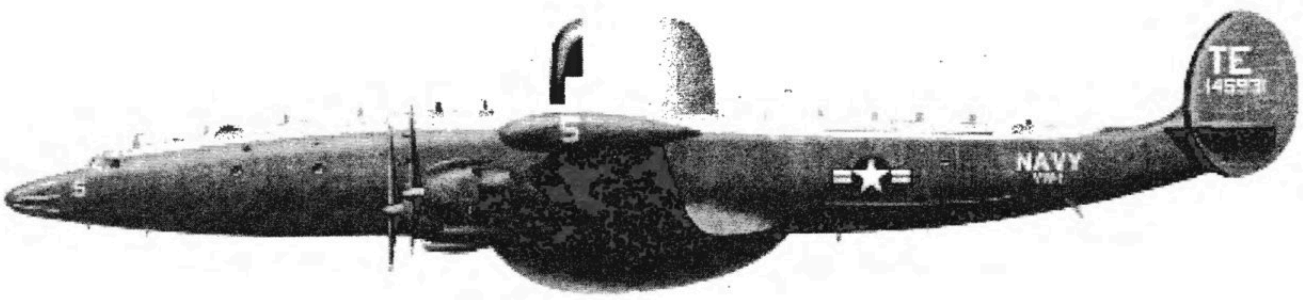
ISSUE 34 VW-1 TRACKER OCTOBER 2008

V W - 1

AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON ONE

"TYPHOON TRACKERS"



WC-121N WARNING STAR "WILLY VICTOR"

Prints of Willy Victor Available

George Dean made us aware of a site that does personalized prints of any military aircraft you desire, complete with BuNo, Modex Number, paint scheme, etc. – either in flight or on the ground. The artist is a fellow named Mads Bangso and he will work with you to get exactly what you want. One of his samples was the plane in the background with the crew standing in front of it. Pricing is impossible to quote because of the fact it is totally personalized as to size, style, detail, etc. The prices that were posted on the web site ranged from $ 49.00 to $ 400.00!

The prints are made in New Jersey and shipped via USmilitaryart.com. You can contact Jerry Highberger there for questions about sizes, prices and other details. He can talk your through the options and gather the necessary information.

We had a bit of difficulty contacting them, but succeeded by going to www.usmilitaryart.com and then clicking on Contact Us. Or their mailing address is:

USMilitaryArt.com, 725 Commerce Road, P.O. Box 4425, Linden, NJ 07036
Phone: 888-465-5389 Fax: 908-862-1355

News from Cyberspace, Etc.

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

Dave Keeton (4/18) Email Removed "Over the years I have visited the VW-1 Alumni Association web site a number of times, reminiscing about the good old times. I often noticed yours and Pete Wasmund's names on the site, but did not recognize them. This week, while thinning out some of my old military papers, I came across some old VW-1 crew lists for deployments. I also was a member of crew 5's CIC team from 1965 thru 1966. I noticed CIC team members, Clarkson, Tandy and Turner are also alumni members, along with a number of others. While Crew 5 was my primary assignment, I would fly with other crews to Sangley, mainly 7 and 1, when crew 5 was at Agana. Being single at that time, I enjoyed Sangley's liberty better than Guam's. I would like to have some members drop me a line."

Duncan Sprinkle (5/03) "I am sorry to have to say this because I was looking forward to going to the reunion. It so happens that on the 14th, my son is going to graduate from Oregon college; then he is going to China for a year to teach English. I am sorry that I cannot make the reunion. After six kids, this is the last one. Free at last!! Please say hi to everyone for me. God bless."

Dick LaMarsh (5/12) "On the active membership list on the web site my rate of AMH-3 and maintenance shop was left out. I was assigned to the metalsmith shop, but flew as as crew member most of my tour. This could jog some memories."

Hugh Holden (6/5) "Sorry I wasn't able to attend the reunion this year. Maybe next time. Of some interest may be that my cousin was Horace "Mo" Morris. We were b oth in VW-1 during my tour and he served another two tours, I believe."

Floyd Orsini (7/17) "Once again you went above and beyond putting a great reunion together. I headed up north thru Denver on 25 to Wyoming and picked up 80 east. Did the Crazy Horse tour. Unreal! Then saw Mt. Rushmore. Crazy Horse is more impressive. Sunday I drove the Badlands loop. From there I just kept going east and was home by 4 p.m. on Tuesday. Didn't see much of the flooding going thru Iowa. As of now, Pat and I will be at the next reunion. She said she will make a quilt for the auction."

Norbert Monahan (7/08) Email Removed "We just had a visit from Lyle and Sylvia Fisher and they told us about the Colorado Springs Reunion that we missed. Good news... my bride of over 48 years does not have a heart problem. This is after extensive and numerous tests. She does have muscle and tissue damage from a fall about 17 years ago. We were disappointed about missing the reunion, but are looking forward to the next one. We have cousins and an aunt in Florida."

Bob Garrison (8/3) " When I came back from my tour with VW-1, some of the stuff I shipped was lost. Please tell my shipmates I am trying to locate items. I am interested in getting copies of pictures taken in Guam, Chu Lai, in the plane during flights, and, if anyone has pictures, from the trip to Australia. Anything from the days with VW-1 from Sept. '67 to Aug. '69 would be great. Please contact me at Email Removed or Email Removed Or write to Address Removed Bolivar, Address Removed Thanks."

George Stewart (8/8) Email Removed "I remember our new member, Fred

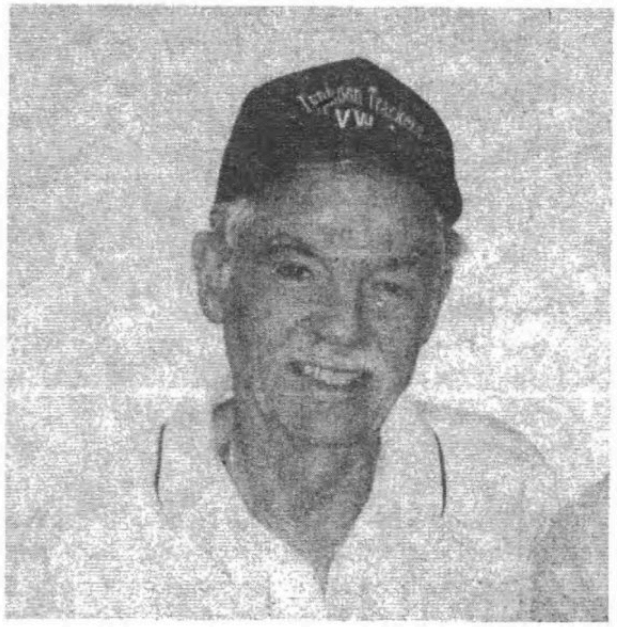
(Continued on Page 4)

History Matters – Time grows Short

(Article contributed by Lyle Fisher)

An Open Letter to the members of the VW-1 Alumni Association

We all have memories and recollections of VW-1 and our time on Guam or at Barber's Point. I sincerely believe that we need to keep in perspective the fact that VW-1 has now been decommissioned for more than 35 years, even though it does not seem that long. This, of course, highlights another unpleasant reflection; none of us are getting any younger. Once we are gone, all of those wonderful recollections, memories and "sea stories" of our VW-1 experiences will be lost forever. We need to take the time now to document and write as much as can be remembered. Do this primarily for your families, your grandkids, your great-grandchildren and future generations. Hopefully, these writing, or portions of them, could be added to the permanent archives of the history of VW-1 currently maintained on the web site.



Lyle Fisher

This same suggestion was made to me more than ten years ago. After telling some of my own "sea stories" to a friend who had never served in the military, he encouraged me to "write some of that down for your kids". I have attempted to do just that.

The absolute hardest part of undertaking any writing project such as this is STARTING. I found with my own project that once the writing was started, the more that I could actually remember. It was truly amazing.

The initial challenge was how to compile a bunch of "sea stories" and where to start? I decided for my own case that instead of a compilation, I would write the whole story, all 21 years of it. Doing this solved the initial challenge, "where to start?" It was easy. I Started at the beginning. The title of my first chapter is, in fact, "The Beginning". I wrote of how I came to get into the Navy and up through the time spent at "A" School. Each chapter thereafter was a tour of duty. My VW-1 tour is the third chapter.

Writing, for me, does not come easy. I sometimes have to start with a phrase or incomplete sentence and add words and move words around until I think that it says what I want it to say. Thank goodness for spell and grammar checker! I found that making lists of topics, events, or just thoughts, and then picking one to expand upon was helpful in getting started.

I feel very strongly about this and want to encourage all of the members of VW-1 Association to document and write all that they can remember of the squadron, the mission, and the times that were spent there. Our time to do this may be running short.

Note: Thank you, Lyle. We welcome input from all of our members. Be in touch.

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 2)

Smith. Smitty, then an Ensign, was our PB-1W Navigator when we deployed to Korea in 1953 as VW-1 Det. A. He joined VW-1 in the fall of 1952. He later was transferred to the detachment in the Phillipines. I think in 1954-55. He joined the navy as an enlisted man in 1949; then went thru NavCad training and received his pilot's wings and commission. He was an excellent pilot as well as a Navigator. When our plane was damaged and we were marooned in Guam for a week in 1953, he kept our hut supplied with beer. We had only a pair of dungarees, our flight suits, little money and our pay records and sea bags were in Japan. He was a good officer and never forgot that he was once an enlisted man. He is now having health problems and doesn't get around very well. I have been in contact with him and his son and I believe he has joined the Vanguards. I hope I will be able to see him this September when we meet in San Diego."

John & Karen Martin (8/13) Email Removed "Really sorry we missed all the fun at Colorado Springs. As it worked out, just as well we cancelled,, since my Mother passed away on May 31 and we were tied up for a great length of time, clearing out her house and taking care of paperwork. She nearly made it to our 50th wedding anniversary, which was June 7th. We have been super busy trying to find places to put all the things we brought back from her house. Plus Roger had a major project going this summer, making a Murphy bed framework, with base cabinets and book shelves on either side of it. It turned out really well and now we actually have a comfortable bed in the house for company to sleep on! We shall certainly try to make the reunion in Orlando, FL... the Sipes are just 60 miles away and the whole eastern seaboard is there for us to travel on north. We've never quite made it to Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine on our 200 trip. Maybe in 2010! Maybe we can get to see Ken and Grace Rowley at the next one."

Tom Hull (8/17) Email Removed "Looks like a great reunion. I just looked at all the photos. What a group! Wish I could have made it. Maybe next time."

Jim & Sandy Buck (8/23) Snail Mail "For over 20 years, my wife and I have been trying to find a friend that was both in B School and in VW-1 with me. What I know is this: Thomas Richardson, AT2; wife, Barbara, Children – Timothy, Kevin and Wendy. I believe he flew on TE-6. After he left the Navy he and his family moved to Bean Blossom, IN, where his wife had relatives. I think he went to work for Indiana Bell Telephone Co. They had another child while in Indiana, but I do not remember the name. Our last contact with them was at their home in Indiana in about 1972 or 1973. If anyone knows of Tom's whereabouts, we would appreciate it if they would contact us, or contact Tom and ask him contact us @ Phone Removed (home) or Phone Removed (cell) or Write Address Removed Titusville, Address Removed We are looking forward to the 2010 VW1 All Hands Reunion in Orlando. We are only about 40 miles east of Orlando, right outside the Kennedy Space Center. We've been blessed to see several shuttle launches and landings. We would welcome calls or contact from other VW-1 alumni. I believe Robert Frasier was our radioman on Te-4."

Floyd Orsini (8/29) Email Removed "My wife and I really enjoyed the pictures of the reunion. We are going to try to get a trip to Sarasota, FL the 22 to the 24th of September to visit my folks. Driving, as usual. Hopefully, I won't be dodging any hurricanes. It seems whenever I plan a trip to Sarasota, hurricanes start popping up. Does anyone

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Ronald Anderson ADCS

Nov. 16, 1926 – Feb. 25, 2008

Ron was born in Dodge City, KS and married Carolyn Lighter on 2/25/50. He had 20,000 hrs. as a flight engineer on the Super Connie. He served in VW-16; VW-14, Hawaii; VW-11, Argentia; VW-1, Guam; and did two tours at Pt. Magu, CA. He retired after 30 years of service on 8/30/77. He received the Navy Achievement Medal.

No one who was at the Reno, NV reunion will ever forget Ron and Carolyn. He was in a wheelchair and his shipmates physically wheeled him out and about when we went to the buffet at the casino, followed by the Magician's show.

He had us worried when he claimed that his stomach hurt and it was our fault. Then he explained that it was from laughing so much from the antics at the auction the previous evening. It is a great source of joy we feel that our Association was able to bring a bit of pleasure to him.

Ron and Carolyn also came to San Diego and she called it their farewell journey. Carolyn tells us that she intends to stay in the VW-1 Association and try to attend some future reunons. Our prayers and sympathy go out to you, Carolyn.

New Members

Buck, James **ATN2**
Address Removed 6/63-6/66
Titusville, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Sandra Email Removed

CIC Team Coordinator. Flew with TE4

Donald E. Eisert **ATR3**
Address Removed Ave. West 1/65 – 6/66
Duluth, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Rose
Email Removed

Radar Flight Technician, 1st Tech

Clayton Saylor **ATCS**
Address Removed 3/62 – 7/63
Golden, Address Removed Phone Removed
Email Removed

Avionics; flew ECC with TE-7

Fred L. Smith **LtJG**
Address Removed 10/52-4/55
Moreno Valley, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Margaret
Email Removed

Enlisted 11/49. Aviation @Barber's Point. Flew with 2, 3 and 5.

Robert Tucker **AT3**
Address Removed 1951-1953
Amarillo, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Tres Email Removed

Flew P4M1-Q's with VW-1 Det A Sangley PT as Radar operator

REMEMBER

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

MARCH OR APRIL, 2010

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 5)

know the status of Jim Geiger? He is the one that was having problems with the VA about his deployments in Chu Lai. Again, the photos are great!"

Don & Rose Eisert (9/10) Email Removed "Thanks for getting the word out about my predicament. I received two responses. One was from Duncan Sprinkle and another from Dave Keeton. The one from Dave had some deployment lists with it. It shows that I flew most of the flights with TE-5. I recognized quite a few of the names on the lists. In fact, it shows that you, Ed, and I made a few flights together. If I was with this crew the times I landed in Vietnam, maybe some of the other members of the crew may have some documentation. Maybe some of the officers kept some of the original records. Is there anyway that I can e-mail some of these guys? I know you have polices about sending stuff to people. Thanks for the help."

Christy Winchester (9/10) Email Removed "Jerry took his final breath this morning about 1 a.m. It was peaceful. The nurse he loved so much was here with him all day yesterday. He was a fighter until the end. For the past eleven years he's dealt with lung cancer, colostomy and reversal, collapsed lung, another lung surgery and he coped and fought it all. That's simply how he dealt with it. Now he can be with Leroy and so many others in heaven and sing and run and do anything he wants to do because he has good lungs and a strong body now. I thank each and every one of you for your prayers for that peace."

Note: Most of you know that Christy was the niece of AE-1 "LA" Greiner, a flight electrician on several different crews in the early '60's. He later became a flight engineer and was assigned to VQ-1 and was killed when the Connie he was in was shot down by the N. Koreans in April 1969. Christy had joined up with our Association about two years ago in memory of her lost uncle. She has always wanted to come to one of our reunions, but could not because of her husband health problems. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Christy during this difficult time.

Lyle Fisher (9/16) Email Removed "In reference to the Crew 2 cake picture, I believe that Crew 2 was the first crew to deploy in Jan. If '63. We also think Sylvia was taking a cake decorating class, so she made this cake to commemorate the Crew 2 deployment. As far as the Coconut crab picture, yes, the paper plate is a standard 9" plate. We were someplace on Guam when we saw this Guamanian guy with the crab. As you know, they were quite the delicacy with Guamanians and I do remember that they were getting hard to find. All of these old colored slides had been languishing around in a closet here for nearly 30 years; and that was after being lugged halfways around the world about four times. Not until the summer of 2007 did I start scanning them – all 4000 of them. Scanning took a couple of months and the color/contrast/ brightness correcting took a few more months. Needless to say, I found a lot of pictures that I did not remember, until seeing them, but the details are still murky."

Note: We encourage you to look at the web site and view the pictures that are referenced in the above e-mail from Lyle to Pete. They have been working together to get a number of pictures on the web for all to enjoy. Thank you for sharing, Lyle.

(Continued on Page 7)

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 6)

George Dean (10/1) Email Removed "We had the pleasure of having the Thompson's for a visit. They have been on a grand tour up as far as New England, swung down around here and then will head for Asheville and Knoxville. They return to Colorado by next week. Lee and Martha are great folks to have around."

Nick Jones (10/08) Email Removed "I need help with a "buddy" statement for the VA to prove service in Viet Nam. I was in the squadron from 1969 – 1970 and a weather officer. Ray Hennessy was in charge of the weather officer. Anyone that has any documentation and can send me same would be great. Any chance you can help?"

Larry Markowitz (10/09) Email Removed "I have done my coronary rehab and am back now to my old crotchety self. I have had no further problems with the heart and the only other medication I'm on is aspirin. Janet and I are hoping to make the next reunion as health permits for both of us. I always knew that VW-1 people were special!"

Howard & Jean Hamilton (10/09) Email Removed "We are still hanging in there. Still delivering Meals on Wheels, but Howard is having trouble navigating the stairs these days. He is having some back trouble, too. I just ride along and hand him the meals. We don't travel anymore than is necessary, especially if there is any walking involved. I don't imagine we'll try to go to Orlando either. Howard will be 80 this year."

Pete Wasmund (10/13) Email Removed "I have about 100 pictures to get on the web site, plus add a couple more pages ... such as another of Guam beaches, logs, records and patches... and probably a couple more. I have the most difficulty and spend a great deal of time in adding comments to a picture, especially if I am unfamiliar with it. I would really appreciate someone to help me out on this aspect. Any takers?"

Tom Archer (10/13) Email Removed "I was with John Sill when he got hit in the hand as a result of a rocket attack in Feb. of '71. He was covering me when we both took cover under the desk in the duty office."

Bob Ricksecker New address: Address Removed Leesburg, Address Removed

Dave & Carolyn Gerdeman (10/13) Email Removed "Dave is working as a handyman in the area and a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary local flotilla. He is their webmaster and Vessel Exam officer and working on qualifying for boat crewman. New address: Address Removed Oriental, Address Removed Ph: Phone Removed Also new e-mail."

New or Corrected E-mail addresses:

Bates, Scott	rainproof Email Removed	(Underline character between "f" and "4"
Bleakney, Richard	Email Removed	
Citrano, Chuck	Email Removed	
Doty, Frank	Email Removed	
Grubbs, Ryan	Email Removed	
MacAdam, Bill	Email Removed	
Short, Gerald	Email Removed	
Gerdeman, Dave	Email Removed	

From the Captain's Point of View

Note: The following remarks were made by a former CO of VW-1, **Captain Barton**, at the VW-1 Officers Reunion on 9/20/08.

"Some have referred to the veterans of World War II as the "greatest generation". That's a broad-brush characterization that may not have included the veterans of VW-1. Nonetheless, I know that you were among the best our country had to offer.

You were a diverse group with differing backgrounds. But we had more in common than might have separated us. We came from backgrounds that respected military service and deemed it essential to preserve our way of life, but it was not glorified. We did not come from a militaristic society. We were from a peaceful nation that did not covet the territory or resources of other nations. We were reared to distinguish right from wrong, to believe in the values that underlie the founding of our country and help to make it strong. Today, many of those values are under attack by the products of certain academic institutions or by parts of some political parties that view all such "old-fashioned" values, dear to the solid middle in American life, as being the views of rubes who are not part of the elite on the coasts of both sides of this nation.

Let us hope that the solid middle prevails. Your experiences in VW-1, helped form your views of education, service and occupation after you left the Navy. Some of you obtained advanced degrees, worked in academia or business and achieved notable successes. I am proud to have been associated with you veterans of the "Typhoon Trackers and the Airborne Early Warning experience."



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





Mailing Code Removed