ISSUE 44 VW-1 TRACKER APRIL 2011

What Pilots See When Landing At Offutt Air Force Base



(This picture has been making the rounds on the Internet and was first forwarded to us by John Rice. In case you missed it, we want you to see an example of what a great country this is.)

"Our hats are off to a farmer in Bellevue, NE (just south of Omaha). Just imagine how this must make the servicemen feel with this view when approaching the airport! The farmer does it with his tractor and uses a GPS to get the letters readable. It tells them that folks care and that our military are supported and appreciated."

This should have been on the national news to help offset all the negative reporting - along with the farmer's name. God bless him.

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Branson Reunion Registration Inside

Look it over, fill it out, and send it in **EARLY**. It will help greatly with our planning.

---News from Cyberspace---

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

David & Jodi Jackson (1/11) Email Removed "We just received our first VW-1 Tracker and read it cover to cover. We plan on attending the reunion in Branson, but we will be bringing our motor home. Do you know if anyone else is coming in an RV? If so, it would be nice if we could all stay at the same place. Since we are familiar with Branson, I would be happy to scout out an RV park that would be near the hotel and get all the particulars."

Floyd & Pat Orsini (1/12) Email Removed "Just wanted to say hi to you both. Made our reservations at the hotel. We are looking forward to good times, as usual. Good to see so many new members. Also Pat is thrilled that there are lots of quilt shops in the area. She has finally retired and is now doing lots of quilting with some of her best friends. She will have something very special for the auction. Quite shocked to hear about Vince Consigili. I flew with him a number of times when he was a co-pilot of TE-7. Good guy and good friend. Was always nice to me. My prayers are with his family. See you in Oct."

Ski & Barb Borkowski (2/2) Email Removed "The VW-1 website brings back memories of the good old days. VW-1 was my first squadron. Within a couple of days of checking in I was sent to Sangley where I spent my first six months working on the old ARC-27's. Then back to the squadron, Crew 5, for 1967; then transferred out in early 1968. Will be using the website and other sources to document "boots on the ground" for the VA. Suggestions and advice are always welcome. Please correct my phone number in the membership list. It is Phone Removed

Ernest Aldridge (2/14) Email Removed "I would like to offer a correction to the picture on your website on the rifle and pistol team, circa 1964. I believe some of the names are wrong. Third from right is Don Ray. He was the crew chief of TE-7 in 1964. He was an ADR 2nd class PO at the time. The shorter guy in the front center is Dick Lee (ADR). He organized the team. He loved outshooting the marines on the range second only to taking marine officers money when the shooting got serious. His shooting ability carried the team. On the far right is George White (ATR). This picture was taken about the time he made second class PO. To White's right is "Pete" Peterson (ATN), a great guy from Minnesota. I don't remember his first name. The unbelievably handsome guy standing directly behind White and Petersen is Ernest Aldridge, ATW-2, Crew 7. Thank you, folks, for your website. I was googling Richard "Dick" Moore from Kansas when I ran across it. That picture brought a tear to an old man's eye."

(Note: This pix can only be viewed on our website. Thanks go to Ernest, who although not an association member, shared some interesting facts on a some of our loyal group. We had not previously known that Dick Lee, our Chaplain, was such a sharpshooter!)

Lowell Buswell (2/18) Email Removed "Hey, guys, we will probably miss Branson this time. Timing with hazelnut harvest is a problem. Today I am having a double bypass. Should be out of the hospital by next Friday."

Foster Hoover (2/20) Email Removed "In 1975 I was stationed at NAS Pax River, MD and while standing Duty Maintenance Chief on a Sunday, I got a call to meet a C-47 (DC-3) that had three aircraft on board to be evaluated by the Test Pilot School. Knowing the size of a DC-3, I

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"SHIFTY" DIED JANUARY 17, 2011

"Shifty", by Chuck Yeager

Shifty volunteered for the airborne in WWII and served with Easy Company of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, part of the 101st Airborne Infantry. If you've seen Band of Brothers on HBO or the History Channel, you know Shifty. His character appears in all ten episodes, and Shifty himself is interviewed in several of them.

I met Shifty in the Philadelphia airport several years ago. I didn't know who he was at the time. I just saw an elderly gentleman having trouble reading his ticket. I offered to help, assured him that he was at the right gate, and noticed the "Screaming Eagle", the symbol of the 101st Airborne, on his hat.

Making conversation, I asked him if he'd been in the 101st Airborne or if his son was serving. He said quietly that he had been in the 101st. I thanked him for his service, then asked him when he served, and how many jumps he made.

Quietly and humbly, he said, "Well, I guess I signed up in 1941 or so, and was in until sometime in 1945 ..." at which point my heart skipped.

At that point, again, very humbly, he said "I made the five training jumps at Toccoa, and then jumped into Normandy ... do you know where Normandy is?" At this point my heart stopped.

I told him "yes, I know exactly here Normandy is, and I know what D-Day was." At that point he said "I also made a second jump into Holland, into Arnhem." I was standing with a genuine war hero ... and then I realized that it was June, just after the anniversary of D-Day.

I asked Shifty if he was on his way back from France, and he said "Yes ... and it's real sad because, these days, so few of the guys are left, and those that are, lots of them can't make the trip." My heart was in my throat and I didn't know what to say.

I helped Shifty get onto the plane and then realized he was back in Coach while I was in First Class. I sent a flight attendant back to get him and said that I wanted to switch seats. When Shifty came forward, I got up out of the seat and told him I wanted him to have it, that I'd take his coach.

He said, "No, son, you enjoy that seat. Just knowing that there are still some who remember what we did and who still care is enough to make an old man very happy." His eyes were filling up as he said it.

And mine are brimming up now as I write this. Shifty died on January 17 after fighting cancer. There was no parade. No big event in Staples Center. No wall- to wall back- to-back 24/7 news coverage. No weeping fans on television. And that's not right!!!

Let's give Shifty his own Memorial Service, online, in our own quiet way. Please forward this e-mail to everyone you know, especially to the veterans.

Rest in peace, Shifty.

P.S. I think that is it amazing how the media chooses our heroes these days I. VW-1 Michael Jackson and the like!

Note: Charles Johnson, a VW-1 shipmate, responded to the above with the following:

"I will give you "the rest of the story". Shifty was laid to rest with Full Military Honors. Mountain Empire VFW Post 8652; John Fox Jr, VFW Post 5715 and Keith Maggard VFW Post 4301 combined Honor Guard along with the Virginia Army National Guard and American Legion Post 243 proudly rendered a final salute to a fallen comrade. Shifty was a member of our VFW Honor Guard. American Legion Post 243 is now named Darrell C. "Shift" Powers Post 243. Shifty was my friend and comrade and it was an honor to be able to stand tall at his funeral.

New Members

Ron "Ski" Borkowski **ATN2**
Address Removed '66 – '68
Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Barb Email Removed
First 6 months All..., ..., then Avionics and flight Crew – TE-5 as radioman.

Roger A. Hall **ACW2P1**
Address Removed 7/59 – 7/62
Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Paula Email Removed
Airborne CIC Crew 3, Senior Petty Officer

Frederick R. Kraenzlin **ATN2**
Address Removed 9/61 – 7/63
Wall Turnpike, Address Removed
Wife: Maureen Email Removed

Flew mostly with Crew 1 as 3rd, 2nd, and 1st tech. In flight maintenance radar systems and associated consoles. Relief radar operator, ECM operator. In flight maintenance of radios, navigation, electronics, etc.

James J. Perinovic **ADR2**
Address Removed 3/69 – 10/69
Choctaw, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Sonia Email Removed
Check Crew/ Power Plant

Fred Standish **AT2/AT1**
Address Removed '63 – '66
Huntsville, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Margaret Email Removed
First Tech, ECC Crew 1

Richard Watson **ATR2**
Address Removed Address Removed
Glendale, Address Removed 10/66 – 4/68
Wife: Margaret Phone Removed
Email Removed

Worked as a CIC operator on Crew 4 for most of my time in VW-1. Worked in Training Division, usually at the CIC training Trailers. Flew with Houdek, Rice, Garza, Burke and Van Kirk.

Dues Reminder

Not yet, but the month (May) of paying your dues is getting close and this will be the last Tracker until July. On May 1 we will send out notices to all unpaid members, but since we are always interested in saving a nickel ... or more precisely, 44 cents... we are reminding you a bit early.

If you wish to save us that stamp in May, just write a check prior to May 1 for $ 15.00, payable to:

Sally Metzger
Address Removed
Address Removed

Many of you have already paid. If your not sure of your status, just check the mailing label on this newsletter. If the date shown is 5/1/2011 then your dues are due. Any year after 2011 indicates you are currently paid up until the date shown. Thank you for your continuing support.

Bad E-Mail Addresses

We have been trying to use the following e-mail addresses without any luck. Please check and see if your name is listed below. If so, please send us an e-mail at: Email Removed
That way we will be sure that our our records are correct.

William Rea
Email Removed
Mike Kopey
Email Removed
Harold Cooper
Email Removed
Fred Becker
Email Removed
Roger Atchley

Branson Reunion Registration Form

Oct. 3 thru Oct. 6, 2011 (4 Nights)

Deadline July 31, 2011

Please note your hotel and activities fee is 100% refundable through Sept. 3, 2011. We ask for early registration to facilitate finalizing numbers for contracts requiring the purchase of tickets and providing for proper number of buses needed. Your cooperation is appreciated.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS for this reunion are to be made by attendees. Please call the Clarion Hotel at 1-800-725-2236 (2820 Hwy. 76) and let them know you are with the VW-1 All Hands Alumni Assoc. Your rate will be $ 84.99 (single or double) per night for a standard room, plus tax and surcharge. The hotel is extending that rate for three days prior and following the reunion if you want to extend your vacation. A continental breakfast buffet will be included in this price. We have 45 rooms being held until Sept. 3rd. We encourage you to make your reservation early.

Registration, Monday, Oct. 3, Noon to 6 P.M. Per Person (pp) **$ 20.**00
Note: Registration fee required by ALL ATTENDEES regardless of when they register)

Name(s) _____

_____

Included in the $ 20 registration fee above: Continual buffet Monday from 12 to 7 p.m. w/keg beer, coffee, iced tea; Thursday Luncheon and Evening Farewell Desserts; Hospitality Room entire four days w/keg beer, snacks and soft drinks.

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EVENTS: Please include cost for the events you select with your registration. For a detailed description of these trips, please see article on page 1 of the January 2010 Tracker.

Tuesday, October 4:

Red, Hot and Blue, 9 a.m. (Price includes show and bus transportation) **37**.00 pp

Name(s)

_____

_____

Bus pick up at the hotel at 9 a.m. for the 10 o'clock show. We will return to the hotel about 12:30. Afternoon and evening free for you to select show of your choice or to socialize in our Hospitality room.

Wednesday, October 5:

Golf Tournament **TBA**

Name(s): _____

Contact Ralph Link and/or Pete Wasmund for details on Registration day (See Other Side)

Wednesday, October 5th (Continued)

SIX at 7:15 p.m. (Price includes show and bus transportation) **$ 43**.00 pp

Name(s):

_____

_____

Bus will pick us up at 7:15 for transportation to the theater; return about 10.

Thursday, October 6th:

Business Meeting/ Auction/Lunch (Beginning at 9 a.m.) **No Charge (NC)**

Names:

_____

_____

Business Meeting starts at 9 a.m.; auction scheduled to begin at 10:15. A light buffet lunch will be served at 12 noon in our meeting room.

Branson Belle Cruise, Dinner and Show **$ 65**.00 pp

Name(s) _____

_____

Price Includes cruise, dinner, show, and transportation. Departure from hotel at 2:30. There will also be a memorial service before boarding the Branson Belle. Return to Hotel at 8:30.

Dessert and Farewells: Hotel Meeting Room upon return from Cruise to 11 p.m. **N/C**

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Check out time is 11 a.m. Friday, October 7th

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Please circle the dollar values of those activities you select and make a check out for the correct amount payable to Sally Metzger, VW-1 Treasurer and send to:

Sally Metzger, Treasurer, Address Removed **Inverness,** Address Removed

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Don't forget an item for the auction on Thursday! No high dollar items, please.

If you have any questions, e-mail us – Ed and Sally Metzger –
at Email Removed or phone Phone Removed

Do You Know What This Is? Or Where This Is?

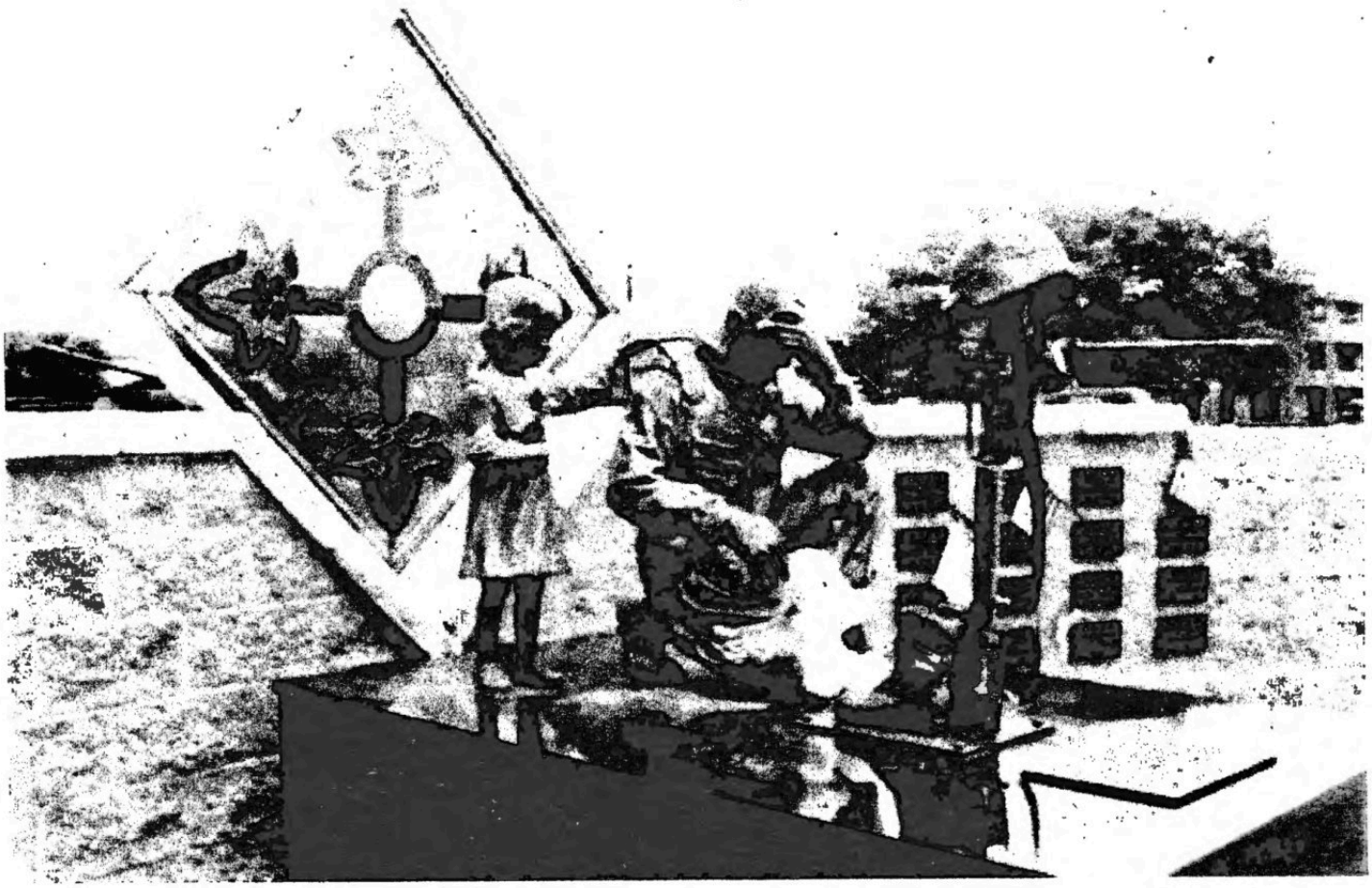
This statue currently stands outside the Iraqi Palace, now home to the 4th Infantry Division. It will eventually be shipped home and put in the memorial museum in Fort Hood, Texas.

The statue was created by an Iraqi artist named Kalat, who for years was forced by Saddam Hussein to make the many hundreds of bronze busts of Saddam that dotted Baghdad. Kalat worked on this memorial night and day for several months.

Kalat was so grateful for the Americans' liberation of his country; he melted three of the heads of the fallen Saddam and made the statue as a memorial to the American soldiers and their fallen warriors.

To the left of the kneeling soldier is a small Iraqi girl giving the soldier comfort as he mourns the loss of his comrade in arms.

(Note: This was sent to us by Foster Hoover 11/20/10)



Different Ways of Looking at Things: "Mr. Clark, I have reviewed this case very carefully, the divorce Court Judge said, "And I've decided to give your wife $ 775 a week." "Way to go, your Honor," the husband said. "And every now and then I'll also try to send her a few bucks myself."

Returning to the Scene of the Crime

(Chuck Johnson sent us this article by Dave Pearson that was in the Denver Post recently. Dave was an air traffic controller at NAS Sangley Point in 1969 – 1971. Small world. He commented that many of you most likely talked to him on trips to, through, and from the PI. Chuck's been in touch with him by e-mail and plans to talk again when he returns from PI. Dave does remember the Typhoon Trackers. He also remembers a 121 beginning its takeoff roll in standing water up to its axles. It pulled its gear up and just cleared the sea wall! Bullet Proof. Just a normal wet and rainy take off!)

By Dave Pearson

"Like a criminal, I'm returning to the scene of the crime. I am going back to the Philippines. In late 1969, until 1971, I was stationed about six miles across Manila Bay from Manila at a place called Sangley Point Naval Station. It was a very small base with one runway. I was an air traffic controller.

For nearly two years I was an invisible, bulletproof young sailor who was: (1) the youngest tower supervisor in the Navy; (2) a tower supervisor who called out the Marines on the Secret Service; (3) a guy who played fast and loose with life, saw his first shooting, and generally defied the odds.

In April, I will return and I hope I don't run across anybody that looks like me. Of course, this time I will be armed ... with a walking stick.

Several years ago I ran across a young Filipino who hailed from the same area. He said that Cavite City (the town right outside the main gate) had grown to more than a million people. It turns out that he was incorrect. The actual population is 104, 581 people, according to Wikipedia. Still, that's a lot more than the 20,000 I estimate was there 40 years ago!

(Note: We hope that Chuck will follow up with Dave and send us some observations he may have about PI, and Cavite City in particular for a future Tracker article.)

Who's Who Coming to the Branson Reunion

Just under six months till the Branson reunion and, at this early date, we already have an outstanding amount of enthusiasm being generated. Those who have already reserved their rooms include:

Bates, Chitwood, Clarkson, Cohen, Cousineau, Davis, Dohn, Doty, Garcia, Gergal, Green, Hoover, Houdek, Lane, Lange, LaPosta, Lee, Link, Lyon, Madsen, Metzger, Moehlenkamp, O'Reilly, Orsini, Oulman, Presgrave, Rice, Rivera, Standish, Steers, Stinson, Stotts, Tandy, Thompson, Tipton, Turner, Vilsack, Vonasch, Wasmund, Wyers and White.

On this list you will see both the loyal returning attendees and several of those who have joined the VW-1 All Hands Alumni Association in recent months. It is always exciting to have the opportunity to meet new ex-shipmates.

Note the Clarion hotel contact information on the enclosed Registration form and, if your name is not on the above list yet, get your reservation in soon.

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 2)

said "you mean model aircraft"? The voice replied, "nope, three jet aircraft are on board that DC-3." When it taxied in there it was! They had a rack inside the cabin to hold the wing assemblies and, indeed, there were three BD-5J's, ready to fly after a few hours of assembly time. The fuel cells were in the wing, and as one can tell from the video, they were very impressive to watch them be demonstrated."

If you have a compter, go to http://www.flixxy.com/worlds-smallest-jet-plane-bd5.htm to view the video.

Jack & Sydnie Gergal (2/25) Email Removed "Well, it took us over a year from start to finish but we finally settled on our new home today. Curtains will be going up on Monday. Washer and dryer delivery on Monday. Jack wants to paint the garage before shelving is put up on Tuesday. We will be ready for the movers on Wednesday. It's going to be a busy week and then things should start to settle down. Our new address is Address Removed Mount Joy, Address Removed Phone. Phone Removed See everyone in Branson!"

Fred Kraenzlin (3/1) Email Removed "I found the ship's store and had a look thru. One thing I'd like to mention is that the explanation of the squadron path thru 1971 seems to be understated The "official party line" when I was aboard is that the patch showed the famous Paul Revere – note the one lantern in his hand – riding Pegasus, the mythological winged horse. For a brief time there was a second small patch, about the size and shape of a ship's name patch for a dress uniform, which was sewn below the main patch and it said "You Sleep – We're Watching". I guess that was a message to civilians that they could rest easy with VW-1 on patrol."

Sylvia Lowry (3/5) Email Removed "My humblest thank you and hello to all who served in the military and the NAS VC5 and/or 6 in particular. My Mom and Dad called themselves VC 5 plank owners. Like most kids I did not pursue much personal information from my parents and got pretty short, general answers from my Dad when I did ask. I have only a few military pictures and a few from squadron reunions. I can only recall a few names from any of their squadrons: Camburg (deceased), Gramling (deceased); and Shadburn. My Dad was CPO Samuel Leo Barton, crew chief, I believe. If anyone has the time and the inclination to correspond please feel free. Respectfully, the nostalgic, youngest daughter of Samuel Barton."

Mike Webber (3/7) Snail Mail. "I was cleaning out the garage and I found this old Willy Victor airplane model kit. I'm not going to build it and didn't want to just give it to Goodwill. I'm hoping you can sell it at the reunion auction and make a little money for the Association. However, feel free to do what you think best with it."

Edgar Pador (3/29) Email Removed "I was stationed aboard VW-1 at NAS Agana, Guam from May 3, 1968 to Dec. 28, 1970. I was a personnelman (PNCS) and worked at the Personnel Office, but as a pilot in civilian life, my heart was always with the aviation group. So my flying in Guam was confined only to the four aircraft we had at the AERO CLUB, Cessna 150 (2), 174 and a T34. Sometime between July and September 1969, I flew with Crew 5 to Danang, Vietnam to check the status of my man deployed there and to bring his replacement, PN2 Watson. LCDR Voorhees (my personnel officer) was the plane commander, but that is all that I can remember. For years I have been trying to get a copy of our orders because I need proof that I have been inland Vietnam even for a day. The only record I know could be in my two

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News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 7)

permanent pay records, if such records exist, because I was paid two months combat pay and two months income tax free for the time we were in Vietnam. I would appreciate any help you can extend in getting me this documentation. My phone number is Phone Removed Thank you."

Everett Speas (3/30) Email Removed "I got another hit on my VW-1 Bumper Sticker. This one was never in VW-1, but was at Barbers Point with BARSRON after they combined all VW into one. He was there the first part of the 60's. His name is Tom Eslinger and he lives in Woodway, TX. He was an AT and in the Navy for 22 years. He moved around a lot and even flew the plane that was a twin engine turboprop that flew off and on carriers and was in some VP Squadrons. He would love to have anyone get in touch with him that might remember him."

Ed Nafus (4/5) Email Removed "I am planning to have a get together for any VW-1 folks interested in Seattle September 7-10 at the Cedarbrook Lodge. Plans are to go to the Museum of Flight one day and leave open time for socializing and telling sea stories. The hotel rate will honor the rate both three days before and after the scheduled dates. The rate is $ 149 per night (plus applicable state and local taxes) for a single or double which includes breakfast, free internet and unlimited snacks. Cedarbook Lodge is located at 18525 36th Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98188. Phone: 206-214-4150. Fax: 206-901-9269. Link to hotel is: http://www.cedarbrooklodge.com/

If anyone has questions they can contact me and I will help in any way possible. My cell number is Phone Removed

Mailing Code Removed



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



