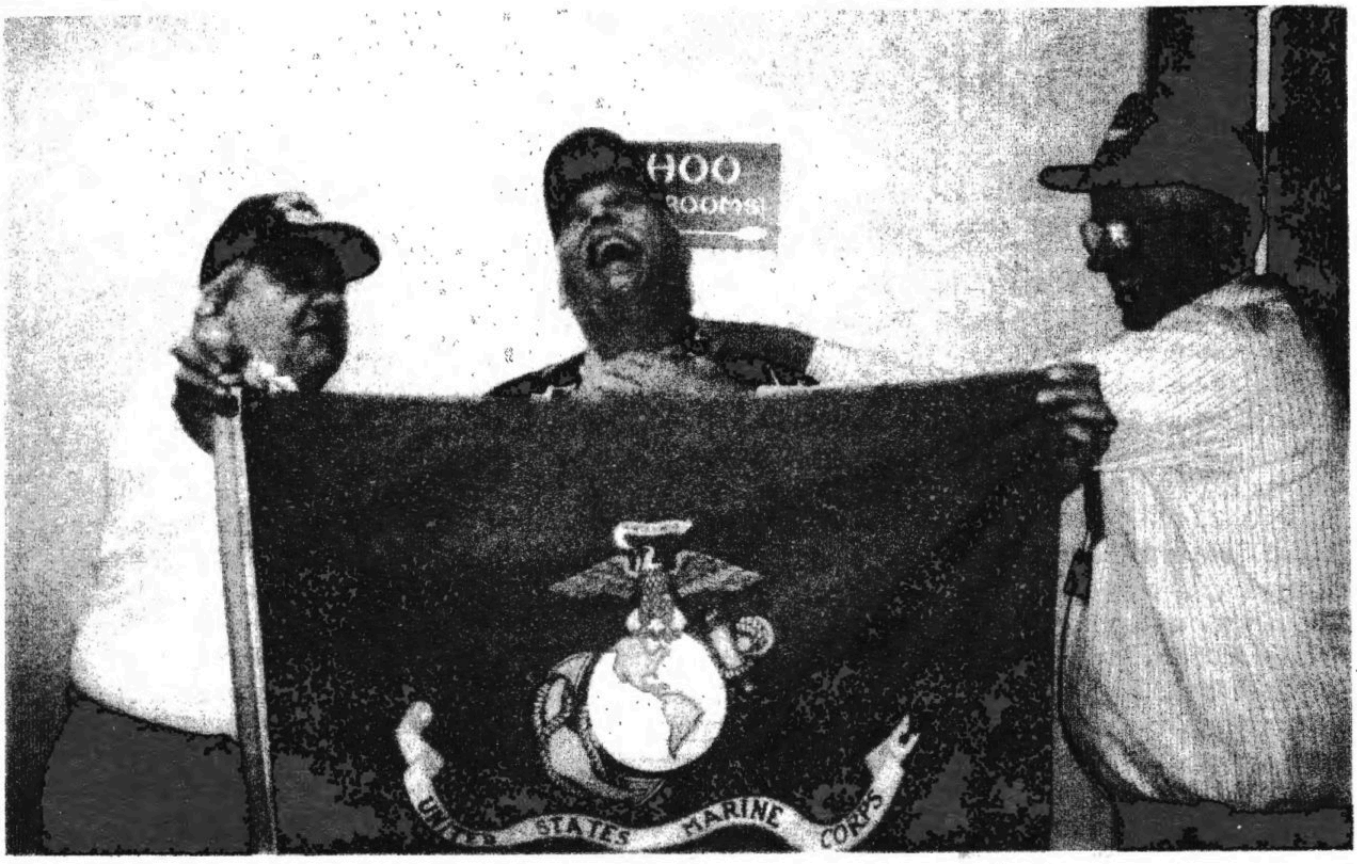
ISSUE 46 VW-1 TRACKER OCTOBER 2011



A MARINE ....infiltrated the VW-1 Branson reunion and had the audacity to display the marine flag. Joe Vilsack (right) and Pete Wasmund (left) valiantly attacked and subdued the Joe Cuna and confiscated the enemies banner. They then erected the Navy flag in its stead.

How Do You Top This?

Good question. Not at all sure of the answer at this point in time. With 131 persons present, it was the largest VW-1 All Hands reunion on record; yet everything went as it should and there were no major blunders.

A lot of credit for the large turnout goes to the location – Branson is definitely special. When strangers on the street make a point of approaching you when they notice your military cap, shaking your hand and thanking you for your service; then you know your in a charming, unique place. The friendliest, courtesy and cleanliness of the town cannot be beat. The weather was absolutely great. Even our time on the water on the Branson Belle only required a light sweater.

The Clarion Hotel's restaurant, Buckingham's, has a food service manager that goes all out for his military groups. He erected a large "room centerpiece" in red, white and blue and a simulated ice sculpture that gave the area a feeling of festivity that the tiny table centerpieces we

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(Continued on Page 7)

Tucson, AZ the Spring of 2013

-- News from Cyberspace & Mail Call --

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

Pete (Taco) Hernandez (7/23) Email Removed "My chemo is doing very well and things are on track for me. Occasionally I get a metallic taste in my mouth and gut, and some light headedness. Usually goes away in two days. Other than that I'm feeling very good with no other side effects. The bad news is that the Dr. said the type cancer I have is very fast growing and he wants me to stay on a very strict schedule. As Maryann will only travel in a car (no planes, trains, buses or boats for her) we cannot take the time necessary to make the reunion trip. We would need at least three weeks and the Dr. is afraid the lesions would enlarge again. We'd be back at step one. So maybe we 'll just have to wait till the next reunion to see everyone. Hope everyone has a great time in Branson . Have a cool one for me."

Karen Eskew (8/2) Email Removed "Eldon was riding his bike about two blocks from our park in Lakeside, AZ on July 16th about 7:20 a.m. A dog was running loose and was along side him for awhile and then decided it wanted on the other side. Front wheel hit him and knocked the front wheel left and Eldon went down on his right side. He has a broken pelvis and fractured leg, plus some stitches on the right side of his head. Paramedics took him to Summit Hospital in Showlow and then later he was flown to Phoenix in a helicopter. They differed for two days whether they were going to operate or not. Finally on Monday they fed him as they had decided not to operate. They started PT on him that day and then he was released Wednesday to be taken by ambulance to Yuma Rehab where he still is. They have August 5 as a release date from there and he will come home with a wheelchair and a walker. His cell phone number is Phone Removed and I know he would love to hear from folks."

Larry Markowitz (8/7) Email Removed " Just had dinner with George and Christine Dean tonight. Good to see these guys again. George said to cancel Branson because we just had the reunion right here in New Castle, PA. Did not solve any of the country's problems. George grew up about ten miles from me, but I had to travel halfway around the world to meet up with him!"

Rick Hall (8/21) Email Removed "Just to make it official, I won't be able to make the reunion again. Eyesight is much worse. Drivers license is still valid, but mostly used only for 2nd ID. Over a year ago FDA approved telescopic lens implant that improves vision lost to macular degeneration and cataracts, but MediCare is still sitting on it. Human trials to regenerate/regrow the macula have success rate of 80 per cent. FDA is still considering. My Dr.is qualified and I'm on top of his list. Keeping fingers crossed."

Rich & Paula Kuebler (10/10) Email Removed "I cannot tell you how much we enjoyed the week in Branson. It was so good to see all the guys. Moehlenkamp was my best friend and I hadn't seen or heard from him in 44 years. Thanks to the web site, we were reunited. It's funny but even the guys I didn't know felt like long lost friends. I don't know how you and Ed kept it together Thursday after seeing the video Joe did. I'll bet there wasn't a dry eye in the house. See you in Tucson, God willing."

Pete Wasmund (10/10) Email Removed "The results of the Branson VW-1 golf tournament are in. No matter how much I could pencil whip it, Carl Vonasch and I could only

(Continued to Page 5)

New Members

Milton "Bush" Bouchillon **ATC/ENS**
Address Removed 8/57 – 1/60
Louisville, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Mary Ann Email Removed

Avionics. Flew with various crews.

Ismael L. (Charlie) Brown **AE**
Address Removed 6/53 – 11/55
Brandon, Address Removed Phone Removed
Email Removed

Electrician. Flew CIC with various crews

John Edwards **AT2**
Address Removed Address Removed '67 – '68
Llano, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Mary Ann Email Removed

Flew on TE-3 as 2nd Radioman

Richard Erdmann **ATR3**
Address Removed 6/60 – 3/62
Port Charlotte, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Barbara Email Removed

First radar tech/ electronics Crew Chief. Flew on TE-7.

Richard (Rick) Shifferly **AMS3**
Address Removed 8/65 – 7/67
Jacksonville Beach, Address Removed
Wife: Sarah Email Removed

Duty Driver first three months; then assigned to Air Frames. Flew with Crew 7 – LCDR Arnold, Dan Cruz and John Barker.

Bertram A. Udovin **LT**
Address Removed '53 – '54
Woodbridge, Address Removed Phone Removed

Air Intelligence Officer; Air Controller, CIC. Deployed to Atsugi, Japan with B-17's. Operated off Korea with Task Force 77, assisting CV aircraft to and from Korea missions and watching Yalu River for MIGS.

Winners Rewarded

Early on in this reunion process, we began keeping track of who had attended each and every reunion. When it got down to half a dozen we announced that the "last man standing" would get a prize. Then there were five, then four, then three.... Jim Rice, Ralph Link and Victor Zarich. All three were signed up for the Branson reunion, but at the last moment the Rice's had to cancel, leaving two candidates. We decided this was the time to stop keeping track because we have so many, many new members and they don't have a chance to compete, having found us later in the process. So the two winners were proclaimed and each was given a free night off their reunion hotel charges. Congratulations, Ralph and Victor. May you keep your record going and attend each and every reunion VW-1 All Hands may have in the future!

In Memoriam

Helen Ray

Helen died Sat., July 16, 2011. She was the wife of Don Ray, who served with VW-1 from September of 1962 to July of 1965 and then again from April of 1969 to June of 1971. During that time he went from flight mechanic to crew chief to flight engineer. He flew on TE7.

Helen lived and worked in Agana when Don was stationed there and shared many interesting stories of those times at the VW-1reunions she attended. Helen and Don were currently living in The Villages in FL. She had retired as a federal government employee. Helen enjoyed interior decorating, reading, gardening, travel and the arts and theater.

Branson Holds Records for Most VW-1 Reunion Attendees

It is not uncommon to have some last minute cancellations and this reunion was no exception. This year they included Bill D'Aoust and daughter Kathy, Steve & Kathy Davis, William & Jane Dohn, Pat Orsini, Tom Hoover, Warren & Dianne Johnson and Jim & Mazie Rice. Most were caused by health issues and we were all disappointed they were unable to attend. Know you were missed and our thoughts and prayers are with you. Attending were:

Jim Coppage
Janice Coppage
Anne Wehrmeister (G)
Lenn Bailey
Jane Bailey
Tom Bates
Barbara Bates
Fred Becker
Simone Becker
John Boyd
Penny Boyd
John Chitwood
Arnie Clarkson
Louis Cohen
Patricia Cohen
Dave Cousineau
Mary Ann Cousineau
Tom Dawson
Brenda Dawson
Frank Doty
Jackie Doty
Tom Dunn
Joyce Dunn
Bill Fellers
Kathy Fellers
Lyle Fisher
Sylvia Fisher
Ann Gagnon
Barbara McCarty (G)
Judy Sullivan (G)
Jesse Garcia
Bob Garrison
Phyllis Garrison
Alonza Garza
Marita Garza
Jack Gergal
Sydnie Gergal
Bill Green
Kathy Green
Howard Hamilton
Janis Kennedy (G)
Kyle Kennedy (G)
John Houdek
Lisa Sotto (G)

Bud Hummel
Laraine Myers (G)*
John Kemp
Betty Kemp
Royce Kilmer
Pat Kilmer
John Kreutzer
Susan Kreutzer
Rich Kuebler
Paula Kuebler
Chuck Lange
Sandra Lange
Sherilyn Griffin (G)
Paul Griffin (G)
Jim LaPosta
Peggie LaPosta
Dick Lee
Barbara Forbes (G)
Clinton Forbes (G)
Ralph Link
Jane Link
Richard Lyon
Darlene Lyon
Al Madsen
Joanne Madsen
Chris Madsen
Jewel Inouye
John Martin
Karen Martin
Cruz Martinez
Grace Martinez
Ed Metzger
Sally Metzger
Ron Miles
Kathy Miles
John Moehlenkamp
Linda Moehlenkamp
Bob O'Reilly
Flo O'Reilly
Floyd Orsini
Gary Oulman
Gay Oulman
John Rice
Phil Rivera
Kathy Rivera

Nacho Rodriguez
Joyce Rodriguez
Marcus Sheene
Lorene Sheene
Ron Sparks
Everett Speas
Karen Speas
Fred Standish
Margaret Standish
Jim Stinson
Nancy Stinson
Roy (Mac) Stotts
Judy Stotts
Jim Tandy
Ruth Tandy
Esther Collingridge (G)
Lee Thompson
Martha Thompson
Buster Tipton
Cathy Tipton
Lloyd Turner
Joe Vilsack
Mary Ann Vilsack
Carl Vonasch
Carol Vonasch
Gary Wagner
Glenda Wagner
Scott Wagner
Marie Wagner
Charles Wallis
Pete Wasmund
Dottie Wasmund
Lisa Wasmund (G)
Russell Weyers
Mary Jane Weyers
LeRoy White
Ruby Berry
Cary Williams
Pat Williams
Jim Wilson
Earl Works
Victor Zarich

* (G) = Guests

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 2)

come in tied for 2nd place with Al Garza and Jesse Garcia. Jack Gergal and Ralph link took the honors of 1st place with Garza and Cruz coming in 4th."

NOTE: As usual, the beneficiary of the day was the VW-1 treasury when the 1st place winners donated their $ 36 to the organization.

Nacho & Joyce Rodriguez (10/10) Email Removed "Wow! What a great time we had at the reunion in Branson. We weren't quite sure what to expect for the first time, but came away feeling like we had found lost family – and we did. We look forward to going to Tucson. We already started putting coins in our pretzel jug that we brought home. I put a VW-1 Tucson label on it and am getting ideas for the auction. Thanks from our hearts for all the hard work and effort put into making this happening."

John & Penny Boyd (10/11 "Thank you for your efforts to make our visit to the VW-1 Reunion and our first visit to Branson, Mo such a delightful experience. Our return trip home to Maryland was nice and easy. We expect to return back to FL some time in Jan/Feb and hope to hook up with you then."

Norbert & Linda Monohan (10/14) Email Removed "I received your package with the coin and the DVD. It is great to have friends who look out after me. The attendees at the reunion are looking good – just older. This past year has been difficult. Linda's Alzheimer's is progressing rapidly. Really rapidly. I do have some help from family. We are doing OK. I am gaining weight ~~so~~ I ~~am~~ learning to cook. The Alzheimer's is causing Linda to lose weight. We have remodeled the house for handicap."

Tom & Rita Hoover (10/15) Email Removed "Thank you for the card/etc. that you sent to Tom. It really made his day. He is doing about the same, but he is starting to adjust a bit to the situation and is having less stress over it. We are having to watch step up/downs as those seem to be a problem, probably because of loss of depth perception. With time things seem to be smoothing out as he gets used to dealing with it. We should know by thanksgiving if there is going to be an improvement."

Note: Tom was on his way to the reunion (via auto) when he lost most of his eyesight. We understand it is connected to his diabetes and the blood sugar levels. He is wearing a patch and they are hoping for a lot of improvement in six to eight weeks.

Rich & Paula Kuebler(10/17) Email Removed "I found a Phillippino store in Houston that had pork lumpia. It is on the other side of Houston, an 80 mile round trip. I fried some up and it was good but, it wasn't like I think I remember it. Of course, that was 44 years ago and I no longer smoke and when I ate lumpia in the PI, I had had several San Miguels. It was still good though and thanks for renewing my interest to pursue finding it."

NOTE: A secret from the Branson reunion was that we were SUPPOSED to have lumpia on the buffet late Monday afternoon. Joe, the food services manager, had assured me he had found it. I shared that information with Rich prior to the buffet but told him not to say anything because it was to be a surprise. Well, the surprise was ours when we only had blah spring rolls. Joe was devastated when I told him and went on a rage against his supplier. In fact, he had me

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 5)

send him the packaging from my freezer at home of what he thought he was getting because he was going to insist his provider give him full credit.

Pete (Taco) Hernandez (10/17) Email Removed "Talked to Tom Hoover yesterday and I expect to be able to go see him next month. I'm glad to hear the reunion has gone so well. Hopefully I will be able to make it to the next one. So far everything has gone very well. I will be getting a cat scan tomorrow and that should let us know how successful the chemo has been. Don't know just when the results will be made available to me. Told Tom that if he could not drive to the next reunion, I would go pick him up and take him."

Gary & Glenda Wagner (10/19) Email Removed "Most of the time when you go to a reunion of any type, after a short period of time, you become bored and are ready for things to be over. Not this one! It was mine and Glenda's first and we enjoyed every minute we spent there. We had to leave early Thursday morning in order to get back home in time to make a Patriot Guard KIA mission in our community. As a result, we missed out on the fun and participation of the auction. We have heard that it was – and always is – a real HOOT. Sorry we missed that part. We also were not there to receive a DVD that was put together about the reunion. Is there any chance of getting a copy? I received my new squadron shirt today. I am real proud of it. Looking forward to the future gatherings."

Tom Hoover (10/21) Email Removed "I want to thank all of you for the card. Even though I still can't read all of it, it touched my heart. Thank you."

Warren & Dianne Johnson (10/22) Snail Mail "We were very disappointed we needed to cancel our trip to the VW-1 reunion at the very last minute. I have a knee that spends more time behaving than misbehaving, but it decided a couple of days before Branson it should give me a real problem. It became very tender and was limiting my mobility too much to try to be out and about having fun. It likely will now be Tucson when we first have the chance to meet everyone."

Carl & Carol Vonasch (10/21) Snail Mail "What a great time in Branson on our first reunion with the VW-1 alumni group. We couldn't have had a better time. Carol now understands the camaraderie of shipmates, airdales, that is. I've felt for years that something in life was missing. Now that I've attended a reunion of VW-1 alumni, I feel I've come home. Thanks again for a heartfelt reunion. If all goes well, we will see you in Tucson, AZ in 2013."

Lyle & Sylvia Fisher (10/24) Snail Mail "We really had a great time in Branson. We had always heard a lot about Branson but had never been there. It is truly a unique place. We thoroughly enjoyed the shows, but visiting with old friends and making new friends is what it is all about. Sylvia says that she really enjoyed helping out with the collections for the auction and wouldn't mind doing it again. She thought that having two runners in the front and back so they could meet in the middle worked out real well. We are already looking forward to Tucson!"

Mack & Judy Stotts (10/24) Email Removed "When I purchased the new Connie pin and the new Connie hat, I thought that would be the end of people looking up at my hat and asking me if I was in WWI or how I liked being a "Trucker". Now I have another one. Some guy asked me, after admiring my new shiny Connie pin if I was in the submarines!"

How Do You Top This? (Continued from Page 1)

usually have does not do. During the reunion he was often about taking pictures and on the last evening he presented us with a CD, complete with music, a visual tribute to our aircraft and our mission, and pictures of most of the individuals in attendance. It is about 15 minutes long and when it was over there wasn't a dry eye in the room. His name is Joe Cuno and his wife, Sue works with him. Together they contributed greatly to making this reunion extra special. He even went so far as to make 65 copies of the CD so that each of the veterans could take one home!

Once again the auction made a considerable contributon to the VW-1 All Hands treasury, taking in a grand total of $ 1,487.00! We had a lot of great things on our auction table to sell and the #1 item this year was the handmade quilt that was personalized for VW-1 with the squadron patch in each corner. Pat Orsini created it for us and we were sad that she had to miss the reunion this year and wasn't there to receive all the compliments on her work.

Lots of stuff needed to go in this issue, but promise many more pictures in the January issue for your enjoyment. Many of our group left Branson vowing that, God willing, they intend to attend the next reunion in Tucson in 2013. All indications are that we may break yet another record!

Reunion Financial Report

Reunion Income:

Registration Fees		$ 2,660
Gathering Plus for 3 Shows and Buses		14,608
Auction		1,487
Recycled Tickets		776
Gathering Plus Refund		141
Golf Winners' Donation		36
	Total:	$19,708

Reunion Expenses:

Gathering Plus/Shows & Buses		$14,358.00
Buckingham's Restaurant		4,707.35
Refunds after 9/29		575.00
Tips		350.00
Snacks		330.48
Misc. Supplies		40.00
Coins/Display boards		130.00
Magnets/Pencils		268.00
Printing of Rosters		61.06
	Total:	$20,819.89

Amount used from General Fund: $ 1,111.89

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Membership Binders

At the reunion we passed out binders to all attendees so they would have an updated contact list. For those of you who were not able to attend and would like an updated list, we are making them available on request. We will charge $ 5.50 for each package to cover the shipping charges.

The binder includes the membership list, with addresses and phone numbers; plus we have added three additional sections: members e-mail addresses, members dates of service in VW-1, and the membership by state location.

This information has already appeared in the Tracker when each member joined and will be available ONLY TO ASSOCIATION MEMBERS. If you would like one of these binders, send a check for $ 5.50, payable to:

Sally Metzger, VW-1 Treasurer
Address Removed
Inverness, Address Removed

Ship's Store sales during the reunion were $ 605.00 in hats, pins and patches; plus shirt orders of $ 485.00.

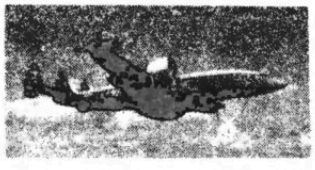
New E-Mail Addresses:

Walter Chapman	Email Removed
Cruz & Grace Martinez	Email Removed
Bob & Phyllis Garrison	Email Removed



THE MEETING ROOM CENTERPIECE ... serves as a backdrop for some of our guys enjoying the reunion. From right to left are Pete Wasmund, LeRoy White (in the background), Dave Cousineau, Buster Tipton, and a gentleman that we cannot put a name to! Please forgive us our senility and let us know what name it is we cannot grasp from our dying brain ells.

Mailing Code Removed



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



