ISSUE 38 VW-1 TRACKER OCTOBER 2009

Orlando, Here We Come!

The official registration for the reunion in Orlando, March 29, 30, 31 and April 1st, will be in the January issue of the Tracker, but here is a rough itinerary so you have time to think about what things interest you. We have found Orlando a rather difficult place to work with compared to the places we have gone in the past, but we are getting there. The only thing still up in the air is the plans for Thursday evening ... what restaurant and show we will go to. Cirque du Soleil was suggested by some members, but turned out to be very expensive for the group as a whole. So we are still researching something for that evening. Otherwise, we are good to go on the other days.

Monday, March 29th:

Registration will be from 12 noon on, as usual, with food beginning at noon and continuing until about 6:30. We will be in the hotel meeting room, of course, and there will be a $ 20 fee to pay for the food and drink. If things happen as usual, the room will not empty until we lock the doors at 11 o'clock! We will have a memorabilia table available for those items you bring. You can safely leave them on that table until check-out on Friday morning, as our meeting room will be available for the duration of the reunion. We will be having our traditional auction on Wednesday evening, so if you bring an item to be auctioned please keep it in your room until Wednesday evening.

Tuesday, March 30th.

Kennedy Space Center Day. We will be boarding buses at 8:30 and returning at 5:30. Long day, but it will be worth it. We have contracted for the deluxe package, which means you won't have to stand in line at the shuttle platforms and walk miles to see everything. We will be picked up by our personal bus and given the tour customized to our group. We will be having the "Lunch with an Astronaut" and enjoy a presentation and be able to ask questions. The bus holds 55 persons and it is hard to say what our count will be at the moment. If it is below 55, then there may be some others folks put on our bus to fill it up; if we are over 55, then the overflow will have to go to another bus. So the first 55 who send in their registrations will be on our VW-1 group bus. The overflow can still do the complete program, but on another bus. With the economy being what it is, it is difficult to estimate how many we will have at the reunion; but we will work with you to make sure that you all can enjoy the Kennedy Space Center experience. The cost for the deluxe package, including lunch, the IMAX theater, the museum, our personal tour and our transportation from Orlando to the Space Center is $ 75.00 pp. Once we get back to the hotel (and collapse) dinner will be on our own: the meeting room will be open.

Wednesday, March 31st.

This is a free day, time to recover from the Space Center. The golfers will probably try to get in a few rounds. The evening events will start about 5 p.m. with the business meeting. At that time we will elect officers and pick the location for our next reunion. Dinner will be at 6:30 at our host hotel, followed by the auction about 8 p.m. The dinner Wednesday evening will be about $ 30.00 pp, but the final menu has not yet been determined.

Thursday, April 1st.

The golfers get first dibs on this day ....though they probably have already conspired to somehow get

(Continued on Page 2)

Orlando, Here We Come (Continued from Page 1)

some golfing in already. For the rest of us, it is a day of "free choice" - hang around the hotel pool; visit in the meeting room; or go to one of two things within walking distance of the hotel. You will be on your own for the day, but that evening we will be going out for dinner and a show. There are three options on the table. We have checked one out; have the second scheduled; and a third in the wings. We are looking for something really special. The cost of any of the three – for the dinner and show – is about $ 50.00 pp maximum. After the show, we return to the hotel meeting room to finish the keg and say our goodbyes. We have to be out of the meeting room by noon on Friday, April 2nd.

Free Day Suggestions for Wednesday and/or Thursday, March 31 & April 1.

Right across the street from the hotel is Olde Town. There are shops and restaurants, along with some rides .... a ferris wheel and a bungie jumping opportunity included. The weather should be great about this time of year and it would be a pleasant place to walk around. There is also an attractive miniature golf course across the road from the hotel that looks like a lot of fun. It is right behind Red Lobster – a good place for lunch! None of this would require an automobile, but does include walking.

One of the things we had originally planned for the reunion was a trip to Fantasy of Flight, about a half-an-hour's drive west from Orlando. They have a Constellation there and a couple of years ago – when visited by both Gary Oulman and Ed – they said they would open the Constellation for our group, which made it a must see. However, the situation has changed and we now find that the airplane has been cannibalized for parts needed elsewhere and it is now sitting in a field, behind a fence, and filled with spiders. There is no way we are going to get into it. However, the museum is worth seeing, if that is your thing and it could easily be combined for something the ladies may like. "The Barn" is located just a couple of miles from the Fantasy of Flight Museum. It is an upscale Antique and Gift Shop that has lots to see and maybe even something to purchase.

There is a couple of other options from the hotel which do not require a car. A ride to Lake Buena Vista Factory Outlet Stores is available at no charge. We could arrange pickup about 10:30 with a return at 3:45. If we have enough interest (15 person minimum), we get the VIP treatment with our own van and lunch arranged at a favorable price, along with coupons to a number of the stores. For the shopper's in our midst, that might be an option for either of the free days.

Another feature of the hotel is complimentary transportation to Disney World theme parks. You can easily arrange for that on one of your free days, if you so desire. They generally open at 9 and close at 5 during the week. Pricing, etc. can easily be obtained from their web site.

Friday, May 1st – The reunion ends at noon on Friday, **BUT ....**

There is one other suggestion that has been made that we can consider. For those who wanted to go to Cirque du Soleil while in town, we could get a group rate if we had a minimum of 12 people interested. I want to make it clear that this would NOT be a part of the reunion, but an opportunity for those of you who like to stay over a few days to see the show at a reduced rate. They do not have their 2010 pricing available at the moment, but they currently charge $83, $ 102 and $ 117 pp, (plus taxes) depending on the place you wish to be seated. Right now I could get the $102 seating for $ 87.00 pp. at the group rate discount, but that is still very expensive for a show only. Give this some thought and let us know if you would have any interest. If we hear from enough of you in the affirmative, then we will proceed to see just what kind of a deal we can make on your behalf. Traditionally, several couples do stay over and this would be a possible activity if it appeals to you.

If you have not yet made your reservation, now is the time. Our host hotel is the Holiday Inn Main Gate at 5711 W. U.S. Hwy 192 in Kissimmee. Phone 407-396-4222. Be sure and tell them you are with the

News from Cyberspace, Etc.

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

Jim & Peggie LaPosta (7/8) Email Removed We managed to get the LaPosta's new e-mail address incorrect in the last Tracker. The correct one is in the line above. Sorry about that, guys.

Edie Colbert (7/27) Email Removed "I stumbled on your website and was blown away by the photos that brought back so many memories. Although we have many pictures from those days, we don't have the ones that went with our many stories – like the coconut crab, the snails, Talofofo Falls and many others. My father was stationed at Anderson Air Force Base from 1958 – 1961. I was ten years old when we arrived, my brother Don was 8 and Dexter was 6. Thank you."

Larry Markowitz (8/2) Email Removed "I have a review in the next couple of months with the Board of Veterans' Appeal. This is related to my having MS and could it have been caused by exposure to agent orange while flying. It is an extremely long shot, but worth pursuing. I need to get some more buddy letters stating that we flew there and that I was a crewman. According to our website, I need to go through you to get an e-mail out to these people. Ed., Pete Wasmund, Tony Watson, Lloyd Turner, Lee Thompson, George Dean, Jim Rice, Richard Johnson, Jim Wilson, Eskew, Eisert and Buswell and anyone else who might have been a crew member on TE-5 from March of 1965 to September of 1966. I have a couple of letters, but more would be better. I had over sixty flights into the combat zone, but, like a lot of only one enlistment people, no flight records. Oulman was also flight engineer on many of the flights I was on. I was on the ground only once for a gas and go but don't remember when. This is my address for snail mail letters with any information that can be provided. Dates aren't that important, just so it is in that time frame. Thank for any help you can give. Send to:
Larry Markowitz, Address Removed New Castle, Address Removed

Floyd Orsini (8/20) Email Removed "Liked the last bit on Page 7 of your last Tracker, "Different Ways of Looking at Things". This actually happened at my Grandmother's funeral. She passed away at age 76 in July of 1976. Her name was Bertha Joerger and she was 6 ft. tall. The sky was as blue as could be. Right after the graveside service there was one hell of a clap of thunder. My mother, sister, and I looked at each other and my Mom said, "She is stil here". You didn't mess with Granma. What happened is true; this isn't a sea story."

Richard Cordle Snail Mail (8/09) "I just visited your web site and found something I have been looking for a long time. When I was stationed in VW-1, between the years 1964 and 1965, I went on a work party to unload barrels off a ship that contained Agent Orange. Some of the barrels were leaking the liquid; and although we wore gloves, they soaked up the defoliant. All the work party was exposed to the chemical. Another work party personnel was exposed over his body when one of the bungs came off and covered the front of him. He was told to wash and change his clothing. Because of a prostrate operation, heart problems, type II diabetes and skin affections, I have been trying to prove to the Veteran Affairs that this happened. I also remember personnel

(Continued on Page 8)



WE NEED

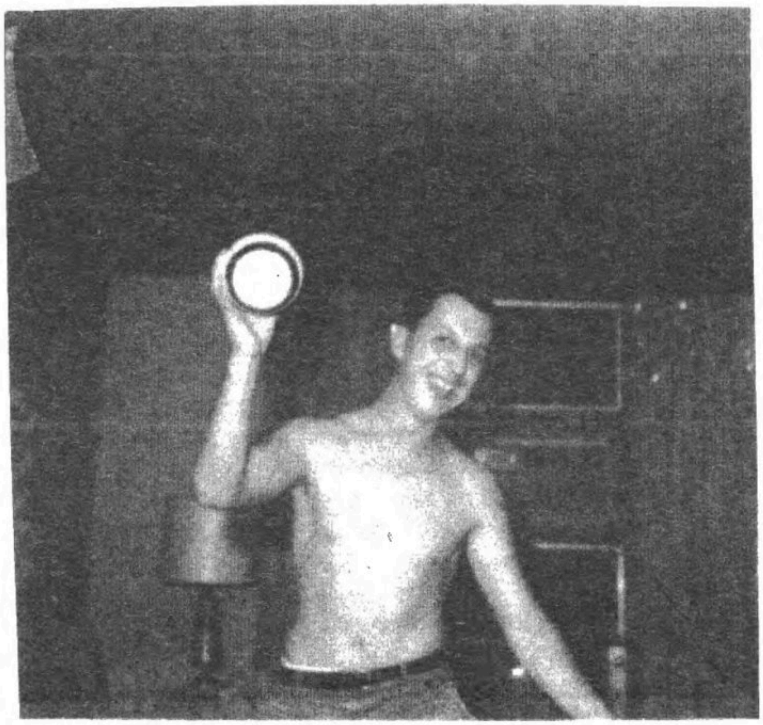
Yes, we certainly do have something up our sleeve, and NO, we aren't going to tell you what it is. In order to accomplish our goals we need your help. We are looking for pictures of you, the serviceman, during your time in VW-1; plus a current picture. For those of you who have attended one of our reunions, we probably have a current picture so that won't be much of a problem if you don't come up with one. If you have not yet attended a reunion, then you need to provide both old and new.

However, the one from the past is strictly your job to provide. Now, don't get the idea that the picture has to be as unique as the one on the left. It can be a perfectly good, respectable shot of you in your uniform, at your job, or at play. Please get us the best shot possible for reproducing purposes.

Now let's have a bit of fun. The pictures on these two pages are only identified by A, B, C and D. The answers are on Page 8, but don't look yet. See if you can identify them on your own. A couple might be easy, but I suspect it will be the rare individual who gets them all.

(A)

PICTURES



(B)



(C)

Good Luck .... and do send those pictures to us at:

Address Removed

Inverness, Address Removed

Or for you computer experts, scan them in and send them.

HAPPY

HALLOWEEN !!



(D)

Military Pay

Bill Turner, a member from Marengo, IL, forwarded the following article to us. It is an Airman's response to an article written for the Washington Times in which Cindy Williams, an Assistant Director for National Security in the Congressional Budget Office, denounced the pay raise(s) coming service members' way this year, citing that a 13 per cent wage increase was more than they deserved.

"Ms. Williams:

I just had the pleasure of reading your column, "Our GI's Earn Enough" and I am a bit confused. Frankly, I'm wondering where this vaunted overpayment is going, because as far as I can tell, it disappears every month between DFAS (The Defense Finance and Accounting Service) and my bank account. Checking my latest earnings statement, I see that I make $ 1,117.80 before taxes per month. After taxes, I take home $ 874.20. When I run that through the calculator, I come up with an annual salary of $ 13,413.60 before taxes and $ 10,490.40 after.

I work in the Air Force Network Control Center where I am part of the team responsible for a 5,000 host computer network. I am involved with infrastructure segments, specifically with Cisco Sytems equipment. A quick check under jobs for Network Technicians in the Washington, DC area reveals a position in my career field, requiring three years experience with my job. Amazingly, this job does NOT pay $ 13,413.60 a year. No, this job is being offered at $ 70,000 to $ 80,000 per annum .... I'm sure you can draw the obvious conclusions.

Given the tenor of your column, I would assume that you NEVER had the pleasure of serving your country in her Armed Forces.

Before you take it upon yourself to once more castigate congressional and DOD leadership for attempting to get the families in the military's lowest pay brackets off of WIC and food stamps, I suggest that you join a group of deploying soldiers headed for Afghanistan. I leave the choice of service branch up to you. Whatever choice you make, though, opt for the six month rotation: it will guarantee you the longest possible time away from your family and friends, thus giving you full "deployment experience".

As your group prepares to board the plane, make sure to note the spouses and children who are saying good-bye to their loved ones. Also, take care to note that several families are still unsure of how they'll be able to make ends meet while the primary breadwinner is gone. Obviously, they've been squandering "vast" piles of cash the government has been giving them.

Try to deploy over a major holiday – Christmas and Thanksgiving are perennial favorites. And when you're actually over there, sitting in a foxhole, shivering against the cold desert night; the flight sergeant may tell you that there aren't enough people on shift to relieve you for chow.

Talk to your loved ones as often as you are permitted; it won't nearly be long enough or often enough; but take what you can get and be thankful for it. You may have picked up on the fact that I disagree with most of the points you present in your opened piece. But, tomorrow from Kabul, I will defend to the death your right to say it.

You see, I am an American fighting man, a guarantor of your First Amendment rights and every other right you cherish. On a daily basis, my brother and sister soldiers worldwide ensure that you and people like you can thumb your collective nose at us, all on a salary that is nothing short of pitiful and under conditions that would make most people cringe. We hemorrhage our best and brightest into the private sector because we can't offer the stability and pay of civilian companies.

And you, Ms. Williams, have the gall to say that we make more money than we deserve?"

A1C Michael Bragg, Hill AFB, AFNCC

Check It Out

from Pete Wasmund

Google has done it again! Not everybody has On Star, etc. or a phone book handy. Look what Google is doing.

This is something you will want to have and use. I still remember when the telephone company charged me $ 1.50 to get a phone number from information. My compliments to Google!

A number worth putting in your cell phone, or your home phone speed is: 1-800-goog411. This is an awesome service and it's free – great when you are driving on the road with no pen, pencil or paper handy. Don't waste your money on information calls and don't waste your time manually dialing the number. I am driving along in my car and I need to call the golf course and I don't know the number. I hit the speed dial for information that I have programmed.

The voice at the other end asks "City and State". I say "Garland, TX" He says "Business, Name or Type of Service". I say "Firewheel Golf Course". He says "Connecting" and Firewheel answers the phone. How great is that? This is nationwide and it is FREE!

Click on the link below and watch the short clip for a quick demonstration.

http://www.google.com/goog411/

--New Members--

Richard L. Cordle **ADRAN**
Address Removed 1964-1965
Garner, Address Removed Phone Removed

A/C Maintenance/Supply

Thomas Dawson **AE2**
Address Removed
Jacksonville, Address Removed 12/67-6/69
Wife: Brenda Phone Removed
tdawson1 Email Removed
Flight electrician on TE9

William Dohn **AG2**
Address Removed 9/69-7/71
Elk Grove, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Jane Email Removed

Flight Aerographer on TE4 and TE7. 17 Storm penetrations, detached in VietNam, two tours. Worked in NavigationOffice when not deployed.

Jim Quarles **ATAN**
Address Removed 1956-1957
Cookeville, TN Phone Removed
Email Removed

Flew with Crew #6 as second radio operator.

Orlando, Here We Come (Continued from Page 2)

VW-1 All Hands Alumni Association and the rate will be $ 89 per night (plus taxes) with a full breakfast included each day. They are extending that rate for three days preceding the following the reunion. There is also a deluxe corner room available for $ 99.00 per night if you prefer. If you have a computer, go on our web site and make your reservation from there. Just follow the directions. Also, you will need transportation from the airport. The popular means is the Mears Shuttle. The cost (at this time) is $ 33 per adult, round trip. Arrange for this service in advance on line at www.mearstransportation.com or go to the Mears desk at the airport and get a ticket upon your arrival. You also may be able to make this arrangement when you get your airline ticket.

So that is about it for the plans to date. Input from you at this time would be appreciated. We want this reunion to be all it can be for you, whether you come for a day or for the whole shebang! Look for the official registration form in the January Tracker.

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 3)

spraying for weeds on runway sides. If anyone else has come down with any conditions like these, or knows of information on these actions, please call me at Phone Removed Thank you."

Floyd Yancy Email Removed (9/13) "I have written a book entitled "No Way to Go But Up". ISBN: 1-60836-443-7. Ordering information: www.publishamerica.com – on line book store; or call 301-695-1707 or Fax: 301-631-9073. Any book store can get it for you by title, ISBN, or author name"

Kern Thomas Email Removed (9/22) "I was in VW-1 in '63-'64 and flew with crew 6 as an ATW-3. Pete Wasmund was our ECC. Ben Steers, ACW-2, asked if I knew anything about LCDR Brunner. A few years ago I saw his address on a list from a web site with mostly officers on it. Brunner's address was in Mexico, Isla Maharis (spell), I believe. Can you help me find him? In regard to air medals – who qualifies? We were some of the first crews to fly coverage in August 1964 and were the crew who radioed and were on scene when a P-2V went into the water at night. Any information would be appreciated."

--- Answers to "Who Are We" ---

(A) Eldon Eskew
(B) Ed Metzger
(C) Pete Wasmund
(D) Al Madsen

Mailing Code Removed



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



