2010 REUNION DATES SET .....

MARCH 29TH TO APRIL 2ND

The schedule will be as usual ... check in on Monday, check out on Friday .... so be sure to make your reservations accordingly. The hotel is offering the same rate, complete with the full breakfast buffet, for three nights both preceding and following the reunion dates. So if you want to come early or stay late you could enjoy all that Orlando has to offer.

Our host hotel is the Holiday Inn, Main Gate East, located at 5711 W. U.S. Hwy. 192, in Kissimmee. Phone 407-396-4222. For those of you familiar with Hwy. 192, it is almost directly across the road from Old Town shopping and entertainment. When you call the hotel, be sure to tell them that you are with the VW-1 All Hands Alumni Association to get our rate of $ 89.00 per night (plus tax). You can also register on-line. Just go to our VW-1 web site main index and then click on 2010 Reunion Information. Follow the easy directions, view the rooms, and make your reservation. The $ 89 rate is for the standard double room. A corner deluxe room is available at $ 99.00 per night if you prefer to upgrade.

The Holiday Inn offers complimentary transportation to the Walt Disney World theme parks. This could be useful if you plan to bring some family with you. We will not be including Disney World during our reunion time, but it does create a great opportunity extend your vacation to include your family.

The hotel also has a bus to the Lake Buena Vista Factory Outlet Stores. For the shoppers in our group, that could be utilized during the reunion free time.

We will be going to Cape Canaveral on Tuesday; having out business meeting and auction on Wednesday; having golf and probably two specialty trips on Thursday and our "big blast" on Thursday evening. Of course, this is all very much in the rough draft stage and exact pricing and details will be in future Trackers and on our VW-1 web site.

The hotel does not provide transportation from the airport; and it does not allow pets. It is a non-smoking hotel, but there is ample areas where you can step outside and smoke without traveling many feet from our meeting room area. There is a shuttle from the airport baggage area called Mears. The rate at this time is $ 26 pp one way; $ 45 pp. round trip. That seems a bit exorbitant and we have a contact working on getting that price reduced for our group. There will be more of that closer to the reunion date as our plans progress.

So mark your calendars for the 2010 reunion in Orlando, FL and plan to attend. It is now less than a year away and we can begin to anticipate seeing our shipmates once again.

Interim Reunion Planned for Oregon

(Note: Ed Nafus attended the VW-1 All Hands Reunion for the first time in Colorado Springs last year and had a great time visiting with old shipmates. He is also a member of the VW-1 Officers Group run by Bob Fuller. He has been an ardent advocate of trying to bring these two groups to one location at the same time. To date, he has not met with any success, so he is organizing a reunion at the Resort at the Mountain near Mt. Hood, Oregon. The "interim reunion" is an opportunity to shorten the length of time between reunions and to serve as a venue for members of both groups to get together. Following are the e-mails that we have received on Ed's planned reunion get-together.

Ed Nafus (3/13) Email Removed "Interim before our next official"

"Several of us have been talking about getting together this fall near Portland, Oregon at a place called the Resort at the Mountain. It is about an hours drive from the Portland airport. Be selecting this time after Labor Day we were able to get very good rates. I have sent this to a core group that has discussed this, as well as the heads of our two associations. If you have others that you would like to add to the list, please feel free to forward this note to them. The only pre-pay will be for our banquet. The intention will be to have the golf villa as the "ready room" for socializing and the only other planned event will be the banquet. The resort has golf, a new spa, fishing nearby, Mt. Hood and many other scenic areas to explore. Several of you have mentioned that you would use the time before or after to visit friends and family in the northwest."

(3/17) "I have the contract for the Resort at the Mountain on my desk now. I would like to have some idea of what to guarantee before I send it back. It appears they have ample rooms available at that time so a good estimate is all we need. The room rates for a king are $ 119 per night plus $ 10 resort fee and a 7 per cent tax. The king with fireplace and sleeper sofa is $ 149 (plus/plus) and the two bedroom villa is $ 289 (plus/plus). I have reserved one villa for the "ready room".

Please give me an indication of your intentions and how many nights, if you are coming. The rooms will be held for the nights of 8, 9 and 10 of September, 2009 and we will have our banquet night on the 10th. At this point a firm yes would be great; but if you are a possible, that would be good to know as well.

To make a reservation you can call the Resort at 866-407-2262 and make sure you tell them that the group name is VW-1 Squadron Reunion.

Please ask anyone who has any questions to send me an e-mail or call me at (303)741-9913. The link for you to make reservations at The Resort is:

https://gc.synxis.com/?Hotel=11916&Chain=5334&group=VWSR

New Members

Ellison, S. Burton **LTJG**
Address Removed Address Removed 2/54-7/56
Alexandria, Address Removed
Wife: Joan

Qualified as NAOC, CIC Officer in PB-1W, WV-1 and WV-2. Initially assigned as Education Officer the first year; then Ass't CIC Officer; commanded CIC crew in flight operations.

Terry A. Hall **AKAN**
Address Removed

Contact Details Removed

Storekeeper assigned NASU Chu Lai from 1/68 – 9/69. Terry ran the VW-1 Pack up kit storeroom in support of the two Connies at Chu Lai. NASU; also supported all Navy aircraft that landed in Chu Lai. In charge of scheduling and landing C-130 Navy and Marine Aircraft cargo flights during his assignment.

Robert (Bob) Jensen **AT2**
Address Removed '58 – '60
Atoka, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Betty Email Removed

Electronic Tech on TE-7.

John L. Payne **ATN2**
Address Removed
Ontario, Address Removed 9/69 – 7/71
Wife: Madeline Phone Removed
Email Removed

Assigned to Avionics Shop; flew with Crew 7.

Note: There is an _ between the word one and eyed in the e-mail address.

Jerry J. Stamps **YN3/YN2**
Address Removed 2/65-8/66
Jacksonville, Address Removed Phone Removed

Worked in Administration Office. Retired as a YNCS In Feb. of 1987 after serving 26 years.

(**Note:** Apologies to Jerry. He joined us in July of '08 and I neglected to list him as a new member at that time. Sorry, Jerry.)

Richard L. Swanson (Swany) **AE2**
Address Removed 10/67-5/69
Milaca, Address Removed Phone Removed

Flew as Electrician with Crew 6; later 7. Quit flying and spent last five months in ERU.

That Time of Year Again

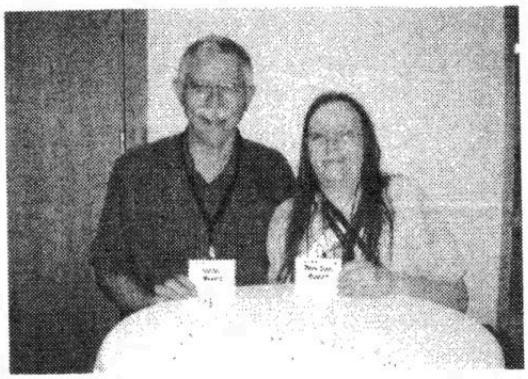
On May 1st our dues are due again. Notices will be sent out in May, but if you wish to save us the cost of a postage stamp, we ask you write the check and drop it in the mail to us. Make the check payable to Sally Metzger in the amount of $ 15.00.

Some of you have paid your dues more than a year in advance. If you don't remember if you are one of those individuals, check the mailing address on this newsletter and you will see your subscription renewal date there.

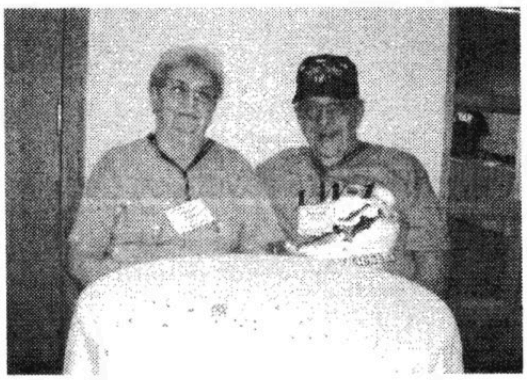
Thank you in advance for considering sending in your dues without waiting for the reminder. It saves us both work and postage on this end and we do appreciate that.

A little boy went up to his father and asked: "Dad, where did my intelligence come from? The father replied. "Well, son, you must have got it from your mother cause I still have mine."

More First Time Attendees at Colorado Springs



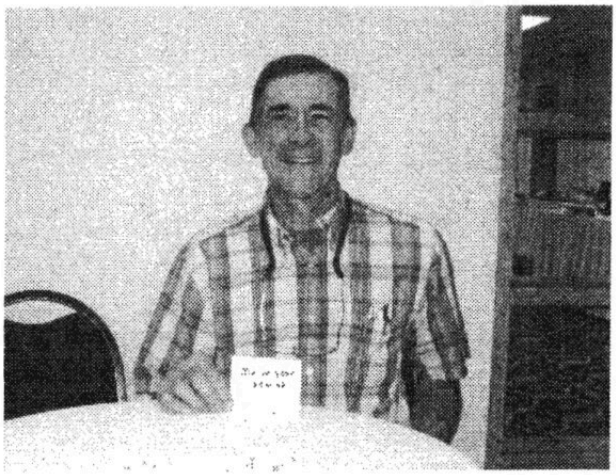
Russell (AE3) and Mary Jane Weyers
North Platte, NE is now called home, but from 4/66 to 11/67, Russ served in VW-1 in the electronics shop.



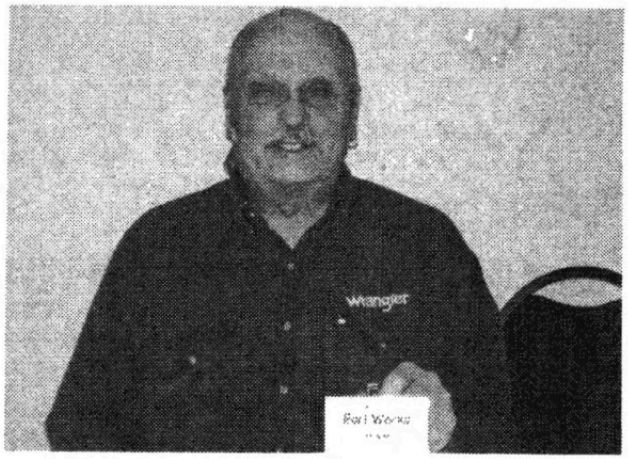
Darlene and Dick Lyon (AE1)
The Lyon's now live in Hastings, NE. Dick flew with most of the crews during his tenure with VW-1 (58-63) – but ended with Crew 00.



Jim Galinski, (on left) a familiar face ....brought new members to the Colorado Springs reunion this time around. Ed Nafus (center) and Charles Johnson (right) were welcome additions. We appreciated their kudos on having a well run, fun reunion.



Jim Wilson, ATR2, 1964 – 1966
Manitou Springs, CO. Jim flew with Crew 2 and says "I saw more of the world than I ever thought I would!"



Earl Works, Clovis, NM, 9/59 – 3/61
Earl worked flight line Group Support and in the Sheet Metal Shop while in VW-1.

The Story Behind the Song "TAPS"

According to an unknown writer, "Taps" is the song that gives us that lump in our throats and usually creates tears in our eyes. But do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be delighted to find out about the humble beginnings.

It all began in 1862 during the Civil War when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Hamson's Landing in VA. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay mortally wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or a Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it Was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, he enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his supervisor to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate; but out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody we know as "Taps" used at military funerals was born.

Day is done
gone the sun.
from the lakes,
from the hills
from the sky.
Safely rest,
God is nigh.
Fading light
dims the sight
and a star
gems the sky
Gleaming
bright from
afar
Drawing nigh
Falls the night
Thanks and
praise for
our days
Neath the sun
Neath the stars
Neath the sky.
As we go,
This we know
God is nigh.

News from Cyberspace, Etc.

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

Floyd (Bob) Orsini (1/28) "Sorry to hear about the death of Wes Mortensen. I went to that reunion at Solomon's Island in 1999. I spoke to Wes a number of times while I was there. He really loved the Willy Victor. He was a great person."

John Payne (Snail Mail; 3/19) e-mail: Email Removed "I came to VW-1 with a large group of guys with all types of billets to replace outgoing airmen and sailors. To their dismay ... their tour of duty was extended to two years, as mine was ... and then later to duration of service. I went to "C": school on base to learn the operations of the onboard electronics. I was then assigned to a crew. I made a few none-crew trips into storms as a passenger on Crew 5, but later was assigned to Crew 7. I worked the grave shift and began to settle in. My first flight to Viet Nam was to ferry a plane to another crew. It was Dec. 31, 1969, New Year's Eve. The Marine put on a show and scared the ----- out of me!!"

Duncan Sprinkle (2/03) Email Removed "I am still fighting VA on my claim. Does anyone have any pictures of TE3 ('64'65) being in DeNang? They keep telling me that I must show them flight plans, pictures, or something of that nature.. We went in there for fuel. They say they will not do anything untill they are finished with Korea??? They keep putting me back into the haus law suit. I pray that our new leader helps the Vets better than the last. Also, on top of everything else, my wife has been told she has stage four lung cancer. So that's just one more battle to fight. I hope this note finds everyone well and in good health."

Ken Fette (2/05) Email Removed "In the last newsletter you asked for some pictures. I was wondering if a digital picture would be OK or do you want the physical picture. Enjoyed the Newsletter and like what you are doing. I wondered if anyone knows whatever happened to Willie Williamson - TE-1, 1st Class AT when I knew him in 1963. Just curious. If anyone has any information, let me know."

(Note: The idea is to post at the reunion of individuals during their time in VW-1 ... sort of a before and after if you are attending the reunion. Sometimes the digital pictures come through HUGE and we cannot use them. An actual photograph you from those days would preferable.)

Arthur & Mary Winter (2/10) Email Removed "Well, we have changed our address and living accommodations to become full time RV'ers. We've been moving about the countryside starting on 1 Nov. 2008. Currently in Crosby, TX visiting family and watching the grandkids in their sports programs for the past two months. The change came about after the 500/100 year flood of 2008 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Also, after talking to other VW-1'ers and hearing about their full time adventures. Got the current newsletter and realized I forget to change our address. Our new address is: Address Removed Address Removed Cedar Rapids, Address Removed We both retired from our jobs on 31 October, 2008. Have a great day."

Ed Nafus (2/09) Email Removed "When I got to Guam in 1968 it was a great time for a rookie to show up ... bunch of old Lcdrs and us kids. I made AC in a year and had a

(Continued to Page 7)

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 6)

great tour with Crew 4. I think I probably had a ride on all of the planes, but I would have to verify that in my log book. We are wintering in Arizona and all that stuff is in Colorado. Fuller is doing much better and seems to be in good spirits now. He sure got wiped out though. You probably saw some of the photos ... he caught the brunt of it. I proposed that the Fuller group plan their reunion the same week as your next one when we met in Charleston last Fall. There was quite a bit of interest but it was decided we will convene in September of 2010 in San Antonio. If there is every anything I can do for you folks, let me know."

Jim Galinsky (2/10) Email Removed "Just a little info for you guys that left before it became interesting. The story of TE-10 & TE-11. When we started using the new transponder for electronic identification of aircraft, it was a numbering system that was other than to the base 10 (0-1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9). I believe it was to the base 8 (0-1-2-3-4-5-6-7). Therefore, since there was no digit 8 or 9, the numbers for the 4 digit identifier 77XX, where the 1st seven signified Seventh Fleet, the 2nd 7, I believe, either a squadron or task force identification; and the last two digits were the side numbers (01-02-03-04-05-06-07) and the previous TE-8 and 9 became 10 & 11. Therefore the identifier for TE-7 was Rainproof 7707, or shortened to Rainproof 707. The old TE=8 was not Rainproof 7710, but shortened to 710. It wasn't necessary to use the full four digits since all Naval aircraft flying in the Gulf of Tonkin were assigned to 7th Fleet. Therefore the 1st number was redundant. Doublenuts was 7700 for IFF. Does this answer any questions or does it just muddy the waters??"

Steve Birdman (2/17) Email Removed "I have been trying to locate Bob Jensen for the past 40 years! He was my best friend in VW-1 during my tenure in Agana. He was a radar tech on TE-7. Ask him if he remembers our old Chrysler Woody with the holes in the floor board. Please give him my contact information and get me his info as I definitely would like to be in touch with him."

Harry Jaggard (3/11) Email Removed "Today I posted a FACEBOOK.COM "group" named AEWRON1 VW-1. The only purpose for this group is to allow back and forth communications between members of the VW-1 group on FACEBOOK. The only web link sited is back to VW-1 All Hands. Let anyone know who may have an interest."

Ralph Ptacek (3/14) Email Removed "My father, Ralph Mason Ptacek, was with VW-1, Crew 5. Does anyone have any memories of him? I think that your efforts in keeping the past accomplishments of the "Typhoon Trtackers" attainable with a few strokes of a keyboard is just great. I love your website and your passion to keep in touch with your shipmates. Hope to meet some of my father's crewmates someday. Would love to hear from you."

Tom Hoover (3/20) Email Removed "In talking with Taco Hernandez, an old and dear shipmate, I learned that he has a cancer in his liver. Also, another shipmate, Roy Zimmerman, also has cancer. Could you please ask that all their shipmates keep these guys in their prayers?"

Nick Jones (3/26) Email Removed "I'm looking for a buddy statement for an accident while we were deployed from Guam. It was at night and, for some reason, I had to go to the plane to get my bag or something. I hopped on board using the ladder and made a left turn down the P-way toward the front of the aircraft. I stepped into a

(Continued to Page 8)

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 7)

hatch cover that maintenance had removed and had not blocked with a broom like they used to do. So I bottomed out all the way down to my crotch and twisted by back. The back was asymptomatic, but I had some scratches on my left leg that I must have mentioned to some of the maintenance troops, and even the flight surgeon. The big problem came at the next duty station, when I developed full-blown bad back trouble. This is documented on my discharge papers so I just need to tie it to the active duty accident. Any help would be appreciated."

Roy Zimmerman (3/29) Email Removed "I got a call from Put-Put Prevette this morning informing me that Tom Medlen has passed away. Evidently he passed in Dallas, TX, from a brain amorism. It I get more information, I will pass it on. I believe he was living in Weatherford, TX."

Dick Lee informed us he is moving to a new state and will be sending us new contact information soon. Stay tuned.....

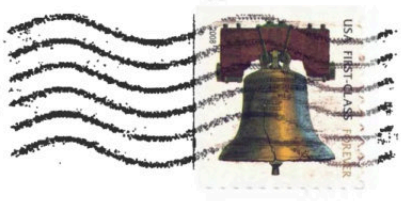
New E- Mail Addresses:

David Laney	Email Removed	(2/10)
Jim & Ruth Tandy	Email Removed	(3/22)



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

GAINESVILLE/GNV
FL 326
14 APR 2009 PM



Mailing Code Removed