ISSUE 37 VW-1 TRACKER JULY 2009

Inch by Inch . . . .

Progress is Being Made

It would be wonderful if we could report lots of progress on the reunion, but it wouldn't be true. We had no idea that it would be so difficult this close to home! Orlando is turning out to be a tough nut to crack. The Kennedy Space Center tells me they will be getting new pricing and scheduling sometime in July and they have us on a tickler file to call us when they can be specific about our arrangements. The Cirque du Soleil show we wanted to consider is getting "new discounts" sometime this summer and I need to call them back in a few weeks. Can't make firm bus arrangements until we know when and where the buses are needed. And so it goes. But it will happen in plenty of time. We just regret we don't have more specifics to report, but bear with us..... it will get done! We have the important stuff: The dates – March 29th to April 2nd (four nights) and the host hotel: Holiday Inn, Main Gate East, 5711 U.S. Hwy 192 in Kissimmee. Phone 407-396-4222 and ask for the VW-1 group rate. Or you can go to our web site main index, click on 2010 Reunion Information, view the rooms and make your reservation.

The Last Fling of Summer

We were pleased to receive an invitation from Branson, MO several weeks ago to attend a Reunion Planner Seminar at minimum expense. Since Branson is very high on our very favorite places, we could not pass it up. We will be wined and dined and ride buses all over the city to see various hotels, entertainments, and restaurants. They also have a couple of meeting where planners can share ideas and they will explain, in great detail, why we should have a reunion in Branson. Once again, we hope to pick up a couple of pointers that will help us plan the VW-1 reunions of the future better than ever. Of course, we are big believers that it is the "people" who make the reunion, the activities are just the icing on what is already a very tasty cake.

We will arrive in Branson August 17th and leaving the morning of the 20th. Since the female half of this family has a yen to visit the casinos now and then, we will spend Thursday evening at Sam's Town (Tunica) and spend our bi-annual gambling allowance. Lately if seems that Ed, the non-gambler, wins; Sally, the gambler, loses!!

On Friday morning, thanks to Pete Wasmund, we will have the chance to visit some VW-1'ers in Jackson, TN at the Railroad Restaurant. This Tennessee group meets a couple of times a year for lunch and we thank Pete for arranging it when we will be passing through. So far we have the Oulmans, Lanoues, Langes, and Wasmunds ... plus a few others indicated they will try to make it. If any of you should be in the area or passing through, come on in. The lunch is at 12 noon in Jackson on August 21st. We are very excited about getting a "mini-reunion" before our Orlando event. Pete always asks for a table in the back and the group spends about three hours over lunch!

News from Cyberspace, Etc.

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

Tom Hoover (4/9) Email Removed "I talked with Pete (Taco) Hernandez yesterday. He is out of surgery on his liver cancer. The doctors think they have removed all of the cancerous tissue and that he will be all right. Pray for him."

Roy & Judy Stotts: "We are planning a trip to Las Vegas for thirty days from June 8 to July 7th. We love that desert weather." (Why are you not surprised???)

Chuck & Cindia Johnson: (4/17) "We are having a springtime snow storm in Denver today. We are off to Hawaii on Monday. I guess we'll appreciate the beaches more!"

Duncan Sprinkle (4/17) Email Removed "I just got a letter from the VA that I think everyone would like to hear ... "claims for presumptive service connection based on exposure to agent Orange, in which the only evidence of such exposure is the receipt of the Viet Nam Service Medal, or service on a vessel in the waters off the shores of Viet Nam, were delayed by a stay pending final determination of appellate actions in the case of Haas v. Peake, in its May 2008 decision, the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit found that VA reasonably interpreted 38 U.S.C. 1116 (a) (1) (a) and 38c.f.r.73.307 (a)(6)((iii) as requiring the physical presence of a veteran within the land borders of Viet Nam (including inland waterways) during service and that the receipt of the Viet Nam Service Medal alone does not establish service in Viet Nam. The US Supreme Court declined to review the case and the decision of the Federal Circuit in the Haas is now final." I think the only way we can help each other is to get all the info for flights into Nam, or letter from anyone that has anything that pertains to being on the ground there, even if it is only a letter from someone who remembers their flight in there for fuel, repairs or anything else. They are not going to help us, so again we will have to count on each other."

Dan Ragan (4/24) "Hope to meet you two next year. Hopefully the back surgery that kept me away from Colorado won't do it again. It's touch and go at this point. The surgery last May was not very successful. Still having many nerve problems."

Ernie Clark (4/19) "I continue to give flight instructions. I have added a taildragger for those who want tail wheel training. It is a 1948 Piper PA-11. Most people just call them a Piper Cub. It is yellow, of course. I wanted it to stay original and classic. You hand prop it and it starts on the first pull most of the time, hot or cold weather, it doesn't matter. I bought another accordion and play almost every day. I found a place to buy old music sheets and order a dozen or so each month to work with the songs we heard and played for dances before I entered the Navy. My wife, Bev, has gone to half time work at the assisted living training center because she did not want to retire all together. As I read of the medical struggles in the Tracker by so many of the crew, I know how fortunate Bev and I are. We are so happy you and Ed do the work and keep the Tracker coming. I look forward to it and read every word. Thanks again."

Jack & Sydnie Gergal (4/17) "All's well here with us two. We planned a trip to Florida this past summer but it fell thru due to other commitments. We are looking forward to the reunion, as usual. Always nice to see the rest of the troops. Hate getting all the

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IN MEMORIAM

Darold Borrowman

April 11, 1932 - May 30, 2009

Darold was a big supporter of the VW-1 group. He was sent to VW-1 in March of 1955 for job training on the Constellation aircraft for engine maintenance. His squadron at that time was VW-3. He retired from the Naval Reserve as a CPO. Darold received his A & P education at the Spartan School of Eng. He very active in several organizations, including Vw-1, which he joined in 1999. Darold had a great many interests, and enjoyed fishing, hunting, golfing, travel and still had time to spend a great deal of time enjoying his family and friends.

We are fortunate to have had him and his wife, Mary, at some of our reunions. His address is:

Address Removed **Burnside,** Address Removed

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We are sorry to report that three of our shipmates lost their wives recently.

Joe sent us a brief note saying that **Cathy Amaral** passed on 2/24 "quite unexpectedly". Joe was in VW-1 from 1963 to 1965 as an AK1. If you wish to send condolences, his address is:
Joe Amaral, Jr.
Address Removed **Wildwood,** Address Removed

Ann Kemp, Bill Kemp's wife, passed on 2/28 after an extended illness. They had been married for 52 years. Ann had been a dental hygienist for a short time, but devoted most of her life to being a homemaker. She was an avid reader of short stories. Friends may sign on the online register book at www.joineranderson.com. Bill served in VW-1 from 1968 to 1971.
Bill's address is:
Address Removed **Portal,** Address Removed

--New Members—

Harry M. Fife, Jr. **ATW3**
Address Removed 3/63-7/64
Tool, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife Email Removed

CIC Aircrew. I updated all enlisted and officer air time required for flight pay. Plane Cmdr. was CDR Trube, TE 2.

Alan L. Hochstein **ACW2/P1**
Address Removed 7/57-7/59
Sachse, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Rose Mary
Email Removed

Worked 8 on, 24 off in Communication Office the 1st year; mail room, mostly alone, the 2nd year. Flew as CIC, TE 4.

John Moehlenkemp **ATR2**
Address Removed 6/66-2/68
Ovilla, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Linda Email Removed

Avionics Dept. Flew as 1st Tech on Crew 9; ECC on Crew 2.

Roy Wiggs **AT1**
Address Removed 3/70-11/71
Salem, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Vicky Email Removed

Radar Tech flying in storm tracking and radar patrols. When not chasing typhoons we deployed to DaNang and flew radar Coverage patrols in the Gulf of Tonkin.

Patti Sprinkle succumbed to cancer on the 23rd of June. We received a brief note from Duncan informing us of his loss. Duncan served in VW-1 in 1964-1965 as an ADR.
His address is:
Address Removed
Carmel Valley, Address Removed

Our sympathy and prayers go to Joe, Bill and Duncan.

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 2)

news about the illnesses and passings; but I guess it is part of the playing field at our age. God bless you all.!"

LeRoy White (4/25) "Ruby and I are doing OK except both are getting into eye problems that will require surgery for cataracts. I also have glaucoma and cell degeneration with scaring that will require surgery to remove. I sent a copy of the Tracker to Larry and Jackie Blake in Milton, TN, hoping to entice them to join and attend the next reunion. Ruby and I stay busy running up and down the road to Justin's baseball games and other activities, when we can. He is one of the star players for Texas Tech at Lubbock, playing almost all the games as a freshman, where others from his high school days are on the bench at other schools."

Lee & Martha Thompson (4/29) "Martha and I saw George and Christine Dean at their home last October. They showed us a lot of Augusta, GA. Also saw Cruz and Grace Martinez."

Floyd Orsini (5/8) Email Removed "Just made our reservations for the Florida reunion. This time my wife Pat will be able to come also. Looking forward to it."

Dave & Mary Ann Cousineau (5/19) "We miss everyone and are certainly looking forward to the reunion in 2010. It is very hot this year in Saint George for late May. Went bass fishing today but only caught 12 trout. I was told it is a little early for the bass to be biting. Trout, on the other hand, are biting as soon as the bait hits the water!"

Alan & Rose Mary Hochstein (5/21) Email Removed "Thanks for the window stickers you sent after I joined. I saw my name in the "members listing" and would like to correct the rank. I was proud of the "P!" after the ACW2 because that was new at the time and I may have been one of the first in VW-1 to receive it, at least in the ACW area. I was recommended for first class petty officer, took the test, passed it and received 1st class pay and duties, but not the actual stripes because there were no slots available."

Seichi Nagai (5/24) Email Removed "It was with extreme envy that I stumbled onto the VW-1 website and read about your VW-1 Association and the reunions. As you remember, VW-3 was a sister squadron in Agana, Guam and I was on flight status with VW-3 from 1957-1959. I am hoping that you may have some knowledge of an organization similar to yours for the VW-3 veterans. The VW-1 website contains a wealth of information about us Willy Victor sailors. I commend all of you that are reviving our memories of our service time and informing the public of the other silent service. Although the duty flights were long and boring at times, I really had a satisfying and enjoyable time flying the Willy Victor. Thanks for taking us back in time."

Art & Mary Winter (6/2) Email Removed "New address is in Sioux Falls, SD at Address Removed Zip Address Removed Phone is still Phone Removed What campsites are available down in FL for the reunion? Hope to see you in March."

Craig Borsheim (6/4) Email Removed (Though not a member, Craig had some interesting comments on the fight to receive benefits as a result of Agent Orange)

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Time to Update our Membership Roster

Check the label on this newsletter. If it lists an expiration date of 5/31/09, your membership has expired and this will be your last newsletter. For those of you who have not renewed, we hope you will reconsider and mail your check for $ 15.00 to Sally Metzger, Address Removed Inverness, Address Removed

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VW-1 All Hands Alumni Association

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Period: 5/1/08 thru 4/30/09

Beginning Balance 5/1/08		$ 4,350.98
INCOME:		
Dues	$ 3,045.00	
Hats, Pins & Patches	149.50	
Shirts	301.38	
Ships Store Postage	86.60	
Reunion Auction	1,454.00	
Reunion Events	13,368.68	
Reunion Ships Store Sales	606.35	
Donations, Misc.	131.48	
		19,142.99
		$ 23,493.97
EXPENSES:		
General Postage	$ 309.82	
Tracker Postage	403.00	
Tracker Printing	810.90	
Office Supplies	338.59	
Shirts	366.76	
Hats, Pins, Patches	173.00	
Colorado Springs Reunion	17,370.22	
Laptop & Software	2,263.08	
Banner and Stickers	455.00	
Postal Scale	140.44	
2110 Reunion Deposit	250.00	
		$ 22,880.81
Beginning Balance on May 1, 2009		**$ 613.16**

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 4)

"I had a problem getting benefits when I went to the VA. I searched and wrote letters and e-mails for two years and this is what I found out. 1, TAD orders are not Official Navy orders and, as such, are not kept in your 201 file. So unless you have copies from your flights, you won't find any. 2. Marines and Army are the only services they will take a VSM (VietNam Service Medal) on your DD214 as proof of boots on the ground. Navy and Air Force must have additional proof that we were actually in country and on the ground. 3. Pay records are only kept for seven years after you leave the service so no combat pay proof. 4. There are no Squadron deck log records that I could track down. 5. There is a microfilm of the squadron rosters but enlisted were updated every six months, officers every month. So unless you were deployed to Vietnam at the time the roster was done, there will be no records – and it costs money to obtain. 6. What did it for me was, I finally got two buddy letters from AT2 Lapka and AT2 Earney, addressed to VARO claims. They stated in them when they were in the squadron and wrote that "yes, they had seen me in Viet Nam the same time they were and I was deployed there for TAD."
Hope this helps and don't give up fighting for benefits. Keep at the claim and don't let the time lapse. Remember: Only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you, Jesus Christ and the American GI. One died for your soul; the other for your freedom."

Victor & Charlotte Zarich (6/22) Email Removed "Our Hewlett-Packard Computer has had a virus and other problems, and Staples worked on it. Our security is with Norton 300 installed. It is still complex to get things working right. I sent a sympathy card and a memoriam to the Darold R. Borrowman family. Sometimes Burnsville is considered a suburb of St. Paul, MN, instead of Minneapolis, but I did not see an obituary in the Pioneer Press. Charlotte and I were in Las Vegas last week. Summer has started and there were plenty of people there, especially young people in their 20's and 30's. I wondered if Mack and July Stotts were there. We saw a good show with Terry Fator, a ventriloquist and puppet comedian at the Mirage. He appears to have replaced the late Danny Gans. Charlotte and I discussed the possibility of a cruise before or after the March 29 reunion for VW-1. Disney World has some kind of cruise offer that we could investigate with our travel agent."

Bob Frazier Snail mail 6/15 "I've been traveling East for six weeks. Sorry about the delay in dues. As it appears now, I will not be able to attend the 2010 reunion, due to pending medical appointments, usually scheduled in April. If my appointment schedule changes, I'll let you know."

Cecil Clements, Jr. (7/8) Email Removed "Please post this question and let's see what the replies are. Did any enlisted air crewmen from 1966 until VW-1 dissolved receive air medals for anything other than flights from Chu-Lai on barrier patrols? I'm still getting turned down on my Agent Orange. Any help would be greatly appreciated." **(Note:** Contact address: Address Removed **Martin,** Address Removed Phone Removed

William (Bill) Anderson (7/9) Email Removed "My father was Capt. F.P. Anderson USN (1915-2005), first CO of VW-1. I would be interested in becoming a member of the Association. I have attached a picture of the original squadron insignia, which is made out of wood. My Mother died in September and I have been going through their stuff since that time. Many PB-1W documents/photos that the museum in

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News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 6)

Pensacola wants. As I recall, the Super Connie became operational shortly after my Dad gave up command. I just found the Fleet Tennis Trophy for VW-1. My Dad was a good tennis player, so I assume he was involved.
(Note: Bill retired as a Col. From the US Marines. Information has been sent to him and we look forward to having him as a VW-1 Alumni Association Member.)

Jim Geiger (7/10) Email Removed "Long time since I surfaced, but I'm still around. I had a tough time in the first part of the year with the chemo and all. Kidney's shut down, liver was faltering and I realized that I'm getting old, fat and ugly. I was in ICU for four weeks and in the hospital for an additional two months. I'm currently doing physical therapy three days a week trying to get my strength back and learning to walk again. I'm actually doing pretty well at this time. I have parked the walkers (most of the time), use a cane when the going gets tough and managed to get my drivers license renewed a couple of days ago! (Now, that's scary!) The important thing is I can still hold my own fishing pole and get my own fish. Now if I can keep the heart working from the excitement, I think I will be fine for awhile longer. Good thing I married that young, beautiful lady 42 years ago so she can keep me young. I have been in contact with an old VW-1'er, Leroy (Bud) Scott and his wife, Jill. Bud retired a few years ago (E-7 AMS). Bill and Jill stood up with Caroline and I when we got married at the chapel at NAS Agana in 1967. We haven't been in contact with each other since we left Guam in late 1968. After all these years I found them on an internet search, gave them a call and they drove from Roundup, MT to CA last month for a visit. A few stories, a few lies and a lot of emotion but we had a great reunion. I had a difficult time not telling them about the VW-1 Association because I would like to send them a surprise membership. I will send a check for their first year membership and let them send you their story. I do know that they were with VW-1 for two tours, but I'm not sure of the actual dates."

New E-Mail Addresses:

Fred Becker, Winston, OK	Email Removed
Gerald T. Brice, Chattanooga, TN	gerald Email Removed
(Note: there is an "underline sign" between the gerald and brice)	
Frank Doty	Email Removed
Harry Gowenlock, Willamina, OR	Email Removed
Harry Jaggard, Canyon, TX	Email Removed
Richard Johnson, Spokane, WA	Email Removed
Jim LaPosta, Troy, NY	Email Removed
Fred Parkhurst, Everett, WA	Email Removed
Duncan Sprinkle, Carmel Valley, CA	Email Removed
Cary Williams, Ponchatoula, LA	Email Removed

Different Ways of Looking At Things

The graveside service just barely finished when there was a massive clap of thunder, followed by a tremendous rumbling in the distance. The little old man looked at the pastor and calmly said, "Well, she's there!".

More of our 1st Time Reunion Attendees at Colorado Springs



Jack Roberts (PN3) with wife, Dianne
Arvada, CO. ESO Shop. Since these folks live fairly locally, they were able to stop by. Didn't have enough time to visit as much as we would have liked, but hope to see them again at the next reunion.



Howard (ATN2) and Phyllis Dumond
The Dumond's now call Livingston, TX home. Howard was a 1st Radioman on Crew 3 During his time in VW-1 (4/63-4/65).

Mailing Code Removed



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

