Branson Itinerary Shaping Up

The challenge in Branson is for us NOT to overbook events since there is so much to do and see on an independent basis and within short distances. There are morning shows, afternoon shows, evening shows, and a huge amount of shops for shopping lovers. With that in mind we have limited off site events to one a day, leaving time for the golfers, shoppers and adventurers to explore what Branson has to offer. A detailed map will be provided at registration to help you travel the Branson byways. The Branson driver's are the politest, most considerate anywhere. The traffic slowly snakes up and down Rt. 76 and will frequently stop to let cars into the line of traffic from the shows, restaurants and shops. There is absolutely no sense of rushing, quite unlike what most of us experience when we travel about our home territory. Get ready to enjoy a great down home atmosphere and an easy and relaxed environment.

Monday, October 3:

Registration from 12 to 6, as usual. The meeting room will be ours for the duration of the reunion and a memorabilia table will be there for your enjoyment. We also will have the ship's store open for business all day Monday and at selected times during the week. There will be a buffet available from noon to six p.m. so you can enjoy both lunch and a light dinner without missing any of the action. A keg of beer will also be available. At six there will be a brief meeting. The registration fee is $ 20.00 pp.

Tuesday, October 4:

A morning show – "Red, Hot and Blue" will get us off on the right foot for the week ahead. We board the bus about 9 a.m. and the show will transport us on a musical journey through the 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's. Plus there is an incredible tribute to veterans. This is one of the highest energy shows in Branson. Cost per person, including transportation is $ 30.00 pp. You'll be back at the hotel about 12:30 and will be free for the remainder of the day. No meals will be provided on Tuesday.

Wednesday, October 5:

Free day until about 6:30 p.m for you to get to the Veteran's Memorial, shop downtown, or attend a show of your choice or just explore Branson. You need to have had dinner and be ready to board the bus about 7:15 as the show "Six" is on the menu for the evening. You won't believe what comes out of the mouths of these six brothers. Bass, drums, instruments and unbeatable harmonies in an incredibly unique performance. Cost: $ 40.00 pp. No meals will be provided on Wednesday.

Thursday, October 6:

Prepare for a full day. At 9 o'clock we will have our business meeting; followed by the auction at 10 a.m. A buffet will be set up at 11:30 to 1 o'clock. The evening event will be a cruise on the Branson Belle on Table Rock Lake with dinner and a show. It is the early dinner show and we will have to leave the hotel at 2:30. On our return from the cruise, there will be desserts in the meeting room and goodbyes for those leaving early Friday. Cost is $ 60.00 pp, which includes transportation, the Memorial Service, the cruise, dinner and the show.

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---News from Cyberspace---

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

Bob & Diane Coats (10/12) Email Removed "I was stationed at NAS Agana, Guam between 1959 to early 1961. I was on TE-9. We called ourselves the Flying Jolly Rogers of the High Seas. I designed the crew patch for our crew. I have been trying for the longest time to find others with the same military background, and I think I have found the correct path. I was a 3rd class radar operator and I have many fond memories of the long Connie flights. I live in central Florida, about 60 miles south by southeast of Tampa in a very small community that isn't on most maps. My wife of 47 years and I moved out here from Bradenton, FL 19 years ago. What do I need to do to learn more about the VW-1 association? By the way, they called me 'Cotton'". (Note: Bob was sent an intro package on 10/14)

Lenn and Jane Bailey (10/13) Email Removed "Jane and I are delighted things are going well with the Branson plans and looking forward to next October. Our preference would be the auction because it is so much fun. I also have been working on a project for the auction."

Mack & Judy Stotts (10/16) Email Removed "I like the looks of the new design for our hat. Maybe now some of the Little old Ladies I encounter will cease looking up at my old VW-1 hat and asking me if I was in WW1. One guy in an elevator at a casino in Biloxi asked me if I liked being a "trucker". I guess Tracker and Trucker almost look alike. Also, with the Connie sewn into the hat the price of $ 20 is well worth it. Hats off to Tom Hoover for the suggestion."

Jim & Peggie LaPosta (10/14) Email Removed "We think a raffle would be good ....Give you two a break and I think people are running out of suitable items to donate. Does the come early and stay late room rate remain the same? (Note: Yes it does ... three days prior and three days after.)

Jean Childers (11/08) Email Removed "I'm pleased to be able to share your web site with our kids, who were too young when we were stationed on Guam to remember much about it. My husband has been gone for many years now but reading some of the stories and checking out the pictures gives me both happiness and sadness. I smiled at the one picture I found of the 1966 air show. I remember that day very well. I was the spouse of Lowell Childers, who must have been a Lt. J.G. when we were first there, from late February 1966 to October 1967. His three year tour included about 5 months at Barber's Point and then about ten months at the VR squadron of Moffett's Det A at Tachikawa. MacNamara and his "boys" were saving money, if you remember. I wonder how many families got caught in that kind of revolving door? Best wishes to your group on your good efforts."

Everett & Karen Speas (11/11) Email Removed "Here's a solution to all the controversy over full-body scanners at the airports. All we need to do is develop a booth you can step into that will NOT X-ray you, but WILL detonate any explosive device you may have hidden on or in your body. The explosion will be contained within the sealed booth. This would be a win-win for everyone. There would be no questions about racial profiling and the device would eliminate long and expensive trials. This is so simple that it's brilliant. I can see it now: you're in the airport terminal and you hear a muffled explosion. Shortly thereafter an announcement comes over the PA system, "Attention, standby passengers, we now have a set available on flight number .----- !"

Tom & Barb Bates (11/12) Email Removed "A few days ago I was doing an on-line research looking for some photos of a Connie and eventually came across your web site for VW-1. WOW, I'm

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Places of Interest to Visit

Veterans Memorial Museum

This Memorial Museum is a powerful and emotional experience for everyone. This national tribute to our veterans contains over 18,000 sq. ft. of art and erxhibits progressing through the wars of the 20th Century. It honors all branches of the military. A full-size World War II P-51 Mustang Fighter plane is located in front of the Veterans Memorial Museum. The hallmark of the museum is the world's largest war memorial sculpture created by internationally known sculptor, Fred Hoppe. Hoppe was inspired by the stories and sacrifices he heard about from his father (Fred Sr.) and the men that fought alongside his father during World War II's bloodiest battles. Over five tons of clay was used to sculpt this seventy foot long, fifteen ton bronze sculpture, consisting of fifty life-size soldiers storming a beach. Each figure is modeled after an actual combat veteran, one from each of the fifty states. The walls of the museum are covered with the names of the men and women who gave their lives to defend our freedom in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, and other recent conflicts in the 20th century. Over 400,000 names are displayed on the World War II walls.

The Titanic

Expect to see Titanic in a whole new light. Unlike travelling exhibits, Titanic Branson is a permanent, two-story museum attraction shaped like Titanic herself. This astonishing, signature building was built half-scale to the original. Towering 100 feet above Country Highway 76, it holds 400 priceless artifacts in twenty galleries. The structure is anchored in water to create the illusion of the Titanic at sea. The 90 minute, self-guided tour is designed to give guests the sensation of being an original passenger on Titanic's 1912 maiden voyage. You will come to know real passengers through their stories, personal memorabilia, photos, cards and letters. Everything on display once belonged to a Titanic passenger or crew member and were either taken off the ship at the time of the sinking or were found floating in the debris field. Titanic Branson is a celebration of the ship, passengers and crew.

Hollywood Wax Museum

Welcome to a studio like no other ..... here your favorite stars are poise to perform their most famous film roles. You'll be dazzled by this place that's almost alive with passion, creativity and fun. A fitting tribute to the talent and blockbusters you love. You can find out more about the wax sculptors and designers and how they create their sets at www.hollywoodwax.com

Talking Rocks Cavern

Want a change of pace? Visit Talking Rocks Cavern. Discover a beautiful landscape of glistening crystals that lie just beneath your feet. "It defies the pen of man to over describe it's scenic beauty.. " says the original handbill issued in September of 1921 announcing the opening of this incredible cave for touring. Today, folks walk down solid concrete steps along pathways that wind amid a vast array of incredible formations that are displayed to perfection by dramatic lighting. Knowledgeable guides will lead you through this natural wonder while they share the science, the scenery, and the stories of what original explorer Truman Powell called "Missouri's most beautiful cave". Find it at Address Removed Branson.

Welcome our New Members

Thomas (Tom) C. Bates **ACW2**
Address Removed '57 – '59
Richfield Springs, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Barb Email Removed

Assigned the Navigation Office. Flew with TE-5 As CIC. Myself and four others were the first ACW's To report into the squadron. Transfer from VW-16.

Imrie (Gus) Beall, Jr. **ADRAN**
Address Removed 1967 – 1968
Bend, Oregon Phone Removed
Wife: Wanda Email Removed

Assigned to the Tool Room

Robert F. Coats **ATC2**
Address Removed 8/58 – 8/62
Ona, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Diane Email Removed
(I1I is el-one-el-y)

Radar Operator on flight crew 9; after a year and a half, was transferred to Barbers Point, HI for Barrier flights from Midway Island. Did typhoon hunting and search & rescue out of Guam. Really enjoyed that duty.

Louis Cohen **AE2**
Address Removed 7/7 – 6/69
Rowlett, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Patricia Email Removed

Served 120 days in mess hall; then went to the Electric shop. Made AE2 , went TAD to Sangley Point, Phillipines, then to flight crew 9.

Garry Garretson **ATN2**
Address Removed 10/66 – 4/68
Vista, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Julie Email Removed

Flew with Crews 5, 6 and 9 as Radioman.

David D. Jackson **AMS1**
Address Removed 1969 – 1971
Ada, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Jodi Email Removed

Primary job was as the night shift PO for check Crew and air frames. Made numerous trips into Chu Lai and Danang as make-up crew.

John Kemp
Address Removed
Winter Park, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Betty Email Removed
Guest membership from Brother Bill
John was a maintenance Chief for VA-56 on board the USS Ranger in 1970. Flew to Danang to check on one of his aircraft and, as luck would have it, there was a Connie there and he discovered that Brother Bill was the engineer. Thus began his association with VW-1 and the Connies. In 1975 he was ordered to NAS Agana as the OIC for NAESU Det. In 1977 he was ordered to PMTC Pt. Mugu where there was again VQ-1 aircrew. John says he can tell a few SEA stories about his association with VQ-1, hopefully in Branson!

Ronald Miles **AE3**
Address Removed 12/67 – 6/69
Garland, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Kathy ketm Email Removed

Spent 37 days in Chu Lai. AE school for EC-121. Flew with several crews in training, lastly was with Crew 8.

Ed Myers **ATR2**
Address Removed '67 – 2/'69
Clovis, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Linda Email Removed

Ran flight line for six months; then took over Crew 3 CIC. Also radar in flight troubleshooting. Won air medal three times. Transferred to VA-55 in Feb. 1969. Released from active duty Feb. 1970.

Robert Nieman **ATR3**
Address Removed '69 – '71
Crystal Lake, Address Removed

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Added Value Continues

By our count, we have added a grand total of 16 new members since our reunion in Orlando last year. That is amazing!

We have been around now for over ten years and yet those old VW-1 er's that so loved the squadron continue to find us and to add to our ranks. We give the largest credit for that happening to Pete Wasmund and his excellent job as webmaster to our great web site.

It appears that many of these newcomers are interested in attending the upcoming reunion in Branson so we are excited about a even better turnout in Branson this October.

For those of you who are new and have never attended one of our VW-1 reunions, here are a few bits of information that may be helpful to you.

First of all, we have a great time and we find we have, over the years, become more like family then some of our actual families! It is refreshing to talk to a group of folks who know what your talking about and can connect with you and your memories.

Secondly, we have a memorabilia table at the reunions that is second to none. So bring your "stuff" from the good old days and let others enjoy it. It will be displayed in the meeting room the entire time of the reunion and many of our group spend hours poring over it.

Thirdly, we usually have an auction at Our reunions. We will be having one in Branson. We ask you don't bring in fact, gotten outrageous amounts of money for something as silly as a sea bean! Last year, a framed photo of a Connie was a favorite, along with a handstitched quilted wall hanging with the squadron emblem on it. Regulars at the reunions pride themselves on coming up with just the right thing. Trust us, that is NOT an easy thing to do!

A welcome to all you new members. It will be a treat to meet you all in Branson. Make your reservations now!

New Members (Continued from Page 2)

Flew wth Crew 1. Worked on radar and communication equipment on ground and in flight. Crew 1 was Sullivan's Savages!

Marcus Benny Sheene **ADR3**
Address Removed 11/62 – 5/64
Middleburg, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Lorene Email Removed

Engine change crew #2. Flew to different air bases too change motors.

Lou Tanguay **AX3**
Address Removed 1965 – 1966
Cumberland, Address Removed Phone Removed

Will Green has gifted Lou with a membership to the VW-1 Association. Welcome aboard, Lou.

Walter Umphrey **ATR2**
Address Removed 1966 – 1968
Winter Springs, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Deborah Email Removed

CIC on TE-1. Worked in Avionics Shop when in Guam.

William "Roy" Yarger **ATW3**
Address Removed 3/62 – 9/63
Brunswick, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Sandra Email Removed

Flew on TE-3 and TE-1.

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 2)

impressed. I was in the squadron from 1957 to 1959, being one of the very first ACW's to report for duty. There were five of us. A lot of guys kept saying 'Welcome aboard, what's an ACW and what do you do?' After we told them we were CIC, a few of them weren't too happy because we would be taking their flight status away from them. I'm sure you know that it all worked out very well. I've looked over the membership list and found several names I remember, with one very close buddy, Benny Steers. Can you contact him for me and let him know I'd like to get in touch with him? My membership application is in the mail, so I'm really looking forward to reconnecting with some of the buys. In the past I've told my wife that if I ever went to a reunion, it would be VW-1 and that's what I have in mind for the next one. That would be very nice and hoping my health holds up. Yeah, bad ticker, but I'm not looking for sympathy, just saying it could go bad. God only knows when!"

Ben Steers (11/12) Email Removed "Just had a great phone reunion with Tom Bates! Thanks for making all this possible."

Tom Bates (11/13) Email Removed "It was a great surprise last night when I got a call from my old buddy of almost 50 years ago. It was hard to believe it was Benny. We must have talked for almost ½ hour, hearing names of guys I'd totally forgotten. Time has a way of doing that to us. Anyway, I'm definitely planning on attending the reunion next year. It's still hard to believe this! Thank you for contacting Benny for me so fast. Hopefully, my wife and I will see you next year."

Robert Frazier (11/12) **New Address:** Address Removed **Palm Springs,** Address Removed **Ph:** Phone Removed

Dick Lee (11/15) Email Removed "Just took a fun trip to Africa – Joburg, to Capetown to Durban – then to an Indian Village and then on a four day safari. Planning on Branson in October 2011."

Norbert & Linda Monohan (11/21) Email Removed "The trip to the Orlando reunion was difficult. We are no longer able to travel. We go to San Diego to a specialist once every three months and stay with our daughter in Ramona. Want you to know we have a new e-mail address."

Mack & Judy Stotts (11/26) Email Removed "We had an enjoyable Thanksgiving Day. We went to the Isle of Capri in Lake Charles, LA for the buffet. Beats slaving over the stove here at home. I really love the new VW-1 hat and pin we just received. Quality workmanship."

Jim Prusa (11/26) Email Removed "I am now living near Incheon (Korea), next to the international airport ICN. Have five golf courses here that I'm managing. The whackos shelled the next island over about 80 miles from here. All my Korean staff are pretty somber – they are expecting to be ordered to duty as all Korean males are reserve. I keep joking that I'm ready to go with them – I may have to, but this time I want a commission to at least Commodore! Since the sinking of the Korean corvette last spring, I have been thinking constantly about VQ1 Deepsea 21. I was standing in VQ1 Ops office in DaNang when we heard over the radio about the shootdown! We had gone to DaNang with two engines out that morning and could not make it back to Chu Lai. Anyway, if the commies get this far I just want an M16 and 31 rounds to even the score. I'm off to PI the 15th of December for the holidays. I'll be scuba diving for two weeks in Mindoro and maybe then Palawan. I am in PI every few months and was down to Subic last trip where I dove down to the USS New York and other wrecks. You would not recognize Subic or Cubi, as they are now a Freeport area. The Filipinos have done a good job of using the base. The old jungle survival school is now a recreation "experience". I don't like diving there so much as the water is still murked up from the eruption of Pinatubo. Guess I need to take a taxi trip over

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News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 6)

from Manila to Sangley to see if anything is still recognizable. I'm told there is still a small US Navy office there. I'll check to see if the Marie Tez building is still standing!"

Jo Jackson (11/28) Email Removed "I feel I should know you, but cannot remember. But I do remember Gregory Collucci, AMH-3, who is on your membership list. I have filed a claim with the VA and need to prove that I had 'boots on the ground' in Vietnam, Chu Lai and DaNang between the dates of 1969 to 1971. I'm hoping that Collucci will write me a buddy letter for that purpose. Will you please contact him regarding this matter. My phone number is Phone Removed I would also like to be a member of the association. How do I do that?"

(Note: Welcome aboard, Jo. He did, in fact, join and his information is under New Members.)

Donna Massey (12/7) Email Removed "My father served in VW-1 in Guam from 1962 to 1964. I would like to get in touch with anyone that may have known him or served with him. He passed on in September 2003. I am trying to put together information for my children on my father's military career and would be most grateful to connect with anyone who may have known him. He was Lcdr. Donald E. Brunner. I also have in my possession pictures from one of the VW-1 reunions. I think maybe in 2002. My phone number is Phone Removed address: Address Removed Katy, Address Removed

(Note: We suspect the reunion pictures are from the VW-1 Officers reunion group, since we don't have a record of a Don Brunner attending any of our group's reunions.)

Robert Nieman (12/7) "Over the past 40 years I've remembered VW-1 fondly from the years I was there. I thought that when they decommissioned it in 1971 that it was over ... gone. But last week I was trying to get the squadron logo for a jacket and my brother-in-law got on the computer and found you. I don't have a computer but would like to join the alumni association. Please give them my name and address."

(Note: Robert has since joined the group and we are delighted that he found Pete's great web site. Welcome aboard, Robert. We hope to see you in Branson, MO in October of 2011.)

Jim Galinsky (13/16) Email Removed "For those not in Florida following the news, the family of Vincent Consigili would like to share a story. We don't have confirmation from the US Embassy in the Bahamas, but it appears there is no happy ending as many of Vincent's stories have had. On his way to the Bahamas, while he was talking with the control tower, there was a catastrophic incident and he was no longer on the radar nor the radio. He was about 7 miles off the coast. The Coast Guard has stopped searching and they don't plan, at this time, to retrieve the Beech 18 twin prop plane from the bottom of the Atlantic. We can remember that he lived this life as he wished, took many risks, had the opportunity to survive many a precarious situation, died fit without illness and he didn't outlive his money. Emmy is going to plan a memorial service for January."

Wilson O'Neal (9/24) Email Removed "I recently required a navy blue wool baseball cap with an NAS Agana Snoopy patch on the front. The patch has "We Try-Anyway" and "Avionics" with Snoopy holding two battery terminals while jumping around. On the left side of the hat is "Guam", right side "Memphis" and on the back "Bill". I know it's a long shot, but could you give me the era and possibly who the hat belong to?"

New E-Mail Address: Stephen Davis(11/13) Email Removed

Branson Itinerary (Continued from Page 1)

Friday, October 7:

The meeting room will be open for breakfast and you will have the opportunity to pick up your memorabilia. At 12 noon we will have to put an "over" sign on the Branson reunion and start thinking about our next location, which will be selected at the meeting on Thursday.

Keep in mind that the meeting room will be available to us for the entire duration of our reunion. There will be soft drinks, beer and snacks available there for your convenience. When trips are planned, volunteers who opt out of the trips are recruited to volunteer to be responsible for the meeting room and sign up for three to four hour time slots. We do not arrange for any hard liquor at any of our events. We often get asked about what is appropriate to wear and we do not do anything that requires you to dress up. No jackets and ties or fancy dresses required.

If you have not yet made your room reservations, consider doing so now. The hotel is the Clarion at 2820 W. Hwy. 76. Phone: 800-725-2236. Please identify yourself as a member of the VW-1 All Hands Alumni Association when making your reservation. The price you are quoted should be $ 84.99 for a double, plus taxes and surcharges. Please let us know if you have any difficulty in making your reservation. We have 45 rooms reserved in our block and it is possible that we will exceed this number considering all our new members who have expressed their intention to attend.

The registration form will be included in the April Tracker. We have a cancellation policy of full return of any charges up to September 3rd so you have nothing to lose by registering early.



VW-1 Association
c/o Ed & Sally Metzger
710 Edgewater Dr.
Address Removed





Mailing Code Removed