ISSUE 47 VW-1 TRACKER JANUARY 2012

Most Profitable Auction On Record

The auction held at the Branson reunion broke the record for creating income for the VW-1 treasury, resulting in a grand total of $ 1,487. The record had been held for the Pensacola reunion in 2002 when the group decided that we needed a computer and the bidding reflected the desire for a computer rather than any actual value for the items being auctioned with the final total being just over $ 1,300.

There didn't seem to be all that many things on the auction table in Branson, but there were certainly some treasures. The quilt was, obviously, the greatest money-maker, but some other items stand out. John Moehlenkamp was the highest bidder for a unique handcrafted VW-1 wooden plaque for $ 120.00. Unfortunately, we cannot remember who made it but would be happy to hear from you and be reminded so we can let everyone know. A Guam VW-1 cup went for $ 77.00 from Gary Oulman, and a Connie license plate (see picture) went to Tom Dunn for $ 60.00. These customized plates are made by Lee Kalsch. If you would like to have one, he can be reached at 11400 S. Indian River Drive, Sebastian, FL. His e-mail address is Email Removed (That first letter is a lower case L)

Al Madsen and Pete Wasmund went home with some Hawaiian Kona coffee straight from our 50th state for $ 45 and $ 24 respectively. Al Madsen also won out on the bidding for a model EC-121 for $30.00, but he is going to have to put it together himself as it was still in the box. Martha Thompson brought some homemade goodies, including cinnamon pickles (which were very red). Scott Wagner, Sandra Lange and Esther Collingridge (Tandy's guest) outbid others for those homemade treats. This is only a few of the interesting items that went on the block and the money earned keeps our treasury in great condition to help offset the cost of future reunions. It is a win-win situation.

It is also a lot of fun to look over the auction table and see the creative ideas that our VW-1 folks come up with to provide interesting and useful things to go on the block at the auction. This event has proven to be one of the favorite happenings at our reunions and Ed Metzger, as auctioneer, always does a great job of handling the bidding. See the quilt picture on Page 3.



-- News from Cyberspace & Mail Call --

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

John Rice 10/25 Email Removed "Thank you for sending the W-1 shirt. It really made my day. I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed the get together in Branson and meeting all of our friends. I am looking forward to the next one in Tucson, AZ."

Don Lanoue 10/25 Snail Mail "A few of us REAL OLD-TIMERS may remember Robert Nichols, the VW-1 Maintenance Officer in 1956. He had been an enlisted pilot prior to WWII. After his VW-1 tour he retired to the San Diego area. He passed away in 1958 or 1959. His widow, June, started and finished college and went on to teaching school in La Mesa. While teaching she earned an EdD. In the mid-1970's she married a former Navy doctor and moved to Stillwater, OK. I have kept in touch with her since my VW-1 days. Her younger daughter, Pat, called me over the weekend to tell me that her mother had passed away at the age of 94. Pat would appreciate your noting her Mom's passing and VW-1 association in your next newsletter."

Phil & Kathy Rivera 11/4 Email Removed "Hello "family" – we just received our newsletter and wanted to write to tell you all how much we appreciated the kind words and cards of sympathy in the loss of our son-in-law while we were at the reunion. It really meant a lot to us as we had to leave early Thursday afternoon to head back home to be with our daughter and family. Knowing that you were thinking of us made the three day trip home easier in some way. We are still in a state of shock at this death and know it will take us awhile to get back to our old selves. Our daughter had only been married to him for seven weeks, but he was so loved by us in the short time we knew him. We will miss him. Thank you all.

We loved the reunion! It was our first, and we pray not our last! The affection and kinship between the guys was so much fun to watch. I haven't seen Phil this excited about anything in the 16 years I have known him! What a blessing to be able to be a part of this group! You should have seen his face when he received his T-shirt! Your friendships are treasured. Ed and Sally, you are the best and you have made this reunion something we will talk about and relive for years to come! Thanks to everyone and, God willing, we will see you again in Tucson in 2013."

Gary Wagner 11/4 Email Removed "The unidentified male in the photo on the back page of the newsletter is me. I am surprised that Pete could not identify me. We rode to and from the golf course together and spent the entire day together on a golf cart. I guess that explains why Pete was having such a difficult time keeping up with his golf ball all day. Our minds and recall is not what it used to be."

NOTE: My Bad! says your Tracker editor! Gary, Pete is totally blameless as he did not see the picture or the caption until he read it in the Newsletter, just as you did. He is in Tennessee and we are in Florida and, truthfully, it did not occur to me to check with him. I was under the gun to get the Tracker out on time and just went with it. Truth is, Pete does a much better job of identifying folks than Ed and I do. Must be because he is younger than us. You think?

Jim Tandy 11/7 Email Removed "Thanks again for all the work and planning that you put in for another special reunion. Jim returned again all excited about VW-1 and what a great organiza-

(Continued on Page 6)



Sylvia Fisher and Scott Wagner ....hold up the quilt made by Pat Orsini for the VW-1 auction in Branson, MO. Black and white does not do it justice, but you can imagine the eagle in the center with the flag draped beneath it and the VW-patch duplicated in each of the four corners contributed to making this a one-of-a-kind treasure. Mark Sheen fought hard to be the highest bidder and took it home for $400.00.

Enjoyed New Faces and New Sea Stories in Branson

We didn't take a count as to how many were "first timers" at the VW-1 reunion in Branson, but when we asked a lot of hands went up in the air. How delighted we are to continue to grow. This was the largest reunion to date, with 131 in attendance. We do not have room to run all the "first timers" in this issue, but did want to introduce you to a few of them. Another great result of this reunion is that there were more guests than ever before – 13 to be exact – making it more of a family affair for some; while others decided to bring friends and neighbors. We have something special going and, evidently, some want to share it with those they love.



BRENDA and TOM DAWSON ... are another welcome addition to our group. They are from Jacksonville, Arkansas. Tom served in VW-1 from December 1967 to July of 1969. He was an AE2 and flew on TE-9. Wonder if the Miles and Dawson's were friends while in Guam ... their dates do coincide.



RON AND KATHY MILES ... just joined our VW-1 group in November of 2010 and we are glad to have them part of our VW-1 family. They live in Garland, TX. Ron was in VW-1 from December of 1967 to June of 1969 and was an E-3.



PAULA AND RICH KUEBLER ... hail from Houston, TX. Rich was an ATR2 in VW-1 from June of 1966 to November of 1967. He flew as 1st Tech and ECC on TE 1.

2011 Financial Statement

As of this year, the financial accounting will appear in the Tracker in the first issue of the new year. In the past it has been done in April or May at the same time dues were being collected and sometimes ran into the period when reunion monies was coming in. It all became confusing and difficult to track since some of the reunion and dues money would be in one year's reporting period and some in the other reporting period. So in the interest of clarity and ease for this treasurer, we will go to a calendar year reporting cycle – January 1 thru December 31.

2011 Report

Balance: May 1, 2011 $ 7,531.79

Income:

Dues	$ 2,565.00
Hats, Pins, Patches	813.00
Shirts	764.50
Donations	55.00
Auction	1,487.00
Reunion	13,906.00*
Total:	$ 27,122.29

Expenses:

Regular Postage	$ 366.73
Tracker Printing	410.75
Tracker Postage	228.80
Office Supplies	582.71
Hats, Pins, Patches	1,272.41
Reunion Refunds	660.00
Reunion	20,835.13
Total	$ 24,356.53

Balance 1/1/2012 $ 2,765.76

(*Note: $ 4,264 Reunion Income was reported on the April 2010 report)

New Members

Robert A. Deeds **AE3**
Address Removed 4/67 – 10/68
Cle Elum, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Brenda Lynn
Email Removed

From Boot Camp to Guam. Upon arrival put In for flight crew as a CIC operator and was Assigned to Crew 7 ("RoadRunners").

Alex Reid Garrett **LT**
Address Removed 9/69 – 9/71
Richmond, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Joyce Email Removed

Naval Flight Officer, Check Navigator, Materials Officer, Duty Officer (Viet Nam), Public Affairs Officer, and Squadron Transition Officer (VW-1 to VQ-1). Flew with Crew 5.

Edgar S. Pador **PNCS**
Address Removed 5/3 – 12/28
San Diego, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Teodea Email Removed

Maintain enlisted personnel records of VW-1.

Some Troubles at Home

Ed, our VW-1 President elect, has a bit of a problem getting around these days. After various tests, etc. he is due to have surgery on Jan. 24 to remove a disc in his back and put some hardware in place to relieve severe back pain. In the meantime he is hobbling around and sleeping a lot.

Needless to say he is not going fishing! With all the pain meds his attention space is not up to par – plus your secretary-treasurer elect is having a bit of trouble focusing as well. So bear with us and if we screw up, consider the circumstances and give us a pass. Hopefully, things will get much better after the surgery.

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 2)

tion he belongs to. He enjoys seeing new faces and recalling all of those "sea stories" It must have been extra special this year because he just had a dream about "happily" re-enlisting (and then thought "What am I doing?) I really want to thank all of those that went the extra mile to make my sister, Esther Collingridge, feel welcome and part of the group. She especially enjoyed participating in the auction and reported that not only did Martha Thompson's cinnamon pickles safely make the trip to Long Island (in her checked suitcase, no less) but that they were delicious also. The only negative we have to report is that we all caught the "crud". Of course, Jim says that is the fault of Esther and I for attending extra shows and doing all of that unneeded shopping and passing the virus on to him! We are just about over it if we don't catch something else in our weakened conditions. Suggestion – maybe the next batch of caps could be made with a yoyo attachment. Jim keeps leaving his in the restaurants. We are looking forward to Tucson and have great plans to do some tripping down memory lane. Ruth attended the University there for awhile in the early 60's. If not before, we'll meet again in 2013."

NOTE: Martha sent us a surprise package of her pickles, including the cinnamon variety. I run a bingo at a social club I belong to and many of the players enjoy cooking and often bring goodies to share. One especially enthusiastic "chef" was fascinated by my description of these cinnamon pickles and, as a result, I had to take some in to share. I cut them in inch size pieces so everyone could have a sample. The consensus was "yummy". Thank you, Martha. Those cinnamon pickles are really a unique treat! Who would have thought that a pickle could taste like candy!

Edgar Pador 11/16 Email Removed running of my email in your newsletter about trying to get VA benefits resulted in two good shipmates verifying that I was in Vietnam. Lt. Jim Galinsky and Senior Chief Ron Sparks remembered my presence there and they were both kind enough to provide me with written statements to support my claim. However, the certifications they submitted are not good enough. The hearing officer wants to see official records showing the VW-1 had a detachment in Danang. So, as of right now, the only way my case could be reconsidered is if I could find someone holding a VW-1 TAD order to Danang or any official document such as Enlisted Evaluation Report which mentions VW-1 det Danang. The hearing officer said that my case will be reconsidered if I could find anything in writing that supports the existence of VW-1 det Danang."

Ron Sparks 12/08 Email Removed "I have wanted to write since the Branson reunion and thank you for the get together. While I left kind of early, it was a renewal for myself. I was at the point that if I hadn't gotten out then, I would have never done so again. Next, I want to thank you for the video. It was very much appreciated and treasured greatly. Since then I seem to have really improved both physically and mentally. I have also had an emergency hernia operation, had my remaining teeth removed (far worse than the hernia) and still feel very good! Anyway, if I am physically able, I will be at the next reunion and if there is anything I can aid in, let me know."

Eldon & Karen Eskew (12/24) Email Removed "Eldon is recovering well from his bicycle accident. He is getting around with a cane and sometimes, around the house, he does not use it. We hope to be at Tucson in the spring of 2013. We would stay at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base as they have an RV site there."

(Continued on Page 7)

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 6)

Tom Hoover (12/24) Email Removed "There is hope for the future. My eyesight has improved well enough that Rita let me drive her to church today. I will be getting new eyeglasses next year, and, hopefully, I will be good to go on my own as soon as I get them. Express my compassion to Ed. It seems like all of us old flight engineers have a bunch of infirmities. Spinal injuries seem to cause us the most difficulty. I told the quack to quit giving me placebos and come up with a pain pill that will work, but so far I can only get the same stuff. Today we spent the day with friends, and I spent about half of the time there laying on the floor waiting for the pain pill to ease the pain in my back. I could tell you the rest of my troubles, but I can't stand the laughter. I just know that this next year will be a good one for all of us, so I can really say I wish you a prosperous and happy new year!

George Dean (12/28) Email Removed "I had a call about ½ hour ago that Jim Rice's wife, Mazie is in ICU with respiratory problems. She has emphysema. Jim was the radioman on Crew 5 during his time with VW-1. I know Jim needs our prayers."

(**NOTE:** In subsequent e-mails we learned that Mazie was stabilized and was able to be sent home. She has emphysema and is under the care of hospice at home. I'm sure cards would be greatly appreciated. The address is Address Removed Clovis, Address Removed

Lyle & Sylvia Fisher (12/30) Email Removed "Just wanted to let you know how much I have enjoyed wearing my new "Willie Victor" ball cap. Sylvia and I went to San Diego to her niece's wedding and to do some shopping (No, I did not wear it to the wedding!) Twice while there I got asked the same identical and correct question at two different and unexpected locations. The questions was "Did you fly Willie Victors?" Mind you, not "Connies" or "EC-121's", but 'Willie Victors". The first time was at the 32nd Street Naval Station, San Diego. The guy that asked was only in his late 40's – really caught me off guard. His father had flown Willies; Atlantic Barrier, two tours in VQ-2 at Rota and the last as CO of VAQ-33 in Norfolk. I checked the time frame – early to mid 70's. I was on AIRLANT staff in Norfolk at that time. I asked his father's name. I didn't know the Skipper of VAQ-33, but I remembered hearing his father's name!! His parting comment to me was "small world". Indeed it is! The second encounter was at the Marine Corp Air Station Miramar (formally NAS). This guy was closer to my age. He had been in VW-11 in Newfoundland; wasn't a flyer but knew the "Willie Victor". Again, thanks for coming up with the Willie Victor ball cap and I am looking forward to more such encounters."

Nacho & Joyce Rodriguez (12/31) Email Removed "I will certainly send prayers for the best possible outcome for Jim Rice's wife. Weather here is unseasonably warm and goofy. We had Nacho's niece and her daughter & husband visit for ten days from Leon, Mexico. They are pediatrician doctors in their country. Her husband had never seen snow. We had a fun Christmas with his nieces and nephews. We intend to get together with Carl & Carol Vonasch (from the VW-1 reunion) in Crown Point, Indiana. I have new software that I am going to have to learn. I can hotmail and talk to people face-to-face. I bought Dragon so instead of typing when I want to write, I can just talk and it will be printed. I am learning Spanish on the Rosetta Stone, too. So my brain is really being challenged. I have a lot of goals in what I want to accomplish this year. Nacho hopes to take all of his military slides and put them on CD's and learn new software like the MP3 player we bought over six months ago and did not know how to download music. These kids brains are wired for this, but for us old folks it takes a bit more patience. We hope all our VW-1 friends have a wonderful new year."

Phones and E-mails: William Kemp Home: Phone Removed Cell: Phone Removed

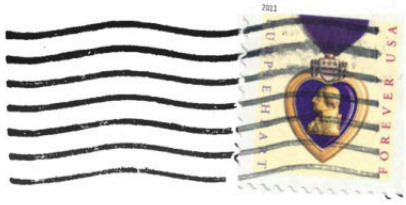


HAIL, HAIL, THE GANG'S ALL HERE ..... the VW-1 ladies surely do manage to have a good time at the VW-1 All Hands Alumni reunions. Branson was no exception to that rule. Left to right: Sally Metzger, Ruth Tandy, Gay Oulman, Judy Stotts, Sydnie Gergal and Jane Link are giggling about some shared jo e; probably at the expense of their husbands who are telling sea stories and talking, talking, talking!!!



VW-1 Association
c/o Ed & Sally Metzger
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