ISSUE 32 VW-1 TRACKER APRIL 2008

Before or After .....

Peterson Air & Space Museum



In the limited time available at the reunion, we must pick and choose among the things that we include for our day trips. One of the major things that we did not include on this Colorado Springs trip ... and one that is highly recommended for you to see .... Is the Peterson Air & Space Museum. We want to thank Bill Green for doing some research on this facility and for making us aware that there is a Connie (EC1121) on display there.

The Museum's mission is to preserve and portray the rich aviation and space history of Colorado Springs and the base. It is located within an 8.3 acre Colorado State Historic District. Exhibits feature the WW11 Peterson Army Air Base, the Binational (US and Canada) North American Aerospace Defense Command, US Air Force and Army Air Defense Commands, and the US Air Force Space Command. The Museum's Airpark collection includes sixteen aircraft and five missiles.

The main reason it is not included is due to the security conditions and the red tape necessary to take a group into the facility. Visitors with military identification are allowed and visitors escorted by DOD cardholders. If you or no one in your party has a current military or DOD identification, you must contact the museum staff in advance of your visit to arrange base access. You must provide the full names of any adults, the last six digits of their Social Security Numbers, their dates of birth and the date and time you plan to visit the museum. They forward that information to the Visitor Control Center for base Security Forces personnel to do a background check and process a visitor pass. They need such visitor information at least 24 hours prior to your visit. The museum is open 9 to 4 Tuesday thru Saturday. They recommend you call (719-556-4696) before your visit to confirm the access policies for the date you desire to tour the museum.

The Visitor Control Center is at the Peterson AFB West Gate, which is located east off Powers Boulevard at Airport Road. We hope many of you will take the opportunity to visit this facility. It comes very highly recommended.

An interesting restaurant is located not far from the Visitor Center. This is Solo's Restaurant on Fountain Blvd., just one block east of Powers. Solo's centerpiece is a Boeing KC-97. Forty-two passengers can actually eat in the plane or in the 275-seat restaurant which is built all around it. It is rich in aviation history and displays 100's of pictures, memorabilia and rare artifacts, Solo's also offers a great menu. Plan on spending some time looking around if you decide to eat there. Not only is it interesting, but the food is excellent!

News from Cyberspace, Etc.

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

Tom Dailey (1/7) Email Removed "Although I was a "blackshoe" (the only one in the family), I spent a fair amount of time at NAS Agana, as I knew some folks in the Aero Club up there. Got my first dual in a C-170, plus a ride in a T-34 Mentor there. Used to see the VW-1 birds going n 'comin all the time (along with the Buff's from Anderson AFB). Three of my uncles were AD's, but I became an RM. Ironically, I'm the only one in the family that ever got a pilot's license & ratings. I was stationed at Navcommsta, Finegayen, just up the road from 12/67 to 8/69. I indeed recall that infamous day when I boarded the "big bird" for the mystic land of CONUS. Someday, I'll make it back, even though I know it's not the same without Mr. Lujan's store on Marine Drive or the "hooch" on Gun Beach. Suppose other people own stuff besides Jones & Guerrero? I still have my Guam licence plate from the red Austin-Healey 3000 MK-III that I bought there."

Joe & Kathy Amarol (1/14) Kathy wanted to let everyone know that "Joe would like to talk to any old shipmates that remember him. Call Phone Removed Joe also wanted to thank Don Rea for bringing him the Japanese Geisha girl in the glass.

Jim Galinsky (1/14) Email Removed "Thanks for getting Rick Hall and I back in touch. My wife, Sheila, and I were godparents on Guam for Rick and Letty's 1st born. I am planning, as of now, on being in Colorado Springs. Christmas was difficult – our daughter in having a serious bout with kidney cancer, but after removal of her right kidney and the tumor, the prognosis is good. Things are looking up."

Claude & Nadine Mullen (1/14) Email Removed "Kinda disappointed at Page 5 note at bottom of reunion plans article. "Always a delight to see old friends" .... How about us "young friends??? From an AG born on 2/2/xx – Ground Hog's Day."

Jim Goodson (1/16) Email Removed Note new E-mail address.

Roy Zimmerman (1/8) Email Removed "Got a call from Pete (Taco) in November and talking to him again a few days later. He is still in Big Bear, CA.

Tom Archer (1/18) Email Removed "I won't be able to make this years' reunion, but I am happy to see that George Dean still on the E-list. I served with George when he got banged up in Da Nang. Do you think there will ever be a reunion in Philly?"

Dave & Joyce Herda (1/19) Email Removed "I've got the October issue of the Tracker. Thought I had missed some info on the upcoming reunion. I'm looking forward to making one of these reunions.... just have to work out the schedule conflicts. It'd been great if I had heard of this group in time for either the San Antonio or Branson reunions. I'm looking for a federal job that's not so demanding. Of course, retirement isn't that far away either!"

Charles Hedges (1/19) Email Removed "I'm at a loss on the reunion and where it is going to be. I have not seen a Tracker for a year now, nor any other correspondence from anyone. The reason I am behind is that a year ago October we purchased some property in Arkansas; then last March we built a house on it and in August we moved down here. I don't know where some of our mail went. Last October I went through a

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High Altitude Acclimatization

Does anyone out there have any concern about the altitude of Colorado Springs and whether it will be a problem? We have mentioned this before, but thought it was worth a few more words.

According to the official explanation, HIGH altitude begins at 8,000 feet. Since Colorado Springs is only at 6,000 feet above sea level, one would think there should not be a problem. Of course, some ....like us Floridians .... live at sea level, so it is a big difference for us! Although you can choose to go to the top of Pike's Peak if you so desire, note that none of the planned activities are at a greater altitude than 6,000, including the Royal Gorge Tour. That SHOULD mean we are A-OK, but it is possible some of us may be affected and there are a few things we can do about it.

There are no specific factors such as age, sex or physical condition that correlates with susceptibility to altitude sickness. What causes altitude sickness? The concentration of oxygen at sea level is about 21 per cent and the barometric pressure averages 760 mmHg. As altitude increases, the concentration remains the same but the number of oxygen molecules per breath is reduced. At 12,00 feet the barometric pressure is only 483 mmHg, so there are roughly 50 per cent fewer oxygen molecules per breath. In order to properly oxygenate the body, your breathing rate (even while at rest) has to increase. Since the amount of oxygen required for activity is the same, the body must adjust to having less oxygen. It all sounds very scientific. In short, what folks so often say is that the "air is thinner".

There are some things you can do to help acclimate yourself to higher elevations than those to which you are accustomed. If possible, take your time to reaching the higher altitudes. Obviously, for those of you flying in, this is not possible. Those who drive have a bit more control of the speed of their journey. Of greatest importance – and something we all can do – is to stay hydrated. Drink lots of fluids, starting several days before your trip and continuing while at altitude. Bill Green shared some tips with us and emphasized that the fluids need to be Gatorade or water ... not BEER!!! But, of course, we all know that would not be a problem for the VW-1'ers! Bill also cautioned that we should remember that the air is very dry, so bring plenty of lotion and chapstick.

There is a preventive medication, Diamox, that allows you to breathe faster and metabolize more oxygen and is available only with a doctor's prescription. If you are concerned about the elevation and think you may be at risk to have a degree of altitude sickness, we recommend you talk to your doctor about it.

Other medications are:
Ibuprofen is effective at relieving altitude headache.
Breathing oxygen reduces the effects of altitude illnesses

During our visit to Colorado Springs, we brought this subject up with the folks we spoke with and their input was that they have found very little problems with the reunion groups that they have come and visit Colorado Springs. As long as we do not venture out into the much higher elevations surrounding Colorado Springs, it should not be an issue for the majority of us.

Our VW-1 Crew Picture Gallery ....



CREW 1 ....(L to R) Charles Lane, Gerald Brice, Howard Hamilton, Joe Vilsack, Cruz Martinez, Jim Goodwin and Eldon Eskew.

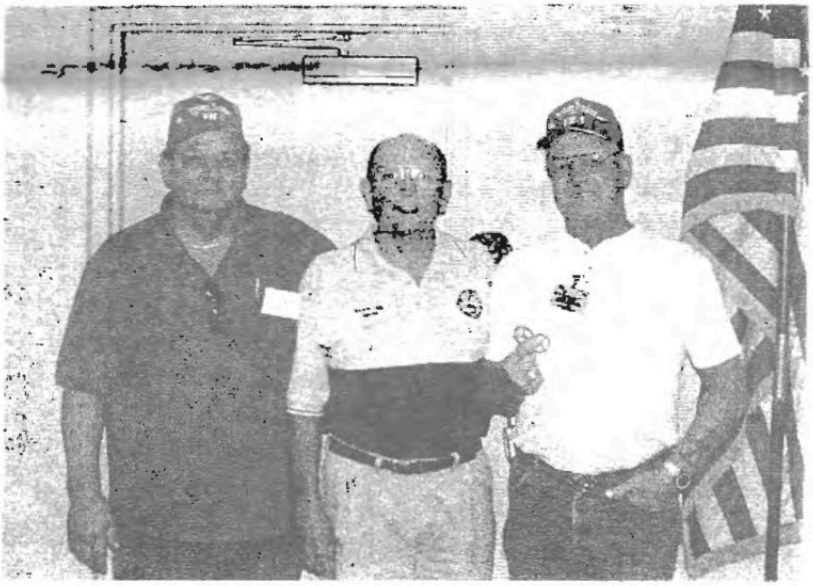


CREW 3 ..... (Back Row) Tom Hull, Ralph Link, Victor Zarich, Larry Morris and Steve Healy. (Kneeling) John Stevenson, Jesse Garcia, Ron Anderson and Eldon Eskew.

In which Picture Do You Belong?



CREW 6 ..... John Linendoll, Foster Hoover, Bill Green, Doug Pendray, Dick Bleakney, Pete Wasmund, Jim LaPosta and Al Madson. Seated: Fred Becker.



CREW 00 ....
Tom Hull, Ralph, Gary Oulman

* * * * *

WE CAN RETAKE THESE PICTURES IN COLORADO SPRINGS AND INCLUDE
YOU !!

Dues Reminder

Not yet, but the month (May) of paying your dues is getting close and this will be the last Tracker until July. On May 1 we will send out notices to all current members, but since we are always interested in saving a nickel ... or more precisely, 41 cents, we are reminding you a little early.

If you wish to save us that stamp in May, just write a check prior to May 1 for $ 15.00, payable to:

Sally Metzger
Address Removed
Inverness, Address Removed

and drop it in the mail.

If you joined our Association after 1/1/08, your dues are not payable until May '09.

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 2)

total hip replacement and still feeling the effects of that. But one of these days we should feel better. My new address is: Charles E. Hedges, Sr.; Address Removed Mena, Arkansas Address Removed Phone Removed or Phone Removed (cell)."

Richard Bleakney (1/19) Email Removed "Just wanted to touch base with you and make sure you have our new U.S. address: Address Removed Cedar Park, TX Address Removed Hope all is well with you."

John & Penny Boyd (1/20) Email Removed "We just got back from a few days in the sun in Florida and when we went through our mail, we found the latest Tracker with all the info on the Reunion. As of right now we have reservations at the hotel, airline tickets purchased, rental car reserved and just completed our check to you for the fun and games out there. We are very excited about it and really look forward to another get-together with our friends from the past. Penny would like to encourage you to have another story time like the one that kept us in stitches last year in San Diego. It looks like the reunion is filled with great stuff, much like the last one."

Ron Bohman (2/3) Email Removed "I was a CS3 cook on the USS Proteus at 19 in 1969. In January 1970 I needed to go to PI. A friend was with VM-1 so he got me aboard the Connie. Before the point of no return we had engine problems and had to turn back. Soon after we were in an air pocket and the nose started to go down. We put on our Mae Wests and went to the ditching stations. Well, we were all right and made it back to Guam. The engine was fixed in a few hours and we made it to NAS Sangley Point. We landed before dawn, although I wondered if there was going to be enough room to land! See if any of the pilots remember this incident."

Floyd (Bob) Orsini (2/8) Email Removed "I'm looking forward to the reunion in June. Not sure if I told you before, but I finally found a model kit of a Willy Victor. It's a Heller kit and went out of circulation years ago. I am in the process of building it as the "Roadrunner". I even found a decal of a Roadrunner for the nose and will have the same numbers, 145928. I plan on mounting it on a stand in the flying attitude. I plan on driving out to the reunion and will take the "Roadrunner" with me. The Roadrunner will be flying again.... It will just be a bit smaller!"

Gary & Gay Oulman (2/11) Email Removed "Thanks for Pete's (Tacos) phone number. Gary talked to him a little bit ago. He said you could post his phone number in the bulletin for others that would like to contact him. He also said for you to send him info on the reunion so he could pay his dues, etc. His address is Address Removed Big Bear Lake, Address Removed His home phone number is Phone Removed and his cell number is Phone Removed Phone Removed Today I got a booklet from the Colorado Spring convention bureau and we decided that tomorrow we are going to call and see if we can add extra days onto our hotel room so we can see more while we are there. It looks to be a fascinating and worthwhile area to spend some really valuable time. Looking forward to it."

Claude & Nadine Mullen (2/10) Email Removed "Just go the message on Friday that I will be going to eastern Europe to play SrSoftballUSA from the 12 to the 23rd of June. Therefore, we will be unable to attend the Colo Springs reunion. What are the odds of that being the same four days! We play in Budapest, Prague and Krakow, Poland. We had to cancel American Airlines, hotel and Avis and reschedule everything. Our best to all."

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News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 6)

Victor Zarich (2/18) Email Removed "There was a mix up of flight pay in March of '62. The AE shop chief apologized and promised that I would be on the schedule next month. With that I flew with others on TE-00 to NAS Atsugi, and that completed my flying on every airplane that we had during my tour of duty with VW-1. This was a big AEW operation. When I went to the mess hall for dinner at Atsugi, a cook behind the food line asked if, with all those people, had we folks had sent any mess cooks? I said no, and thought to myself, OH NO. Later, perhaps in the summer of 1962, with about three VW-1 airplanes to Atsugi, we did send our cook for several days tour there."

Jim Thomas (2/20) Email Removed Note new address. Sometimes the small letters blend together and are unreadable. It's T Email Removed

Ann Gagnon (3/21) Email Removed "I had planned on coming to the reunion (booked by flight and room) but just found out will be unable to attend. I have a graduation to attend on the 20th. It is my nephew's and he will be leaving the next week to join the military. I am very disappointed, but know that it will be very successful. Please give my best to all the attendees."

John Rice (3/26) Email Removed "Good news. I spoke with Ed Gant yesterday and he informed me he remarried and moved to a new home. My letter bounced around a bit but finally did get to the correct place. We spoke for quite a time and he indicated they may attend the reunion. I directed him to our web site and, with any luck at all, he will be able to find it. He also told me a number of stories about you, so if you cannot find me a sea bean, I may have to spread them when we meet in Colorado Springs."

OUR WEBMASTER AND VICE PRESIDENT, Pete Wasmund and I spoke on the phone today (3/29) and he gave me permission to let folks know that he and Dottie have had a difficult couple of months. Dottie has been in the hospital, some of the time in ICU and is now in rehab getting her strength back after suffering some heart problems. Please remember them in your prayers and let Dottie know we are rooting for her fast recovery. We have hopes of seeing them both in Colorado Springs.

Military Retiree Account Statement

(Note: This was received from Ralph Whislter, Co USS Redfin (SS-272) and seemed worth passing on to our members.)

The same as many of you, I recently received my Military Retiree Account Statement. Please review the back of your statement and verify who you have designated as the beneficiary in case of your death.

Mine had changed to someone I don't even know (Cathy J. McMillin, "wife") as getting 100%. Based upon the fact that recently the VA had military retiree personnel information compromised, it is interesting that somehow my beneficiaries have changed.

If you look at the broader picture of what this means, many veterans probably wouldn't catch this and that – as we lose more of our fellow service men and women each day – this could leave their dependents without the benefits they deserve.

I will be calling DOD the first day they are open, as well as the DOD IG and local congressmen.

Please send this out to the retirees you know and alert them to check who their current beneficiary is.

------ Welcome New Members ------

Harold (Hal) Cooper **AN/AT3/AT2**
Address Removed 7/58 – 6/60
Parthenon, Address Removed Phone Removed
Email Removed (son)

Upon arrival, at 18, and an AT "A" School grad, I knew almost nothing about electronics or planes. I attended Morse Code school in Japan and was assigned to Crew 4 as radioman. After leaving VW-1, I was discharged for 89 days and then shipped over for "B" School. Later got accepted for the NESEP Program to attend electrical engineering school. Got my BSEE in 1967; retired in 1977.

James F. Coppage **AE3**
Address Removed 3/63 – 6/64
Chesapeake, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Janice Email Removed

Worked in electrical shop; flew with TE2 as flight electrician and cooked a lot !

Stephen Davis **ATR2**
Address Removed 4/69 – 6/70
Snead, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Kathy Email Removed

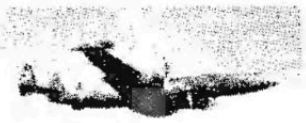
Avionics Crew Chief, Radar Tech, Line Crew. My last assignment was TAD to Oxford, CA.

Richard L. Hall (Rick) **ADR1**
Address Removed 9/68 – 3/71
Colorado Springs, Address Removed
Wife: Leticia (Letty) Phone Removed
Email Removed

Flight Engineer on TE2 and TE00

Lloyd Russell **AMS2**
Address Removed '66 – '68
Blytheville, Address Removed Phone Removed
Email Removed

Flight metalsmith on TE2 and TE00. Worked with the check crew



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