ISSUE 33 VW-1 TRACKER JULY 2008

Wow! What a Wing-Ding!!

This reunion has to qualify as one of the best ever. We are glad that Lee Thompson did such a good job of selling Colorado Springs. It was a great adventure.

Things didn't go great from the get-go for the Sunday early arrivals. The hotel was sold out and our folks were arriving and finding rooms were not yet ready. There was a fairly long wait for some, but that didn't faze anyone. We gathered 'round in the hotel lobby and started getting reacquainted. We learned of LeRoy White's 36' self-contained RV. He drove it from Texas to Colorado and has taking quite a few trips with it. Go, LeRoy! We also found out that his friend Ruby's grandson, Justin Berry, has accepted a baseball scholarship from Texas Tech in Lubbock, TX. And on and on it went .... lots of talk and fellowship. Everyone did get into their rooms eventually.

Registration begins at noon on Monday, but things were popping by 9 a.m. As usual, we had lots of help. Gay Oulman handled all the name badges and lanyards as people checked in. Dave Cousineau helped Ed set up the computer and get the new printer working. That was much appreciated. LeRoy was busy with his camera taking candid shots and getting all the couples in front of the camera for their "official" picture. All those will be posted on our web site so you can see how much younger everyone looks from the last reunion. By the time the food and beer became available at noon, the tables were full and the conversations were flowing. We were delighted to have so many "first time attendees" at this reunion..... over twenty! Jim Stinson put the announcement for this reunion in both the VFW and American Legion magazines and it

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WAITING IS EASIER .... when surrounded by friends. (L to R) Sandra Lange, Jane Link, Dottie and Pete Wasmund, Lloyd Turner, and Dick Lyon. Standing: Dave Cousineau and LeRoy White.

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generated a lot of interest. Everyone who called could not make the reunion, but take a look at our new members introduced in this newsletter. Many came from those ad's. Thank you, Jim.

Early Tuesday we went on a tour of the city, starting with the Olympic Village. That is quite an impressive place and we learned a lot about how our Olympic hopefuls train. Our bus driver was an excellent driver. Unfortunately, he was not a fluent guide. He was definitely in the senior citizen category and had the same problems some of us sometimes encounter. He couldn't do two things at a time – drive and talk – so there were long periods of silence. He often lost his train of thought and started a story he didn't finish. We heard on good authority that some in the back of the bus actually fell asleep! The day was saved by a delicious lunch at Guiseppie's Restaurant, the cities old railroad station. It was no surprise that no one complained ....but then, our folks never do! The problem was easily resolved by a phone call to the tour company at the end of the day and we had a delightful bus driver for the Wednesday and Thursday tours.

Wednesday's tour was to the U.S. Air Force Academy and the Garden of the Gods. One was made by man and one was a natural phenomenon, but they were both awesome. We were impressed at the intense commitment the young people have to have to get into the Academy and the difficulty of the standards they must achieve to succeed there. We learned a bit about what it takes in order to graduate from the Academy. It is a very demanding curriculum. The Air Force chapel lived up to its reputation as a remarkable piece of architecture. We were interested to find there are four different "chapels" within it. The main chapel is for Protestants; below that is the Catholic chapel, plus there is a Synagogue and another special area for other Arabic faiths. The organ is a work of art and we regret that we did not have the opportunity to hear it play.

Lunch at the Garden of the Gods, was not the fancy affair that Tuesday was, but very appropriate for it was in an outdoor pavilion that we had all to ourselves. The Trading Post there is definitely not just a tourist trap. It has art work, native jewelry .... lots of high end stuff that was very beautiful, very tempting, and very expensive. But we enjoyed looking at it. And, of course, there was the tourist stuff too.

The ride through the Garden was enhanced by the great job that our bus driver did for us. Marilyn knew that we had asked for someone who could put a bit of zest into their presentation and she did just that. Not only did we enjoy the colors and shapes of the formations in the gardens, but the stories that went along with them. Then it was back to the hotel for our evening events.

With no "old business" pending, the "new business" started off the meeting and we made an immediate request for someone to take over the ships' store and the scrap books. Martha Thompson volunteered to be in charge of our scrap book and reunion history book. We saw the scrapbook of her gardens from her home and are excited about having her talent put to work on behalf of the VW-1 Association. Jim LaPosta spoke about being interested in taking over the Ships' Store, but thought it might be too much. Peggy immediately said he would do it, so I suspect that it will be a joint effort. and we greatly appreciate getting this chore off our hands. Thank you Martha, Jim and Peggy.

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Wow! What a Wing Ding!! (Continued from Page 2)

The election of officers resulted in no changes. Pete Wasmund will continue as VP; Dick Lee as Chaplin, Ed Metzger as President and Sally M. as Sec./Treas.

Then came the BIG question.... where and when for the next reunion. The three top contenders were Orlando, FL; Norfolk, VA; and Columbus, GA. Orlando won by a huge margin and it will be held sometime during Feb., March or April of 2010. One big selling point for Orlando was the ease of flying into this location, especially at a time when airlines are cutting routes. Orlando has great possibilities ... not the least being a day tour to the Kennedy Space Center. That will be a must!!

Wednesday night was a buffet dinner of prime rib, crab legs and shrimp – but no dessert. The food at the hotel was excellent and the service was great ... two things that have a huge significance on a reunion being successful. We would recommend the Academy Hotel to anyone, anytime.

The auction was back at this reunion and there was a wide variety of items. Scott Wagner raised the bet to $120 to take home a fine pencil drawing of a Connie and $ 110 to own a model of the Connie (00) made by Dick Lyon. Scott also wound up with a spare part for a pen light for $ 1.00. There will be more on the auction in a future article. The bottom line is that the auction netted our treasury a grand total of $ 1,454.00. Remarkable, isn't it?



SCOTT WAGER .... received two of the treasures off the auction table. He also received the big bill.

After a serious business meeting; a meal fit for a king, and a hilarious auction, we finally got down to dessert. Out came the ice cream, along with various toppings, including nuts and whipped cream. It was just what we needed to round out the night and wind down the conversation.

Thursday was the big Golf Day for our golfers; plus about 25 folks went to the Royal Gorge. Ed Nafus led the pack with low score for the day and won the money, which he then donated to further fatten our treasury. Thank you, Ed.

Before dinner Thursday evening, Ed Metzger, did a tribute to our deceased shipmates called the Missing Comrade Ceremony. Pete has done a very good job of presenting it on our web site. His depiction of it, along with the pictures from the reunion, explains it much better than we can do here. It was very emotional and several individuals requested a copy. If you don't have a computer and would like a copy of this tribute, let

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Wow! What a Wing Ding! (Continued from Page 3)

us know and we will send it along. If you do have a computer, you can print it from there. This tribute will probably remain a standard feature of future reunions.



DICK LEE .... our VW-1 chaplain, enjoyed both the conversation with the tuxedo clad gentleman and the attention from the lady.

As we prepared to sit down to dinner, our folks became aware there was a reserved table and some rather formally dressed folks beginning to wander around the room. The entertainment for the evening had arrived. They are known as the Red Herring and they are a "who done it" theater group. Having never been to one of these events, it was interesting to see how it evolved. The setting was a Speakeasy during prohibition. The performers circulated and became acquainted with their audience before and during dinner. They also introduced each of their characters and how they were interrelated. After dinner they did a skit in which one of them was murdered.

A leader was chosen for each table and we had a short time to question any or all of the participants to help determine who the murderer was. Two of our eight tables identified the correct person as the murderer.

The Red Herring group worked the crowd very effectively and our members had a lot of fun with them. They thanked our group for being so good to work with because everyone went along with the fantasy and participated. After the Red Herring finished up, we had a short period of storytelling. Once again, Tom Hoover regaled the crowd in his own special style.

The clock keeps ticking and we soon had to say our goodbyes. This is the hardest part of each reunion. The planning each time is exciting and challenging – the reunion itself is a joy in seeing old friends and making new friends from our Navy days. Then it is **OVER** and the "after reunion crash" hits. **BUT** ... there is a light some where in the distance because Orlando is ahead and the cycle begins once again.



LeROY WHITE .... our VW-1 photographer, delighted in cozying up to one of our mystery players. LeRoy never turns down a bear hug.

Two More Shipmates Need Help for VA Benefits

Once again our members are being asked to help out by providing evidence that two shipmates did, in fact, have feet on the ground in Vietnam. So, packrats, dig into your old records and see if you can help these guys verify their Agent Orange claims.

Cecil (Butch) Clements, ATR2, in Guam from 1967 to 1970. Phone: Phone Removed
E-mail: Email Removed Cell: Phone Removed

Donald E. Eisert, ATR3, Radar Tech, in Guam October 1964 to June 1966.
Address Removed Duluth, Minnesota Address Removed Phone: Phone Removed
E-mail: Email Removed

You've been able to help in the past. Hopefully you will be able to do it again.

VW-1 All Hands Association Alumni Association

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Period: 5/1/07 thru 4/30/08

INCOME:

Beginning Balance		$ 2,910.92
Dues	$ 3,790.00	
Hats, Pins, Patches	71.30	
Shirts	76.00	
Ships Store Postage	42.41	
Donations	35.00	
		4,014.71
TOTAL:		$ 6,925.63

EXPENSES:

Tracker Printing	$ 802.42	
Tracker Postage	396.00	
Other Postage	71.10	
Office Supplies	240.36	
Printer	275.00	
Hats, Pins, Patches	381.60	
Bumper Stickers	367.20	
Laptop Ugrade	40.97	
		2,574.65
BALANCE:		$ 4,350.98

Reunion Funds (4/30/04): Received: $ 14,098.00/ Spent (to date): $ 972.00

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

Robert W. Ahbol
Address Removed Address Removed
Livingston, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Tannis Email Removed

VQ-1 – '68-'71 Super Connie Aircrew until 1/69; then EP-38 Aircrew.
VQ-2 – '76-'79 EP-3E Aircrew – Airborne Electronic Supervisor and special projects CPO. ATC & ATCS.

George Bruen **LCDR**
Address Removed 11/66-11/68
Fairfield Bay, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Alfreda Email Removed

Upon reporting was assigned to maintenance Department as Ass't Maintenance Officer. Later promoted to Maintenance Officer. After about 3 months, I was designated Aircraft Commander and assigned to Crew 6.

Cecil Clements **ATR2**
Address Removed 9/67 – 3/70
Martin, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Deborah

AT Shop. Flew with several crews. Was Electronics troubleshooter & Flight Electronics Technician

Howard Dumond **ATN2**
Address Removed 4/63-4/65
Livingston, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Phyllis Email Removed

Flew as 1st Radioman with Crew 3

William Ernst **AC3**
Address Removed 7/54 – 4/56
Elmhurst, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Eleanor Email Removed

Radar Operator and Controller with Crew 5; in Navigation Office when not flying. I believe I was the first Air Controller (Tower Control) in the squadron at that time.

Isidro (Baldy) Gabaldon **E3**
Address Removed 2/66-7/67
Denver, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Marlene

Line Crew. 2nd Flight Engineer w/VP 64, NAS Moffett Field, CA.

Robert (Bob) Garrison **E3**
Address Removed 9/67 – 8/60
Bolivar, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Phyllis Email Removed

Flew as 1st Weather on Crew 5. When not flying, was assigned as 1st Lieutenant's Leading Petty Officer. I stayed in these positions until my military discharge on August 9, 1969.

Robert D. Golding **LTJG**
Address Removed 6/66 – 7/68
Address Removed
Email Removed

Assigned as Navigation Officer/ Education/Public Affairs. Flew mostly with Crew 5 and Crew 6. Duty I enjoyed most was taking most of the photos and publishing the '68 Cruise book.

Larry J. Hoeft **AMS3**
Address Removed 6/61 – 12/62
Yuma, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Joyce Email Removed

Flew on TE2 and was an alternate metal-Smith. Also in charge of the paint shop.

Hugh Holden **AT2**
Address Removed 1/59 – 4/60
Cecil, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Paulette

Electronics Crew Chief, TE-4

Charles (Chuck) Johnson **LT**
Address Removed 12/68-12/70
Address Removed
Wife: Claudia Email Removed

Pilot – Aircraft Commander with Crews 2, 4 and 7. Spent the first year in Public Relations; second year with Line Division.

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ORLANDO, FL - EARLY 2010

Make note of the general time & the place now – plan to attend!

David A. Justus **AE1**
Address Removed 2/60 – 2/63
Hanford, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Betty Email Removed

Flew on TE3 as electrician. Made Chief in May of '61. Was in Guam when Typhoon Karen hit Guam.

G. Dave Keeton **ATW2**
Address Removed 1965 – 1966
Stockton, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Linnea Email Removed

Flew as CIC/LPO/TC with Crew 5

Royce Kilmer **ADR2**
Address Removed 4/59 – 9/60
Mankato, MN Phone Removed
Wife: Pat

Check Crew. Went on nearly all TAD assignments to change engines and downed planes. On Guam when the Japanese airman shot down in 1944 came out of the hills.

Dick LaMarch **AMH3**
Address Removed 9/58 – 8/60
Fermdale, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Joan Email Removed

In Jan. '59 I was assigned to a flight crew and we flew in the Gulf of Tonkin. I was responsible for the hydraulics and helped the Crew Chief in the kitchen. Was assigned to the Maintenance Shop

Jack Roberts **PN3**
Address Removed 5/65 – 2/66
Arvada, CO Phone Removed
Wife: Dianne Email Removed

Assigned to ESO Shop

Neil W. Taylor **E4**
Address Removed 4/68 – 11/59
Suisun City, Address Removed Phone Removed
Email Removed

Thank You for Caring

from Ed and Sally Metzger

It isn't often that either of us are speechless, but the reunion attendees in Colorado Springs managed to do just that to us when we were presented with a lovely card filled with bills. Never in our lives have we felt more appreciated. That you believe we are doing a good job on the reunions and to reward us was beyond anything we ever would have expected. You must know that doing this job is truly an act of love. We get more out of our VW-1 Association in friendships than we ever dreamed when we started it in 1999. We are all family and our thank you is really not adequate to express our feelings.

AE Shop, Line Crew, Mess Cook

William (Bill) Turner **LT**
Address Removed 7/66 – 12/68
Marengo, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Lynn Email Removed

Flew with Crews 3 and 7. Served as Navigator, CICWO, and Flight Engineer

Ron Tusing **ADR3**
Address Removed 3/65 – 9/66
Norwalk, OH Phone Removed
Wife: Karl Email Removed

CO/XO Clerk

Jim Wilson **AN & ATR2**
Address Removed '64 – '66
Manitou Springs, CO Phone Removed
Wife: Lynn Email Removed

Flew with Crew 2 (Ron Knapp) in 1964. Saw more of the world than I ever thought I would.

Colorado Springs Reunion Financial Report

:Reunion Income:

Total Collected	$ 16,194
Less Cancellations	2,826
Total Available:	**$ 13,368**

Breakdown of Income:

City Tour	$ 2,256
Academy & Garden	2,236
Royal Gorge	1,430
Catering	7,300
Tips	146

Reunion Expenses:

Catering	$ 8,935.11
City Tour (6/17)	2,280.00
Air Force Academy/ Garden of Gods	2,252.00
Royal Gorge	1,485.00
Academy Hotel	691.44
Snacks	99.67
Entertainment/ Red Herring	600.00
Tips	215.00
Planning & Deposits	812.00
Total Expenses:	**$17,370.22**

Deficit balance for reunion of $ 4,002.22: At fiscal year end (4/30/08) we had a balance of $ 4,350.98 This is the money used to offset reunion expenses.

Current operating expenses will be covered by remaining balance; Auction income ($1,454); Ship's Store sales reunion sales ($606.35) and current dues being paid.



Address Removed

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



Mailing Code Removed