mail from Floyd Yancy on 10/6/07

"I quit the reunion planning, record keeping, etc. Robert Gammons has taken it on. If you want to continue exchanging newsletters, his address is: Address Removed Leonardtown, Address Removed I've been doing it all so long, I know I'll miss it."

Note: We will miss Floyd also. We have enjoyed a great relationship – sharing information and trying to place those interested in reunions with the group that would best suit them. There are some individuals that have opted to belong to both groups. It is easy to understand why. As Pete said, those VW-1'ers are special people. We look forward to working with Bob Gammons.



MILITARY PILOTS EARN THEIR PAY .... Just take a look at this picture ... and then look again and realize what you're seeing. This photo was taken by a soldier in Afghanistan of a helo rescue mission. The pilot is a PA Guard who flies EMS choppers in civilian life. Now how many people on the planet you reckon could set the back end of a chopper down on the roof top of a shack on a steep mountain cliff and hold it there? (Photo courtesy of Gene Daniel and forwarded to us by Bill Miller)

Tennessee Group Meets in Jackson

Those Tennessee folks have the right idea. They don't wait for the reunion to roll around Every 18 months .... They meet on a fairly regular basis at a wonderful restaurant in Jackson. At their most recent get-together they had the Wasmunds, Oulmans, Links, Langes and Dan & June Ragan.

How About Floridians?

What do you Floridians think about doing it here in Florida?? As I look at our roster, I see that we have several couples that live within a reasonable distance to have such an event in or around Palatka, FL. Would anyone be interested? Drop us a e-mail and let us know. Do you have any information on a restaurant in the area that would be amenable to us sitting and chatting for a few hours over a lunch? Ed and I have been to a buffet place there that might work.

Send us your input via e-mail or call us at Phone Removed if you think you would be interested. We would be happy to arrange a time and a place to make it happen.

VW-1 All Hands Alumni Association

FINANCIAL REPORT for period 5/1/06 thru 4/30/07

NOTE: Figures exclude reunion income and expenses as reported in the 12/06 Tracker

Beginning Balance 5/1/06		$ 1,503.72
Income:		
Annual Dues	$ 2,890.00	
Shirts	474.30	
Hats, Pins, Patches	312.45	
Golf Balls	40.00	
Ship's Store Postage	40.63	
Donations	50.00	
Total:	$ 3,807.38	
Total Income:		$ 5,311.10
Expenses:		
Tracker Printing	$ 699.60	
Tracker Postage	345.40	
Regular Postage	171.57	
~~Printing & Computer Supplies~~	~~278.44~~	
Shirts (Tees)	223.68	
Web Site	143.30	
Shirt Refunds from Reunion Orders (4)	139.20	
Cotton Pickin' VW-1 Shirt Logo	142.50	
Reunion Contribution from Gen. Fund	256.59	
Total Expenses:		$ 2,400.28
Ending Balance 4/30/06		$ 2,910.82

- The Difference -

Thanks to Floyd Orsini for forwarding this to us

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Get upset if you're too busy to talk to them for a week.
MILITARY FRIENDS: Are glad to see you after years and will happily carry on the same conversation you were having last time you met.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Bail you out of jail and tell you what you did was wrong.
MILITARY FRIENDS: Sit next to you saying, "Damn ... we screwed up ... but man that was fun!"

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Borrow your stuff for a few days then give it back
MILITARY FRIENDS: Keep your stuff so long they forget it's yours.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Have never seen you cry.
MILITARY FRIENDS: Cry with you.

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 1)

severe back problems for the last two-and-a-half years. Nothing seemed to work for any long term fix and I was in constant discomfort. I finally went to a neurologist and it was decided to operate on my back, as I had two ruptured discs. One at L3-4 and the other at L4-5. The operation went well and I got rid of the pain caused by these ruptures. All I need to do now is recover from the three inch slice in my lower back. They are saying I need to be very careful for about six weeks. Then I believe they will have me on physical therapy for awhile to build up the strength in my back."

Gerald Kastigar Email Removed (8/12) "I won't be going to anymore reunions, but I certainly enjoy visiting the VW-1 web site. Reunions and all that were never my cup of tea. I really feel out of place there. Not just the VW-1 reunion, but others as well. Heheh, probably some genetic defect of mine, certainly not the fault of the hosts."

Dave & Mary Ann Cousineau Email Removed (8/24) "New home, new address, new e-mails. Address: Address Removed St. George, Utah, Address Removed Phone Removed We get great sunshine and see it frequently. The temperature today was 107 degrees with no appreciable humidity. We have three bedrooms and a den and a very large 'great room' with a large attached covered patio. Our nearest airport is Las Vegas, a mere 100 miles to the south and we have two shuttle services that provide round trip services between St. George and Las Vegas. Mary Ann's e-mail address is: Email Removed

Dan Thomson Snail Mail (8/24) "On several occasions some folks have stated how difficult it is to locate models of the Willy Victor. A model can be found at "Pacific Aircraft.com under prop driven military aircraft. It's a beautiful grey and white model. It is a bit pricey at $ 149.00, but to most of us, it's worth it."

Don Lanoue Email Removed (9/1) Please change my e-mail address and home address in your record to: Address Removed Jackson, Address Removed Phone: Phone Removed

Dave Brundage Snailmail Note new address: Address Removed Coker, Address Removed

Stephen Husser Email Removed (9/17) "I build 1/48 scale Navy aircraft models as a hobby. Generally modern days, from the 60's to the present. I was recently given a B-17G model kit and really didn't know what to do with it. As being the detail oriented person that I am, I bought several reference books to try and figure it out. This was when I discovered that the B-17 was used by the Navy as an early warning platform designated the PB-1W. My problem is that I cannot find any decent pictures of what the inside, or the radome, looked like. This would definitely be a neat subject at model shows, as well as several websites that I participate in. I am asking if you have any fairly detailed shots of what this area looked like. Also the radar that it used. Was it similar to the AD-4W radar and radome? If so, I can use what I have in my spare box of parts to model that. But what about the other areas? Any help would be greatly appreciated. Phone Removed

Christy Winchester Email Removed "Did you know we moved? Our new address is: Address Removed Bedford, Address Removed We decided all the yard work and commute needed to come to an end. I like being six miles from work and being close to everything. I did a fine job picking the apartment because it's quiet here, too;

(Continued to Page 8)

News from Cyberspace (Contined from page 7)

close to everything. I did a fine job picking the apartment because it's quiet here, too; but it's still not like looking outside and seeing miles of fields with only a few houses around. Two weeks after we moved here I rear-ended a guy on the way to work. The tiny bit of rain we've gotten since we've been here just made the streets slick. Not that biig a deal though., Nobody was hurt and he wasn't the type to fake a back or neck injury. But it sure hurt my pride. All those miles I've driven and didn't cause an accident until I'm only six miles from work! I received my packet on POW's from the government to go back to Washington for the annual briefing, but I won't make the trip this year. Maybe next time. I don't expect to learn any more than I did before."

Don Spencer Email Removed 10/05 "Ed, not only did I fly with you in VW-1, we both live in Florida and we both live on Edgewater Drive ... only I live in Jacksonville. I served in 64-66 as the skinniest officer in the squadron. (Now I look pregnant – good livin' does that to you!) I was a CICO. I would like to join your organization. I tried to call your number, but it was busy most of the day. You're not running a bookie operation are you?"

New E-Mail Addresses:

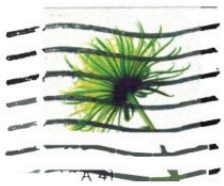
Harry Gowenlock	Email Removed
Morton (Gene) Bloom	Email Removed
Myron Price	Email Removed
Jim & Lois Goodwin	Email Removed
George Stewart	Email Removed



Address Removed

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





Mailing Code Removed