Tucson Itinerary Shaping Up

The schedule for Tucson is now in place and it is time to share with you what we are going to do and when we are going to do it so you have a chance to think about your individual plans. As usual, there is much more to see than there is time to see it. I try not to duplicate the type of activities that have been done in prior years at other locations, but to seek out those things which are unique to the area we are visiting. I encourage you to think about visiting additional places in the Tucson area by coming early or staying late and enjoying those things which especially appeal to you. I will be running some suggestions in the January issue of some popular attractions that are not listed on this itinerary.

Monday, April 15, 2013 – Registration

For those of you who have attended reunions you know this day takes on a life of its own. Registration begins at 12 noon and, at that point, we already have about forty to fifty people who have arrived early. The luncheon buffet comes out about noon and the worker bees are more than ready to eat. This is the "meet and greet" time when we get reacquainted with those we have met before and have the opportunity to greet new shipmates. Since folks continue to arrive throughout the day, the registration table must stay manned and the ship's store usually does a booming business. About 4 o'clock the buffet is broken down and at 5 o'clock a different variety of foods is put out. This is primarily finger foods and not meant to be a well balanced meal. Historically, everyone is having such a great time that they don't go out to dinner but fill up from the buffet. Your choice. We do ask that you be on hand at 6 p.m. for a very brief meeting. This allows us a few moments to answer questions, make sure everyone has a copy of the itinerary for the week and confirm the bus pickup location and times. If you have special friends you want to spend time with, there is no obligation to stay in the meeting room after the six o'clock meeting, although I would say about 98% of the folks do because they cannot tear themselves away! There is a "registration fee" for **every individual** attending the reunion which is designed to cover the costs of preparation, supplies, and much of the food during the reunion. This fee will be $ 20 per person.

Tuesday, April 16 – two trips planned:

Pima Air and Space Museum & Boneyard Tour (Time: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.)

This facility was one of the major reasons that Tucson was selected as the location for the 2013 reunion. The morning will include a walking tour with volunteer museum guides and a tram tour of the outside displays with on/offs as requested. Lunch will be as a group and the cost will be included in the total price charged for the day. After lunch our bus will be used to travel to the Davis Monthan AFB to view over 5,000 aircraft that are warehoused here in the desert. These aircraft are used to maintain and regenerate military planes to be flown again, repaired with parts or stored for future use. It will be **necessary** to have a **picture ID** with you for this portion of the tour. The cost includes all fees for the museum, plus lunch and the bus charges. Moderate walking. **$ 55.00 per person**

(Continued on Page 5)

-- News from Cyberspace & Mail Call --

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

Bob Orsini (8/24) Email Removed "I will be at the reunion, being where it is and all the expense of having to kennel five dogs and other expenses, Pat has decided not to come. She will be there in spirit and what she is making for the auction will BLOW your socks off!!!! If you thought that last quilt was nice, just wait. I already saw what it is. Take care and God bless."

Tony Gore (8/24) Email Removed "Have moved and here is my updated info: Address: Address Removed **Bethel,** Address Removed **Tel:** Phone Removed **E-mail:** Email Removed

Jim & Nancy Stinson (8/6) Email Removed "Nancy woke me up Monday night when she had chest pain and arm hurting. She took aspirin and a Tums and it went away. She walked into work on Tuesday and it hit again. One of the guys took her across the street to Urgent Care. She had called me to come over. They called an ambulance. She got an Angiogram and they put a stent into her artery. Now comes recovery. No smoking, no beer, less salt and walking and rehab.

Tom Treadway (8/7) Email Removed "Just mailed my ap. Can't stay off the website. Let down that I don't see many names from my period. How do I submit a "sea story"? I've got a dandy." **(Note**: Tom, contact the web master, Pete Wasmund, either at the web address or at Email Removed

Tony Gore (8/24) Email Removed "Understand Bud Jones whom I bought my new home from, contacted you. Please update my info: Anthony Gore, Address Removed **Bethel,** Address Removed **Tel:** Phone Removed
(Note: Haven't heard from a Bud Jones. Ed and I were both from CT and Bethel was his old stomping ground. Enjoy your new home!)

Bob Orsini (8/24) Email Removed "I will be at the reunion, but being where it is and all the expense of having to kennel five dogs and other expenses, Pat has decided not to come. It isn't that she doesn't want to, it's just that we are on a limited income. Our wonderful thieves in Washington have decided to cut my retirement and social security. Also, we have just put a ton of money into our houses and some of the things we did went over the original price and we had to dip into our savings. So anyway, Pat will be there in spirit and what she is making for the auction will BLOW your socks off!!! If you thought the quilt last year was nice, then just wait. I already saw what it is. Also, if the next reunion is more in the middle of the country, Pat will be there. Take care and God bless. We think about our dear friend Ed often."

Tom Bates (9/5) "This is in reference to one of the OLD VW-1 guys having been in the squadron back in the early 50's when the outfit was still at Barbers Point, HI. His name was George Eggler and I had the pleasure of meeting him once at one of our Radio Control Air shows. What caught my attention was a model of a WV-2 on a table he had set up. Come to find out, he had carved it. It was an excellent job. Anyway, I know his son-in-law who informed our group that he passed away Sunday night, 9/2/12. I only saw and talked to him that one time. We know he was not a member of our group, but someone may have known him. Take care. Barb and I are looking forward to seeing everyone in Tucson."

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New Members

Thomas (Tom) Barrett **AMH3**
Address Removed 12/69 – 7/70
Windsor, Address Removed Phone Removed

Flew with Crew 9 on TE-11 – member of the 100 Knot Club! Received Aircrew Wings before transferring to VA145. I was the chief cook and bottle washer on TE-11 when in flight.

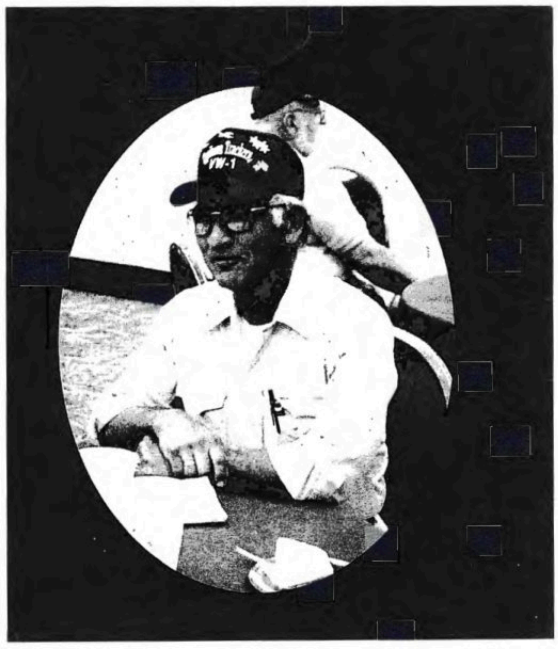
Thomas (Tom) Treadway **ATN3**
Address Removed 4/62 – 9/64
Gunnison, Address Removed Phone Removed
Email Removed

AT/AE Office Clerk / Radio OP/ Avionics Tech 2nd Radio on TE2. Greatest adventure of my Life! I wonder why I got out.

Dale Gladden **ADR**
Address Removed 10/66- 10/70
Buchanan, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Linda Email Removed

Flight Engineer on Crew 3. QA Chief.
(Note: Dale was a prior member of the VW-1 Alumni, but had dropped out in 2006. Welcome back to the fold, Dale)





"Taco" Hernandez

Taco had a couple of different names – His legal name was Richard, many knew him as Pete – but his close friends usually called him Taco. Taco lost his fight with cancer on the 29th of September.

Taco served in VW-1 from 1962 – 1964 and was a flight engineer on Crew #2. He had a zest for life that never left him.

For any who attended the Pensacola VW-1 reunion, you will remember him as the guy who drove a motorcycle from California to Florida to participate – and with a passenger behind him! Pretty gutsy for an old guy!

He also attended the Reno reunion and went home with a bunch of "stuff" from a junk yard we accidentally discovered when doing a city tour. There is just no account-int for tastes!

If you wish to send condolences, addresss them to Marianne Sanford, Address Removed San Diego, Address Removed Ph: Phone Removed

Taco, you will be missed.

Stiff Hospitality Rules Rule in Tucson

Little bit of a change in our hospitality room because Tucson has some very stiff policies on what can be brought into the room. **Everything** is supposed to be purchased through the hotels. So don't look for piles of sodas and snacks to indulge in at your leisure.

At times we will have soda on hand (purchased from the hotel, of course, and I plan to discreetly distribute a bit of sweet treats as centerpiece bowls that I hope will be overlooked, but for the first time we have to be careful. This will "rain on the parade" of at least two of our couples. Gary and Gay Oulman – do not bring your wine to the meeting room. Definitely a no-no! Also, LeRoy and Ruby, leave the special beer at home. I know this is a disappointment, but there is not much we can do about it. **ALL** the hotels told me the same story.

Our rooms have refrigerators and I suggest that you get a six-pack of your favorite soda and keep it on hand. If you wander in with it there is nothing they can do about it. I will contract for water and ice tea to be on hand and the beer is a non-issue because we purchase it from them. It will detract slightly from the "at home" atmosphere, but we will make it work.

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 2)

Bill & Kathy Green (9/19) Email Removed "We will be moving within the month down to the house we are having built in Gilbert, AZ. Other than the address, phones and e-mail will remain the same. We have decided not to install a land line phone. Our new address will be effective October 17th and is: Address Removed Gilbert, Address Removed Bill's cell: Phone Removed Kathy: Phone Removed

Joyce Rodriguez (9/25) Phone call. "Nacho had his prostate surgery on August 13 and it was more complex than they had anticipated. Within a couple of weeks he was back in the hospital due to an infection. The good news is that the West Side VA Clinic in Chicago where he has been being treated is wonderful. Blood tests since his surgery have been negative and we are very hopeful that they were able to get all his cancer removed. He is moving about fairly well now and we know the full recovery will take some time but are feeling blessed that things have been going so well to this point."
(Note: Joyce said she has appreciated all the love and support she has received from friends and from military connection. It was also good to hear the a VA Hospital get such a good report.)

Mack Stotts (9/29) Email Removed "John Chitwood's wife, Jerie, recently underwent surgery on her hip and is currently inrehab. Wishes for a fast and full recovery is in order. The injury to her hip occurred while on vacation in Louisianna.
(Note: Chitwood's address is: Address Removed Van Buren, Address Removed Ph: Phone Removed

Bill and Pam Hickey (9/29) Email Removed "Do you have any information on Agent Orange? Bill is working on a VA claim. He has to prove boots on the ground. He was stationed in Guam, but went to Vietnam with VW-1. The VA is denying his Agent Orange claim. Bill has had two open heart surgeries and various other problems. Anything that you have or anybody else has would help us. Thank you so much for your help."

Pete Wasmund (10/2) Email Removed "Regret to report the death of Pete (Taco) Hernandez. Gay Oulman talked to his girlfriend, Marianne Sanford, and Pete's funeral was October 10 in Point Loma, San Diego. I hope some of our VW-1 people in that area were able to attend. Taco was trying to stay upbeat during his illness, but Marianne said he already knew the end was near and refused to tell even his children. This is another sad day in our lives .. losing another friend."

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OR: Tour of Tucson followed by Shopping (April 16th) 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A tour of the city will include some historic high points, including "A" Mountain, which provides a scenic overview of the city, and the Mission San Xavier, built in 1783, and said to be the finest example of mission architecture in the United States. It was recently called the "Sistine Chapel" of America. There will be moderate walking at this stop so you can go inside the mission. From there we go downtown Tucson for a riding tour of the area and the guide will share some of the city's history. Around noon the bus will park new The Old Town Artisans area, a historic city block housing shops and wares with a local southwest flavor. You will have about an hour-and-a-half to shop and/or lunch on your own if you wish. The bus will board from downtown at 1:30. The cost includes the bus fees and tour guide. **$ 30.00 per person**

Tuesday late afternoon and evening will be FREE TIME. Dinner on your own.

Wednesday, April 17 – two trips planned

Titan Missile Museum and Mineral Discovery Center (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

The Titan Missile Silo is the last remaining evidence of the time during the Cold War when many ICBM's were stationed in and around Tucson. It is a fascinating tour but many in our group may want to pass on it because of the physical requirements. In addition to a surface tour of the facility, you have to be able to climb down 55 steps to view the silo itself and see the underground technology. The steps are metal with an open grid pattern so any canes, pointy heels, or flip flops are not allowed. There is an elevator on site but it can only make one trip per tour and carries only 4 persons. If you have any mobility issues this is probably not the tour for you. There is a small gift shop and some displays in the ticket area. There is a maximum of 25 persons per tour and our group will go at 10:00 and 10:30 and the tour lasts about an hour and 15 minutes. On my trip in April to contract with the host hotel, I did this tour and it is well worth the time and effort. I did not have a problem with the steps but you must wear appropriate shoes to be allowed down in the silo. Once leaving the Titan Missile Museum we will make a short stop at the Asarco Mineral Discovery Center and Gift Shop. It is on our way and although we will not do their riding tour, we can check out the inside displays and, if you desire, view a short movie. The gift shop there has some very original, interesting Indian works which are a delight to view even if you cannot afford the prices. If you sign up for this tour, I suggest you eat a good breakfast as we have not built in a stop for lunch and you won't get back to the hotel until about 2 o'clock. **$30.00 pp.**

OR: Casino Del Sol (9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.)

Yes, for those of you who like it, there is gambling in Tucson. So here is a "quickie" for you so you have something to do during the day. The luncheon buffet is about $ 10.00 so if you don't wish to gamble you can chow down at an affordable price. **$ 20.00 pp.**

The Gaslight Theatre (5:45 p.m.to 9:45 p.m.)

This is our "big night out" for the reunion. The Gaslight Theatre has been in business for over 31 years and packs them in every night. In fact, we are going on Wednesday instead of Thursday because they were already sold out for Thursday, although I called on Sept. 10 and ticket sales for April came available on Sept. 5th !! It is a vaudevillian type show where you have the

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Tucson Itinerary Shaping Up (Continued from Page 5)

opportunity to cheer the hero and boo the villain. It is a live show with lots of laughs, in a rustic setting that takes you back in time. Unfortunately the Little Anthony Diner which is beside the theater and is well worth a visit, cannot accommodate a group as large as ours so we cannot eat there as a group. The day tours return to the hotel about 1 p.m. and the evening bus departs at 6 so both your lunch and dinner will be on your own. The theater does allow you to order limited things but the tables are extremely tiny and it is awkward to try to watch the show and eat. After watching some folks trying to do it, I would not recommend it. Stick with ordering liquid refreshment and maybe popcorn and that is about all that is manageable in the limited space. Cost for the Gaslight Theatre: **$30.00 per person**

Thursday, April 18th – A day of rest (Only if you so desire)

Golf Day – Pete Wasmund and Ralph Link are working out details for this event.

Thursday is our big free day! The Golfers are glad of that because now they can get out in the sun and hit that little ball around. After a busy day Wednesday, you can choose to hang out at the pool, go explore those things in the city you don't want to miss, or sleep in! We do not have anything planned until late afternoon.

Business Meeting (4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

The business meeting may take a bit longer this year as we have more to discuss than usual. We must, of course, decide on the reunion site for the fall of 2014. It will be time to return to the Eastern US for the event so be thinking about it. The first thing that occurs to me is Washington DC! It would be a real challenge, but maybe worth it. We also have to elect new officers. For years the standing officers just continued on, but this time will be different. Pete Wasmund, acting President at this time, does not wish to be President, so we will be looking for a new President. If we are going to continue with a ship's store, we also need someone for that job. Give some thought to how you might be willing to serve the VW-1 Association

Buffet Dinner in Meeting Room (6:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.)

This meal – content and cost – is still being negotiated at this time. **Estimate** $ 25.00 pp.

Annual Auction (8:00 p.m. to ????)

We suggest attendees bring an item to be auctioned off to help offset the organization's expenses. The focus of the auction has traditionally been more of a fun thing than a money maker. Jack Gergal has volunteered to be the auctioneer this time around and we thank him for that. It will be interesting to see if he can bait Judy Stotts to spend her money on some ridiculous thing like Ed used to do. Jack will probably find his own shills! The things for the auction that have been most successful in the past have been memorabilia items and USN items and, of course, Pat Orsini's original, fantastic quilting creations!

Friday, April 19th - (7 a.m. to noon)

Farewells

This is the part I dislike about the reunions – saying goodbye and knowing it will be 18 months before we can get together again. We have to be out of the meeting room by noon so after

Tucson Itinerary Shaping Up (Continued from Page 6)

breakfast folks stop in, pick up their memorabilia and get lots of hugs. There is always a bit of sadness and always comments about how the four days have all gone way too fast. For any of you who are interested and plan to stay in town Friday evening, we are going to ease the pain a bit this year with the following:

Post Reunion Night Out (Prox. 5:30 to ???)

Trail Dust Town (Pinnacle Peak) has a great Steak House and anyone who has delayed their departure is invited to go there for dinner Friday evening. The catch is that transportation cannot be provided and we do not have a meeting room to return to at the end of the evening. Many of our attendees drive or rent cars and I anticipate no problem in getting transportation for everyone who might like to go. By Friday you will have connected with the group and probably have several offers for transportation already. If anyone does not, the VW-1 reunion organizers will help. This will be included on the registration form simply so I can arrange for the appropriate number of seats so we can all sit together. We will order off the menu and have separate checks and will meet there at a prearranged time. After dinner you can browse through the quaint shops and enjoy this mock Wild West town. With individual cars being used for transportation, you can return to the hotel whenever you choose. This event has been added this time around because so many folks do stay over an additional night or two. It is open to everyone and will give us one last opportunity to be together at the end of this reunion.

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So there you have the initial "Plan of the Day", folks – subject to minor changes as the event nears. Keep this newsletter handy for when you need to fill out the registration form in January as it is helpful to have details of each trip .I generally have to minimize detail on the registration form itself to keep it to one page, back and front. Exact times and costs have to be finalized so if the cost is just a bit different at registration time, the figure on the registration form will be the "real deal".

I believe Tucson 2013 is going to shape up as another great reunion. It is, after all, the people you are going to be with that makes the reunions successful. Activities are all optional and are just the "icing on the cake" which makes it a bit more interesting. The "cake" is the friends we get to reconnect with and the relationships we develop. I say it over and over again – "the VW-1 group is the finest bunch of folks that one can ever hope to meet". It is what keeps me interested in working on and contributing to these reunions year after year.

* * * * * * * * *

If you have not registered with the host hotel and plan to stay there, please consider doing it in the near future. Call the Viscount Suite Hotel, 4855 E. Broadway, Tucson at 1-800-527-9666. Be sure and tell them you are with the VW-1 All Hands Alumni Group to get the rate of $ 79.00 per night (plus tax and hotel fees). We currently have 43 reunion attendees registered.
Note: All the rooms are suites, with refrigerators and microwave ovens and the rate includes a full breakfast for two with each room. The suggestion from locals is to keep water in those refrigerators to take on any trips outside as the heat and humidity can be tough on those not used to it – even in April.

My Heart's at Sea Forever

Long ago I was a Sailor.
I sailed the ocean blue.
I knew the bars in Singapore...
The coastline of Peru

I knew well the sting of salt spray
The taste of Spanish wine,
The beauty of the Orient...
Yes, all these things were mine.

But I wear a different hat now,
Jeans and t-shirts, too.
My sailing days were long ago...
With that life I am through.

But somewhere deep inside of me
The sailor lives there still.
He longs to go to sea again,
But knows he never will.

My love, my life, is here at home,
And I will leave here never.
Though mind and body stay ashore ...
My heart's at sea forever.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Any shipmate, man or woman, who may be asked in this century what they did to make life worthwhile in their lifetime can respond with a great deal of pride and satisfaction and say "I served in the United States Navy."

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

GOD BLESS all the U.S.Troops who defend our freedoms ... yesteryear, today and tomorrow.



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





Mailing Code Removed