ISSUE 42 VW-1 TRACKER OCTOBER 2010



Branson Dates All Set

October 3 through October 6, 2011

We had a very successful trip to Branson in July and came away with the contract for the host hotel. We will be at the **Clarion Hotel,** 2820 W. Hwy. 76. For those of you who are familiar with Branson, this hotel is on the main thoroughfare through Branson and you will be able to get out and walk a bit if you so desire. Their phone number is 1-800-725-2236 or 417-334-7666. The rate for a single or double is $ 84.99 per night and includes a continental breakfast. Triples (three to a room) are $ 94.98. All our rooms will be in the front of the hotel with small balconies where you can sit out and watch the world go by. When you make your reservation, be sure and say you are with the VW-1 All Hands Alumni Association. If you have any problems, our contact there is Kathy Richardson. We have 45 rooms blocked and they will be held until September 3, 2011. You will be making your reservations individually with the hotel. We are very pleased with the large, attractive meeting room space that we are being provided for our entire stay. It is on the ground floor, adjacent to the outdoor pool, and they have agreed to set up our own breakfast buffet in our meeting room.

We have selected some activities but they are not contracted for yet. The only for sure trip will be on the Branson Belle River Cruise on Thursday, Oct. 6. There will be a short memorial to

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Branson Dates All Set (Continued from Page 1)

veterans before boarding and then a dinner and show while cruising the lake. In October we are hoping that the trees will be in full colored foliage and it ought to be very nice, weather permitting.

One issue that has been discussed is whether or not to have the auction in Branson. This seems like a good year to skip it, but it has been so popular that we hesitate to do so without some input from our membership. What is your feelings? If we don't hear a lot from you to do it, then we may have a raffle instead. Do you have a preference? Let us know.

We found Branson as delightful as ever. For shoppers, it is like Disneyland. There are dozens of shops with quilts of every size and pattern at extremely reasonable prices. Local craftsmen have a plethora of items that you won't find anywhere else. We stumbled on a unique shop that sells crafts from – of all places – Alaska! Very unique, very lovely – not cheap. Definitely worth looking at even if you aren't buying.

The biggest problem that Branson will entail is to resist overbooking your time. Although there will be optional trips offered, we want you to have free time to do exactly what you want to do because there is so much to choose from.

Last time we had the reunion in Branson, everyone who flew in had to fly into Springfield, MO and then rent car or be picked up from there. However, there is now an airport in Branson and arrangements can be made to fly directly into it. There is a shuttle service that has an exclusive contract to get passengers to their hotels so the hotels themselves do not offer the service. I'm sure your travel agents can offer you a lot more detail than we can in making arrangements. For those of you driving, be prepared for Route 76 in Branson. Nowhere does the traffic go more slowly as it "inch worms" its way back and forth through town. The good news is that everyone is very polite and patient and they realize the only way to keep moving is to allow people to cut in from the theaters and restaurants and shops and they do it with a smile. We found that it is still a place that makes us feel like we have stepped back into the 1950's. It is in a time warp where people were kinder and gentler and more civil to one another.

New Additions to Our Ship's Store

At the reunion in Orlando, Tom Hoover suggested a hat design that he thought would make a good addition to our Ship's Store. And here it is! Thanks, Tom. We now have a great new hat. Check it out on Page 8 of this Tracker. For those of you who list "Connie" within the top ten "loves of your life", you will want to have this hat. "Connie"" is prominently displayed in all her glory – front and center. The price of the hat is $ 20.00 plain, $ 21.50 w/ scrambled eggs, (this inc. shipping).

We also have a new Connie pin that was redesigned and is now available at $ 5.50 (inc. shipping). It is larger than the previous one offered and has two clips to keep it from rotating.

The new Connie pins were made possible by the generous anonymous donation of a member at the Orlando reunion when it was learned that we had to have a new die made which would mean an initial outlay of $ 150.00. We are so grateful for all our loyal, generous membership and their continuing support.

If you wish to place an order, please make your check payable to Sally Metzger and send to Address Removed Inverness, Address Removed

---News from Cyberspace---

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

Roger Cardin (7/31) Email Removed "As you know, personnel that went to Vietnam Det for VW-1 was on TAD orders which were not made a permanent part of our records. What I am looking for is a letter which I can present the VA to support a claim as a results of being boots on the ground in Danang. I got to VW-1 in Feb. of 1970 and was one of a lot of people who were absorbed by VQ-1. If you can help or know how I can get help, it would be appreciated. AMS1 Roger Cardin, Command Career Counselor (VW-1), Address Removed Foxboro, Address Removed Phone Removed

Gary Garretson (9/10) Email Removed "I am trying to find flight documentation for a claim with the Veterans Administration. If anyone has documentation of flights into Chu Lai with VW-1 between 1967 and 1969, it would be very helpful. I was a second radioman on several crews (usually TE-9) and then a first radioman on TE-6- or 5 - I think. My DD-214 lists the assignments (VW-1 and VR—21) but no specific documentation into Vietnam. All efforts with records agencies have been fruitless. I had the flight logs but they were destroyed in a basement flood in 1974. Any information would be helpful. Address: Address Removed Vista, Address Removed Phone Removed or Phone Removed

John Campbell (8/29) Email Removed "Thank you for your website. I was hoping to recognize some names that were with me in Chu Lai during my tour with VW-1 ('67 – '68). I did three different TAD tours during these years. I now have some medical issues that I am dealing with and need "feet on the ground proof"". I'm hoping for some buddy letters to help with this. Any help would be appreciated. Address Removed Gaston, Address Removed Phone Removed

Carl & Carol Vonasch (7/18) Email Removed "Please note we have a new address and phone number. Address Removed Crown Point, Address Removed Phone Removed

Pete Wasmund (9/30) Email Removed "I have been in contact with Richard Rowan, AG2, one of our VW-1 shipmates, who is trying to get his Air Medal. He apparently has a lot of his original records that indicate he has at least 20 missions in the combat zone. He has established contact with his congressman for assistance. I believe that he will still need help from one of the CO's or XO's that were in the squadron when Richard was. Do any of you have contact with any of these senior officers that could be of help. Richard was in the squadron in '64 – '66 and flew on TE-6. Please respond to him at Email Removed or to me at the above e-mail address.

Bud Horn (10/4) Email Removed "I have been in contact with Dick Rowan (we flew together on Crew six) by both e-mail and several phone conversations. I've mailed documents and copies of my flight log pages to him. He is in the process of getting all the necessary paperwork together to present his case to the Bureau."

New E-mail Addresses/Addresses

Duncan Sprinkle Address Removed Phone Removed
Crown Point, Address Removed Email Removed

There's Something

We've heard it said that Branson is Country Music. True, the roots were country and there is a lot of country music to be heard there. BUT .... It is not JUST country. There is a wide variety of shows to satisfy everyone's taste. Following are just a few of them.

Yakov's Moscow Circus Dinner Experience

A heartwarming story of coming to America from Russia, filled with adventure, fun and laughter. Narrated by Yakov Smirnoff from the giant video screens. It's a storybook romance between an angelic ballerina and a whimsical clown. This fairy tale comes to life with an unparalleled unicyclist, trained dogs, gigantic dancing bears, a breathtaking fire juggler, and awe inspiring aerial acts. Experience the laughter, excitement and triumph while enjoying a delicious mouthwatering meal.

Or if you don't have the time and interest in the dinner experience, attend the

Yakov Smirnoff Show

Yakov recounts his experience of "Coming to America" as a Russian immigrant. His initial impressions of this Country are told with touching pathos and side-splitting humor. It will tickle your funny bone and touch your heart. It never fails to bring tears to your eyes in spite of the fact it is a comedy show!

The Twelve Irish Tenors

From opera to pop, from Irish folk songs to jazz, these twelve guys sing with perfect harmonies and lilting melodies with a magical Irish charm that has won them legions of fans worldwide. Hear Danny Boy, The Rose, Hey Jude, Bridge Over Troubled Water, When Irish Eyes Are Smiling, Yesterday, and much, much more..

Shake Rattle & Roll

A fabulous musical celebration of the 1950's music. The many costume changes and dance routines brings back the 50's era which was such a big part of most of our members lives. Fast paced and uplifting. From "Good Golly, Miss Molly" to "Love Me Tender". It truly ROCKS!

Noah, the Musical

A sight and sound classic and a favorite of young and old alike. Noah and his family endure persecution and ridicule to obey the call of God and build an Ark. You'll feel like you are sitting right inside the large floating vessel, surrounded by hundreds of live and animatronic animals of every color, shape and size. Noah is an inspiring and timely message of hope.

Sight and Sound theaters is the nation's largest professional Christian theatrical company. This one of a kind family experience includes a majestic 2000 seat theatre, a 300 foot stage that wraps around three sides of the audience, elaborate sets up to 40 feet high, and an amazing variety of live animals. (Note that our reunion is one year away and Noah may not be playing by next October, but they will have another Bible based musical that would be of equal enjoyment.)

for All to Enjoy

The Elvis Experience

For all the Elvis Presley lovers, Branson has Tony Roi as an Elvis impersonator who does an outstanding job of bringing Elvis back to life in our memories and our hearts. You will hear over fifty of Elvis's hits. It is an absolutely unparalleled extravaganza.

The Shoji Tabuchi Show

Shoji's violinist skills are a treat to hear, but this show is not just his music. Titled "Some Things You Never Forget" it includes electrifying production numbers with extravagant costuming. Like so many shows in Branson, it is a family affair, and includes Shoji's wife, Dorothy and daughter Christina, already a veteran show-stopper. The show includes a tribute to Tabushi's native Japan, a Broadway celebration, and a stirring patriotic finale.

Legends in Concert

A live tribute show featuring an amazing cast of all-star impersonators assembled on one stage. The legends portrayed changes every six months, but some of the most popular are Tina Turner, Bobby Darin, Buddy Holly, the Temptations, Marilyn Monroe, Whitney Huston, the Blues Brothers and Elvis. With authentic costumes and their own voices, each of these performers have captured the very essence of the star they are re-creating, from the looks and mannerisms right down to the vocals. There is no lip-synching in this production, which makes each performance even more incredible.

Six

This show begins with the announcement that every sound you hear from now on will come from the Six. It is unbelievable. Six is filled with the powerhouse vocals and high-octane energy of six brothers who take musical entertainment to a whole new level using ONLY their voices. Dubbed "An Orchestra of Human Voices" the award winning show captivates audiences with pure harmonies, astonishing vocal ranges, and singing so robust you will swear you hear a full band. Just Six human voices... period! Your eyes won't believe your ears!

The Legend of Kungfu

This show includes performers from the 2008 Beijing Olympic Opening and offers you a complete Chinese experience, including dinner, if you so desire. Native costumes, complete with swords and leaps makes this a unique, awe-inspiring, one-of-a-kind experience.

* *

So the above is just a small sampling of what Branson has to offer in the way of non-Country entertainment. There are shows every morning, noon and evening and, if possible, we recommend you come early to the reunion and stay late so that you can sample some of these unique shows. So much to do and so little time to do it will be the situation once your there.

Web Site Success

Pete Wasmund, our webmaster, has some interesting statistics about our VW-1 web site and what search inquiries have drawn people to us. He said that most of the items listed did not surprise him, but item #14 on the following list did.

Search Query Number of Requests:

1.	VW 1	13, 321
2.	NAS Agana, Guam	1,808
3.	EC 121	1,548
4.	PB 1w	1,108
5.	NAS, Agana	772
6.	Cavite City, Philippines	743
7.	Cavite City	636
8.	NAS Guam	542
9.	Taragüe Beach, Guam	528
10.	EC121	500
11.	Taragüe Beach	470
12.	Typhoon Trackers	417
13.	Guam Beaches	318
14.	Univ. of Santo Tomas	280
15.	VW 1 Association	279
16.	Aewron one	262
17.	Typhoon Karen 1962	242
18.	VW1	241
19.	Typhoon Karen Guam	221
20.	Guam 1950	218
21.	Sea state pictures	198
22.	Grandpa Pettibone	191
23.	VW 1 Typhoon Trackers	189
24.	Typhoon Karen	182
25.	Gab gab beach Guam	171
26.	V W1asssoc.tripod.com	157
27.	Sagamioska	150
28.	VW 1 alumni	146
29.	Olongapo	142
30.	Wc 121	131
	Not listed:	10,161
	Total Queries:	28,506

Not bad, huh?

New Members

Wayne Authement **ADR3**
Address Removed 11/69-8/71
Montegut, LA Phone Removed
Wife:Kathleen Email Removed

Assigned Power Plant; flew with TE00 and TE 1. Crew Chef on TE-1 – Sullivan's Savages.

Al Garza **ATR2**
Address Removed 6/66 – 12/67
North Ft. Myers, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Marita Email Removed

1st Tech Radar, repaired whatever. Mostly flew with TE-4; but flew with other crews and logged nearly 1400 hours with VW-1.

Warren Johnson **LT**
Address Removed 5/68 – 5/70
Bradenton, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Dianne Email Removed

Navigation Officer / OPS

Hank Likes **AG1**
Address Removed '68 – '69
Mechanicsburg, Address Removed Phone Removed

Weatherman with Crew 2

Ronald Sparks **AEC**
Address Removed 3/68 – 2/71
Marlow, Address Removed Phone Removed
Email Removed

Night maintenance, Chief/Detachment Maint. Chief, Line Chief. Flew mostly with Crew 5.

A man is recovering from surgery when the surgical nurse asks him how he is feeling. "I'm OK, but I didn't like the four-letter words the doctors used in surgery" he answered. "What did he say?" asked the nurse. **OOPS!**

You Can Leave the Military But it Never Really Leaves You

(The following, written by Ken Burger and appearing in the Charlestown Post and Courier, was picked up off the internet from Dot Cleary. It certainly strikes a chord in our memories.)

Occasionally, I venture back out to the air base where I'm greeted by an imposing security guard who looks carefully at my identification card, hands it back and says, "Have a good day, tech sergeant". Every time I go back onto Charleston Air Force Base it feels good to be called by my previous rank, but odd to be in civilian clothes, walking among the servicemen and servicewomen going about their duties as I once did, years ago.

The military, for all its flaws, is a comfort zone for anyone who has ever worn the uniform. It's a place where you knew rules and know they are enforced. A place where everybody is busy, but not too busy to take care of business. Because there exists behind the gates of every military facility, in institutional understanding of respect, order, uniformity, accountability and dedication that becomes part of your marrow and never, ever leaves you.

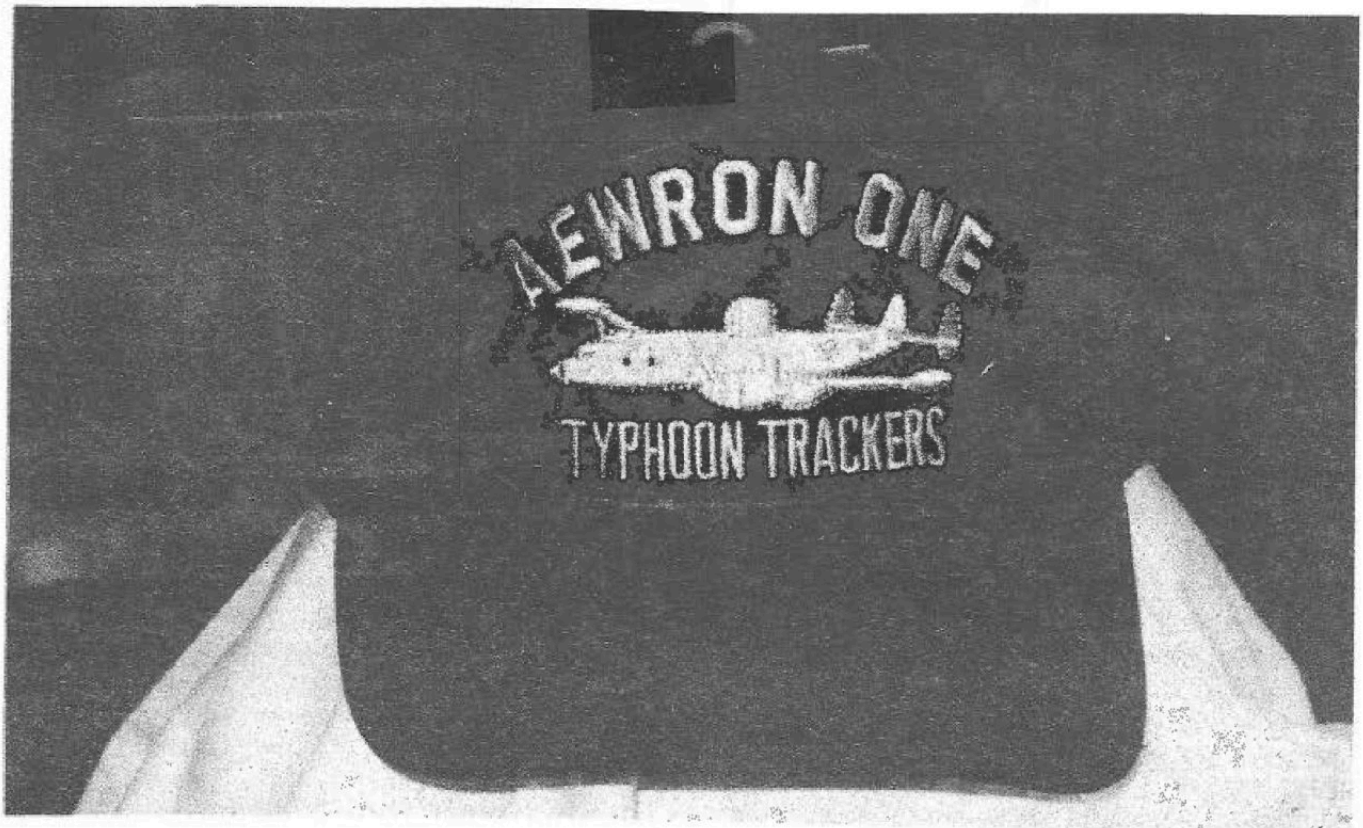
Personally, I miss the fact that you always knew where you stood in the military, and who you were dealing with. That's because you could read somebody's uniform from 20 feet away and know the score. Service personnel wear their careers on their sleeves, so to speak. When you approach each other, you can read their name tag, examine their rank and, if they are in dress uniform, read their ribbons and know where they've served.

I miss all those little things you take for granted when you're in the ranks, like breaking starch on a set of fatigues fresh from the laundry and standing in a perfectly straight line that looks like a mirror as it stretches to the endless horizon. I miss the sight of troops marching in the early morning mist, the sound of boot heels thumping in unison on the sidewalks,, the bark of sergeants and the sing-song answers from the squads as they pass by in review.

To romanticize military service is to be far removed from its reality, because it's very serious business, especially in times of war. But I miss the salutes I'd throw at officers and the crisp returns as we crisscrossed on the flight line. I miss the smell of jet fuel hanging heavily on the night air and the sound of engines roaring down runways and disappearing into the clouds.

I even miss the hurry-up-and-wait mentality that enlisted men gripe about constantly, a masterful invention that bonded people more than they'll ever know or admit. I miss people taking off their hats when they enter a building, speaking directly and clearly to others and never showing disrespect for rank, race, religion or gender. Mostly I miss being a small cog in a machine so complex it constantly circumnavigates the Earth, and so simple it feeds everyone on time, three times a day, on the ground, in the air or at sea.

Mostly, I don't know anyone who has served who regrets it, and doesn't feel a sense of pride when they pass through those gates and re-enter the world they left behind with their youth.



Two New Additions to Our Ship's Store

Read article on Page 2 for pricing and ordering information



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

GAINESVILLE FL 326
PM
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Mailing Code Removed