ISSUE 40 VW-1 TRACKER APRIL 2010

Orlando objective obtained .....

Another Successful Reunion

We are happy to report that all potential disasters were once again averted and the Orlando reunion came to a resounding finish on April 1st. We had one of the best turnouts ever and part of that was because of the children of members that came to join in the fun. We use the term "children" loosely because most of them are 40 to 50 years old. They were a welcome addition and, from all reports, enjoyed seeing firsthand what their parents are up to when they attend one of our VW-1 reunions.

As usual, the memorabilia table is always a big attraction. Martha and Lee Thompson, although unable to attend the reunion, sent the albums to Orlando with the Buswell's. They look great and the Thompson's are doing a great job with the task they took on at the Colorado Springs reunion. Thanks. We look forward to seeing the addition of the Orlando festivities in the albums next year when they bring them to Branson.

On Tuesday, the trip to the Kennedy Space Center got off to a rough start with the absence of a bus to transport us at the appointed time. Oddly enough, on Monday we had received a call from a company called Pegasus and a voice, in broken English, told me he would be picking us up on Tuesday to go to the Space Center. Well, I had received a proposal from Pegasus, but had not signed a contract with them. I told them as much and he clearly stated that their company did not have anything to do with Transportation System, the company I had signed a contract with. Then here it is Tuesday and NO BUS!. All I could think of was I had cancelled our bus and here were 70 people standing waiting. Boy! I was a basket case. After about a half hour of trying to get in touch with our bus company, we finally found out the problem. The bus driver had gone to Holiday Inn WEST and we were at Holiday Inn EAST. We got off about an hour late, but it all worked out in the end and we had a fine day. The IMAX Theatre at the Space Center had film from the Hubbell Telescope and it was spectacular. To see those outer space shots on that huge screen was an experience! It was a very long day and nearly 7 o'clock by the time we returned to our hotel, at which point most of us were pretty much done for

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Minnie Pearl ..... had a great time entertaining her "sailor boys" at the Orlando reunion. Sally said she rehearsed her routine while walking their beagle, "Spunky"and kept all the jokes top secret from Ed.

---News from Cyberspace---

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

Pat O'Donnell (2/3) Email Removed "I saw your reunion info in the latest VFW magazine and was wondering if you could tell me more about it. VW-1 was my first assignment after A school, Nov. '62 to May '63. I spent 18 months on the beautiful island of Guam and actually had a good time because of the rest of the guys in the outfit. I was a 3rd class aviation electronic tech (twidget) and became an aircrewman on TE7. You asked about any info I might have on other members of VW-1. The only one I know is Thomas A. Pouliot from Montana. He was the VFW Commander-in-Chief for 1998-1999. I think he was a 3rd class radioman on Crew 5 while I was there. You may get more info from the VFW."

Wayne Baumunk (2/13) Email Removed "I was assigned to VW-1 and later VQ-1 on Guam from 1969 to 1971. I still live on Guam. I was an E-5 AT working on the APS Radar, and the Weather Computer in the back of the plane. I usually worked the night crew, replacing bits and pieces broken during the days operations. I stayed on Guam to open a dive shop and Marine hardware store. Go to www.crmcguam.com to visit my web site. A few years ago I went blind for no apparent reason. I recently visited the VA office on Guam because I had heard of the Agent Orange disability situation. While there, I recalled that after each flight of the 121's, the flight crews and some ground units wiped the entire plane down with some type of solvent. I don't know, kerosene or something. Anybody know what that solvent was? It was wheeled out to us on a small cart. It was usually in a green 55 gallon drum with a hand crank pump on the top. We doused our rags in it and began wiping. Those R3350's leaked a lot of thick black oil everywhere. I am nearly 60 now and am wondering what that solvent was? Any help would be appreciated. My eye doctors could never explain why I lost my sight. It was primarily from detached retina. However, when they went inside my eyes to do microscopic surgery, they said the retinas were too soft and would not adhere to the back of my eye. They told me I was just one of the 4% of the people who had retinal detachment who lost their vision because of this. Now I'm not so sure it was just blind luck. The VA is very active and aggressive here. Hopefully, we can figure this out.
Guam has changed plenty since my arrival in 1969. From two lanes for Marine Drive, it is now six lanes. From one stoplight to, I'm sure, over 50! The people are still very friendly, and life is a bit slowed down. We see over a million Japanese tourists each year and more coming from China, Korea and the far East each year. Tumon Bay looks like a mini Waikiki. The Guam Visitors Bureau has a great website, plenty of photos."

Ray Kusek (2/14) Email Removed "When I saw your picture in the VW-1 Tracker I kind of remembered you, but we just had two months together. I did go through boot camp with Don Gosnell, who came to VW-1 about your time from Hawaii. If you have any info on him, please let me know. Another friend was Ralph Ptacek. The last I heard of him he had got in trouble by upsetting the club manager's car on the air base in Guam. Have a good reunion."

Larry Morris (3/17) Email Removed "I don't know if you heard this, but one of our group has passed away. I found out yesterday while blundering around on Facebook that Tom Hull passed away on July 27 last year. His son's message on Facebook was that Tom died from toxic shock the day after starting chemo therapy which leads me to believe he had some

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Another Successful Reunion (Continued from Page 1)

the day except to grab a bite to eat and collapse.

Wednesday's trip to the shopping mall had 28 takers and they enjoyed strolling around the outdoor mall for a few hours. They had a leisurely lunch at one of the restaurants and the guys stopped for a drink (or two?) For the most part they came back with bags in hand so the mall must have been happy to have them.

Our Wednesday evening business meeting, dinner and auction is our trademark event of the reunions and always a great time. The vote for the next reunion resulted in Branson being selected and the date will be sometime in **September or October of 2011**. We held our very first reunion in Branson in 2000 with 30 registered attendees and six drop-ins. Only a dozen of those attendees are still active members, so it will be a new location for most. Branson is extremely friendly to the military and we look forward to getting busy planning the next party.

The surprise of the evening was the celebrity guest appearance of Minnie Pearl in a half hour comedy routine. Judging from the laughter, Sally Metzger as Minnie was warmly received. Sally reported on Thursday morning that Minnie had fallen into a coma later that evening and it was unknown whether she would ever be revived. Ed Metzger commented that it gets harder and harder to come up with something new and different for our gang.

A special thanks go to some volunteer drivers that saved our organization hundreds of dollars. With buses of 49 to 55 persons, our group of 70 to 73 left a lot of unpaid seats. We solicited some drivers to drive the overflow and went for one bus to each of the two events that required transportation. Thanks so much to Jack Gergal, Gary Oulman, Al Madsen, and Ed for taking other members to these events. Without them, the buses would have been twice as much.

Thursday was a regroup and rest up day before heading back home. The golfer's had their day in the sun and, as usual, the winning team donated their winnings to the club treasury. Ralph Link's team, including Jesse Garcia, Bob O'Reilly & Scott Wagner were the big winners. The last festivity of the reunion was Medeival Times where we were fed more than we could eat and enjoyed being transported back to a time of knights and maidens in distress.

It is always difficult to say good-bye at the end of our reunions. The time flies by so quickly that it just starts and is over. The joy of seeing old friends is always the highlight of the event. Yet there is always the sadness of parting. But Branson and the fall of 2011 is not far away and we can do it all again – God wiling.

Dues are due

It rolls around once a year like clockwork! Notices will be sent out the first week or so of May, but if you wish to save us the postage, we encourage you to send your $ 15.00 in before that time. Make your check payable to Sally Metzger, Treasurer, and send to Address Removed Inverness, Address Removed

About 20% of our members have paid their dues for the coming year already. If you are unsure if you have paid or not, just check the label on this Tracker. It will give the date that your membership expires.

We hope you will stay a member of our VW-1 All Hands Alumni family.

Orlando Minutes – March 31, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. , followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Gay Oulman took the floor to make a plea to everyone to send there "then and now" pictures to Ed and Sally. She said such a record could be used to help folks remember you if we had pictures and they could be posted at reunions. This request has been made in the Tracker on two occasions, but only about a dozen have been sent. We have about 225 members and need to have a much larger sampling to make it worthwhile. The old pictures should be from your time in VW-1 and can be a formal picture or a snapshot from that period. Please send to the Metzgers at Address Removed Inverness, Address Removed

Ed announced we had run out of the tee shirts we brought to sell, but you can special order one.. Just fill out the form and turn it in to Ship's Store with $20.00 and the shirt can be mailed to you in a couple of weeks. Several people requested connie pins and Ed explained that a new die charge is going to have to be paid in order to contract for more of them. It costs approximately $ 150.00 for that, plus the cost of the pins. The group voted to have Ed proceed look into it and try to get more pins for the group.

Pete Wasmund, VW-1's VP, reported on the success of our web site and asked if someone would volunteer to act as his assistant. He is concerned that if anything should happen to him, it would be hard to keep it current and updated unless someone was already familiar with it. It has to be someone very knowledgeable about computers. We hope someone will step up and assist Pete.

It was reported that Bud Horn is in the process of trying to get air medals that were earned by VW-1 personnel. Pete will be posting information on that on the web site.

The floor opened for nominations for next years' officers. It was apparent that no one was going to be nominated and the existing officers agreed to serve for another year. Ed Metzger, President, Pete Wasmund, VP, Sally Metzger, Sec/Treas., and Dick Lee will continue as our Chaplain.

Duncan Sprinkle ended the meeting by commenting: "I feel like I am at home here with you at this reunion for the first time since my wife died last June"

Orlando Reunion Financial Report

Reunion Income:

Monday Registration	$ 1,900
Kennedy Space Center	6,020
Wednesday Dinner	3,615
Medeival Times	3,650
Auction	1,008
Ship's Store Stock	415
NASA pictures sold	84
Anonymous Donations	325
Golf Donations	20
Total:	$ 17,037

Non-Reunion Related Income:

Dues Paid (20)	300
Custom Shirts Ordered	340

Reunion Expenses:

Hotel Food & Drink	$ 7,341.64
Kennedy Space Center	4,807.70
Kennedy Bus	873.00
Private drivers to Kennedy	235.00
Medeival Times	3,211.50
Bus for Medeival Times	360.00
NASA pictures	109.19
Roster Printing	50.89
Centerpieces	48.85
Name Tags	40.26
Marcos Tip	60.00
Miscellaneous	88.81
Snacks & Paper Products	142.20
Office Max	39.03
Research Charges	174.12
	$ 17,582.19

Amount used from General Funds for Reunion $ 545.19

New Members

Wallace F. Goss — **AT1**
Address Removed — 11/66 – 9/67
Pensacola, Address Removed — Phone Removed
Wife: Marie — Email Removed

Because I was ED10Q qualified, I spent most of the time TAD back to VW-1 Tachmo/ Was there when Cmdr. Ronald Carlson became VW-1's XO. Also worked with C126 while in Barber's Point, HI.

John L. Johnson — **ATN2**
Address Removed — 1965 – 1967
Thomasville, Address Removed — Phone Removed
Wife: Susan — Email Removed

Served as CIC Crew Member. Maintained Aviator logs in operations, 1450 flight time. After VW-1, served in NAS Whidby Island, U.S.S. Salisbury Sound – AV-13, VA-52.

Raymond FI Kusek, Jr. — **ADRAN**
Address Removed — 4/64 – 8/65
Grand Island, NB 8803 — Phone Removed
Email Removed

Worked with Chief Peyton in Aviation; then to engine build up with ADR John Hopp, then to Power Plants with a bunch of different ADR's as leaders. We in the '64 – '65 era all had good memories of P. Mullins.

Richard (Rich) Kuebler — **ATR2**
Address Removed — 6/66 – 11/67
Houston, Address Removed — Phone Removed
Wife: Paula — Email Removed

Flew on TE1 as 1st Tech and ECC

Lester L. Lloyd — **AE3**
Address Removed — 11/62 – 5/64
Knoxville, Address Removed — Phone Removed
Wife; Fannie (Mae)
Email Removed

Crew Member on TE5 and pulled electrical maintenance on all squadron aircraft.

Patrick (Pat) O'Donnell — **ATR3**
Address Removed — 11/62 – 5/63
Brecksville, Ohio Address Removed — Phone Removed
Wife: Judith — Email Removed

Started as aircrewman. After making 3rd class, flew on TE7; assigned to electronics shop. Moved from 3rd to 2nd tech, to 1st tech, maintaining radar in shop and on the plane. I hate to brag, but we had the BEST crew in the squadron! Next duty – VP46.

James "Jim" Oliver — **AMH2**
Address Removed — 5/66 – 11/67
Virginia Beach, Address Removed — Phone Removed
Wife: Bettie — Email Removed

Aircrewman on TE5. Upkeep of aircraft while deployed and non-deployed at Guam.

Richard Raymond Rowan (Rye) — **AG3**
Address Removed — 9/64 – 12/66
Broomfield, Address Removed — Phone Removed
Wife: Sharon

1st and 2nd Weather Aircrewman. Flew mostly with Crew 6. Flew many missions on barrier between N. Viet Nam and Hainan Island. Had a total of 1543 flight hours in VW-1. I dropped dropsonors, computed windspeed and direction, and dodged hostile fire. GREAT JOB!

William A. Schumacher — **AT (E-4)**
Address Removed — 10/69 –12/71
Milbank, Address Removed

Flew on TE2. Started as radar operator, also had weather equipment. Because Tactical Coordinator spent most time flying, my air medal ribbon has two silver stars. Flew with several crews due to rotation.

Ted Schweitzer — **AM2**
Address Removed — 1/57 – 8/58
Phillipsburg, Address Removed — Phone Removed
Wife: Lynn

I stole a role of wax type toilet paper from a Bathroom in Singapore in the '50's. Every square Says "Government Property". I still have about half a role left."

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Orlando Reunion Attendees

Lenn and Jane Bailey
Steve and Marilyn Birdman
Richard Bleakney
Jerry and Mildred Brice
Lowell and Sheila Buswell
Jim and Janice Coppage
David and Maryann Cousineau
George and Christine Dean
George Dean and Becky Wolfe
Frank and Jackie Doty
Harry and Suzanne Fife
Lyle and Sylvia Fisher
Jesus and Betty Garcia
Jack and Sydnie Gergal
Bill Green
Ryan and Moni Grubbs
Larry and Joyce Hoeft
Tom Hoover
Bud and Lois Horn
John Houdek and Lisa Sotto
Bud Hummel and Laraine Myers
Charles Johnson
John and Susan Johnson
Willaim Kemp and John Kemp, Jr.
Chuck and Sandra Lange
Jim and Peggie LaPosta
Ralph and Jane Link
Richard and Darlene Lyon
Al and Joanne Madsen
Ed and Sally Metzger
Dan Metzger
Norbert and Linda Monohan
Bob and Flo O'Reilly
Bob and Pat Orsini
Gary and Gay Oulman
Grant and Rosiland Oulman
Gwen and John Hall
Arthur Phillips
Dan and June Ragan
Ray Rea and Shirley Boland
Jim and Mazie Rice
Everett and Karen Speas
Duncan Sprinkle
Jim and Nancy Stinson
Mack and Judy Stotts
Jim and Ruth Tandy
Roy Allison

COME TO BRANSON FALL 2011

Joe and Mary Ann Vilsack
Scott and Marie Wagner
Pete and Dottie Wasmund
Debbie Doss
Kaleb Dodson
Mark Moody
Kristi Doss
Bob Welch
Russell and Mary Jane Weyers
Cary and Pat Williams
Art and Mary Winter
Victor and Charlotte Zarich
Jan Zarich

Drop-Ins

Gene and Pat Bloom
Dan Thomson and Diana Mangum
Jack Waterworth

And, of course
Minnie Pearl

New Members

(Continued from Page 5)

George Vernor — **AT2**
Address Removed
Brackettville, Address Removed — 1/60 – 1/62
Phone Removed

Avionics – 1st Radio Operator. Maintained all communications, navigation and intercom equipment. Send and received radio messages, both voice and CW, including weather reports (Typhoon Recon).

Tony Watson — **ATN3**
647 Address Removed
San Clemente, Address Removed — 10/64-1/67
Phone Removed
Email Removed

2nd DIT on TE5; 1st Dit on TE8 and TE00

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 2)

form of cancer, but I don't know for sure. Anyway, I certainly hated to hear about it. I knew him in 1964 when we was an AMS2 and he was a great guy. He relieved me as flight metalsmith on TE3 when I left VW-1 in September of 1964. I didn't see him again until the Reno Reunion."

Roy Hermecz (3/20) Email Removed "We were in Cocoa Beach in October for a hurricane reunion and are going back to Tampa in May in search of another diesel motor home, so we have to skip this VW-1 reunion. God bless you both and all our shipmates and air crew whom I have been privileged to know and serve with."

Jim Oliver (3/10) Email Removed "I'm sorry I will not be able to make this year's reunion. I was a member of the Blue Angel's and we are having a reunion this year with plans already in place. I will have to alternate reunions after this year. Two trips in one year is tough. I am still fighting VA with the "agent orange" stuff. I'm hoping I can find someone to confirm my Vietnam visits. My deadline is near."

Jerry Brice (4/4) Email Removed "We arrived back in East TN Wednesday after- noon. Everything went well. I have a doctor's appointment tomorrow. I feel fine right now and will keep you posted."
(NOTE: Jerry had a health problem at the reunion and the ambulance took him to the local hospital for a look see. Nothing definitive was found, and he opted to return home early and to see his own doctors. Good luck, Jerry.)
(4/8) I had a heart cath today and everything was fine. No stints, balloons or anything else.. I am supposed to take it easy for 72 hours. Shouldn't be a problem. I am nap qualified."

Pete Wasmund (4/5) Email Removed "Wish the reunions could be longer! A great bunch of people in our Association. We left Kissimmee about 11 or so Saturday, after spending about two hours over breakfast with a few others that hung on. We only got up to Troy, AL; and then had to stop for the night as we were both exhausted. Shortly after leaving the hotel the A/C in the car stopped working and that just added to the length of the trip. Luckily, Sunday morning the majority of the trip home was under mostly cloudy skies so we were comfortable. We are looking forward to Branson already. Ralph Link and I plan on going to Branson to check out a few of the golf courses sometime in the next year."

George Dean (4/8) Email Removed "I was telling Lee Thompson about the great job you folks did, but I also told him how helpful Henry (Pete Wasmund) was. I suggested that maybe you should put something in the next issue about how he helped. Also thought we could bestow on him the high accolade of becoming an Honorary Crew 5 Good Guy!

Carroll Walker (4/9) Email Removed "Good to hear the reunion was a success, which I knew it was going to be. Wish I could have attended. I will be making better plans for the next reunion slated for Branson. I certainly don't want to miss that one. Although I think the Orlando location and the trip to the Space Center can't be beat. It would be great to see some of the photos taken at Orlando so I expect to see some of them on the VW-1 website soon ... or I hope so!"

Everett Speas (4/13) Email Removed "On our way home we stopped at some place in Inverness and a man came running over to us. When we passed him the parking lot he saw the sticker of the Connie on our car. He said he was in the AF and had flown in the Connie. He took all the information about you. I don't know if he called you or not. I'm sorry I didn't get his name or anything. Hope he does call. We stopped at the air museum in Pensacola. They have a Connie there. It looks like it is in good shape just sitting there ready to take off. Will send you some pictures when I figure out how to do it. Maybe you already know and have seen it. Good to see you two again. See you in Branson next year."

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News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 9)

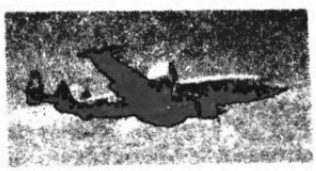
Richard (Rye) Rowan (e-mail pending) Phone Removed "I was in VW-1 from '9/64 to 12/66 and am looking for some Viet Nam "feet on the ground" proof. I'm having my 4th C & P exam, hopefully before summer, with the VA. I have been trying for 5 ½ years and could use a few buddy letters. Any help would be appreciated. I recently discovered your web site and it is AWESOME! As a result I have reconnected with a buddy of mine, Richard Carl Poffenberger (AX3). He made E-7 in his 21 years in the Navy and I will be visiting him in Alabama in May. I hope to get him interested in joining the VW-1 group also. I'm looking forward to the Branson reunion next year."

Floyd Orsini (4/13) Just received an e-mail from Floyd of the rear of his Mazda Focus and the license plate that reads "VW-1 NAVY". Proud fellow, that one!

Phil Rivera (4/13) Email Removed "I was in Guam 1965 – 1966, Crew 4. Trying to find Gary D. Riggs, AT3, Crew 7. Any help would be appreciated in contacting any who were there during that time."

Larry Hicks (4/13) Email Removed "I came across my copy of the VW-1 "yearbook" for '64-'65. I think it was printed sometime in early/mid '65 as I was doing barracks cleaning at that time. A Cdr. Godshall (I don't remember him) was CO and Cdr. Barton was XO, arriving in VW-1 December 1, 1964. If anyone wants his photo from the book, I'd be glad to copy and sent it."

New E-Mail: Tony Watson twatson Email Removed (Note there is an underline mark between the n and ssc)



VW-1 Association
c/o Ed & Sally Metzger
Address Removed
Inverness, FL34453



Mailing Code Removed