ISSUE 52 VW-1 TRACKER MAY 2013

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

The VW-1 All Hands Alumni Association has a new President and Vice President. The following is a brief biography on both Ralph Link, President and Scott Wagner, Vice President that they have provided so you may get to know each of them better. Thanks to both Ralph and Scott for serving our VW-1 All Hands shipmates once again in your new capacity.

Ralph Link, VW-1 President



Born in a small town in central Illinois, I joined the U.S. Navy in 1959 and my first duty Station was VR-1 in Patuxent River, MD. Then transferred to VW-11 in Argentia, NFLD in January of 1962. I made ADR2 and volunteered for Flight Engineer school at Patuxent River and graduated Dec. 1962. I flew with Charlie Gagnon as his second engineer on Crew 8. When Charlie was transferred to VW-1, I was assigned as First Engineer with Dave Hybert as second. I was probably the youngest Flight Engineer in the Navy at 20 years old. I was transferred to VW-1 Aug. 1964 and served on TE-3 and TE-00 as First Engineer. I was transferred to NRL based at Patuxent River Aug. 1966 and assigned as First Engineer on their Connie's and then Honorably discharged in Aug. 1967. However, while at NRL I attained my FAA Flight Engineer Rating.

The remainder of 1967 and 68 I received my FAA Commercial Multi-engine and Instrument Rating through the G.I. Bill. I flew charter aircraft out of Springfield, IL until Sept. 1970 and was hired as Director of Flight Operations for FS Services, Inc., which is now GROWMARK, Inc., a farm supply cooperative based in Bloomington, IL. I retired from GROWMARK, Inc. in 2009 with 39 years of service. My entire aviation career spanned 50 years accumulating over 20,000 flight hours. I held type ratings in Cessna CE-500 and CE-560 aircraft.

Jane and I were married Dec. 1962 and celebrated our 50th Anniversary this past December. We have two children and four grandchildren. Our son, Michael, has two daughters, Chelsea, who is a senior at Eastern Illinois University and Haley, who will attend Concordia University in Chicago as a freshman this fall. Our daughter Heidi has a daughter and son: Lindsey, who attends the school for the visually impaired in Jacksonville, IL and Dalton who is going into 8th grade this fall.

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-- News from Cyberspace & Mail Call --

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

Sal Delligatti (3/15) Email Removed "I've read most of the stories and articles that the men have written for the web site, but there is one account that sticks in my mind and I have not heard any mention of it. VW-1 had a sister squadron stationed in South Korea, VW-2, and if I am not mistaken, one of their Super Connie, a EC121, was shot down by the North Koreans with all persons on board killed and never recovered. There was some sort of a dispute about borders and international waters. The plane was in International Air, hundreds of miles out to sea, but the North Koreans claimed that their sea and air space went out as far as 500 miles from their land so they shot the plane down with a SAM, claiming it was flying over their air space. Do you have any recall about this incident? I am pretty sure about it happening. This sticks in my mind because I went through indoctrination school for VW-1 and the EC121 with Chief Ron Sparks. Some guys from the class went to South Korea to VW-2 and others were assigned to VW-1 on Guam. That is when I met Chief Sparks as we arrived at the same time, went to that school and then ended up working on the same crew and plane TE5. I always felt lucky that I ended up on Guam and not South Korea because of that incident. Those poor men never had a chance. Ron Sparks was a great guy and he showed me lots of stuff. He taught me how to snorkel, and we explored the island, something that I enjoyed very much. We deployed together and had some good times on different bases that we landed at ... Japan, Okinawa, Philippines, etc. I often thnk about those times in my life and have never had any regrets about being in the Navy during the Vietnam era. I was very young then, only 20 years old. I wish I could remember more of the guys names I served with."

Rick Hall (1/9/13) Email Removed "Yahoo mail has screwed up in the past few months. Please note my new e-mail address. I haven't done much e-mail lately due to bad vision. I installed the Dragon program seen on TV. It doesn't understand what I say as well as the TV shows, but it is faster and easier than typing. Except for vision, my health is good, but I will not make the reunion because I cannot see well enough. Letty and I both enjoyed the one here in Colorado Springs a few years ago. Really miss contact with all shipmates. Danny Hoffman called me a couple of days ago. He was my flight metal smith on Crew 2 in 1969 and 1970. I welcome any contacts related to my service from 1952 to 1974."

Harry Jaggard (4/13) Email Removed "Please note my address change to: Address Removed Amarillo, Address Removed My wife's name is Michelle."

Tom Hoover (5/3/13) Email Removed "Several folks at the reunion asked to be told when I got my book on Amazon. The title of the book is "Dragons, in the Beginning" and it is, in fact, now on Amazon. Great job with the reunion."

Thurman (Bud) Hummel (5/25) Email Removed "On the way to Flagstaff there was a little air museum in Verde, AZ. It had a Connie in front and the side door in the cockpit was open, and a stairway was up to the side. I swung around the car and went to see it. It was awesome! I got to go on it. There were several planes restored inside a hanger. This was the first model of Connie, so 15 ft. shorter than our Super Connie. It belonged to MacArthur. This was his travel plane. It is restored to the way he had it. Truly awesome! I will send pics to you. Also, I filmed most of what he said. I will work on this when I get my laptop repaired. It went up in smoke the day before the reunion."

Tom Bates (5/2) Email Removed "I forgot to let you know of something said while still at the Viscount the last Friday. Remember the tall, blonde lady that worked in the breakfast area? Barb and I

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Auction Nets $ 3,000

The VW-er's outdid themselves in Tucson, bringing the grand total several hundred dollars above any auction in the past. Three ladies need to be thanked for their personal handiwork that greatly contributed to the end result. Joyce Rodriguez and husband, Nacho, were all signed up to attend the reunion when life intervened and they had to cancel. That did not stop her from sending along a lovely handmade blanket that netted $ 120.00 from Tom Dunn. We certainly hope to see Joyce and Nacho at the next reunion.

A new couple, Jim and Kathy Geiger, arrived with a blanket patterned like the American Flag that sold for $ 210 to Steve Davis. Kathy tells me that she and her friends make these blankets and donate them to servicemen. Pat Orsini, Floyd's wife, missed out on coming to the reunion because of the need to stay home with their pets but she, once again, sent an impressive home made quilt with a patriotic theme and the VW-1 winged horse patch pattern displayed in it. Al Madsen took that home for $ 450.00.

The VW-1 wive's have always been an intregal part of the VW-1 family and it is obvious the group would not be as successful without their efforts. That these three ladies would give of their time and talents to bring something so very unique and special to the auction is remarkable. Dick Lee was back with his bride, Jo, and it was a pleasure to welcome her to our VW-1 family. He is still making his hand made pens and contributed one to the auction. One pen wasn't enough, obviously, since I saw him sell a couple of them at the dinner Friday evening.

The biggest surprise of the evening was a print of the Super Connie with TE2 prominently displayed on it. The bidding was, to say the least, spirited and it was obvious there were a couple of ex-Crew 2'ers that were determined to take the print home with them. John Chitwood won the honor, but it cost him to the tune of $ 325.00 to claim his reward. Congrats, John! There were actually four prints donated by Christopher Seal from Lyndon, WA. He is a recent addition to our group and was unable to attend this time around. The other three went for lesser amounts. Floyd Orsini took home the TE-1 for $ 40; John Castle got the TE-9 for $ 42 and Jim Wilson paid $78 for a TE-1. The grand total for those four prints were $ 485.00!!! Thank you, Chris, for your contribution. Hope to meet you in Virginia in 2014.

Among the most unique items were a number of plane parts – I heard things like "CIC Panel, ICS switches" – guess if you worked on them you knew what they were. Steve Birdman brought them for the memorabilia table and then left them for the auction. And let us not forget the homemade light bulb made by Tom Hoover! He took the time to explain and demonstrate how it works. Now there is a man who knows how to get it done! If we ever are in emergency mode, I want to live next to Tom so he can help me survive!

The final story on the $ 3,000 total is that it was actually at $ 2,892 when the auction was over, but Steve Birdman sold a painting by his mother, Eva Abou-Ghorra, after the auction to one of our members for $ 100 and donated the money to the auction fund. I made the comment we were within only $ 8.00 of the $ 3,000 mark so he pulled out $ 8 and handed it to me as a donation. Being the good treasurer that I am, I took it and said thank you.....

Our new auctioneer, Jack Gergal, did an upstanding job during the auction with a large quantity of items to move. We thank him for stepping up to the plate and taking on this important job..

We also want to thank two others who stepped forward and assumed new responsibilities: Joe Vilsack is now in charge of our memorabilia and Jim Geiger is now handling all the Ship's Store merchandise.

New Members to VW-1 Family

Allen Berger **AE3**
Address Removed 1/70-7/71
Ferdinand, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Mary
Email Removed

Mess cook, Electric Shop – Calendar Inspection Crew – Check Crew

Salvatore Delligatti **AE3**
Address Removed 6/68 – 11/69
Flushing, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Angelina Email Removed

Electrician Shop, night line maintenance. Flew with Crews 4 & 5

Tom Erwin **Cmdr**
Address Removed 5/68 – 3/71
Fountain Hills, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Enid Email Removed

Aircraft Cmdr. On Crew 4

Ed Gant **AM2**
Address Removed 65 – 67
Buckeye, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Linda Email Removed

AM Shop and Air Crew. Flew on TE5

William Travis Green
Address Removed
Address Removed Phone Removed

My father, Bill Green, has invited me to the reunions as his guest. I was welcomed and educated by everyone. It is a great opportunity for me. I look forward learning more about the history and stories of VW-1.

William Locher **AT2**
Address Removed 8/65 – 8/68
Milton, Address Removed
Wife: Valerie Contact Details Removed

Flight Electronics Tech and Electronic Crew Chief on Crew 4.

Rocky Kaiser **AMH3**
Address Removed 9/69 – 8/71
Sherman, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Karen
Email Removed

Flew mainly with Crew 3, but flew with all the crews because I loved flying and flew every chance I had,. I am happy to be onboard with the alumni group and proud to have served with a great bunch of men.

Gary Riggs **ATN2**
Address Removed 1/65 – 1/67
Norman, Address Removed Phone Removed

Avionics, Crew 1, in-flight tech.

Tom Sabatino **ATN3**
Address Removed 9/68 – 9/70
Fresno, Address Removed
Wife: Carrollann
Email Removed

Radar Op Tech ; Electronics

Kenneth Salber **AT2**
Address Removed 1957-1958
Tucson, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Mimi
Email Removed

Flew with TE2 as Radar Repair & Operator. Reported to VW-1 in Hawaii, then moved to Guam within days.

Christopher Seal **ATR2**
Address Removed 7/66 – 7/68
Lynden, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Debbi Email Removed

First flight with Crew 9 in Feb. '67 as 2nd tech; then as 1st tech under. John Moehlencamp. In Nov.'67 was assigned to Crew 2 as ECC. Flew 2100 hours with 78 combat missions out of Chu Lai.

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New Officers Elected (Continued from Page 1)

Scott Wagner, VW-1 Vice President



My tour of duty with VW-1 was immense ly enjoyable. I was a 3rd class with great responsibilities. Unfortunately, VP-1 did not care about my past experience and therefore it was decided that the Navy and I were not destined for a continuing relationship. I got an "early out" and returned to Michigan State University to graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Management, then an MBA in finance. I also met and married Marie Robeson in 1969.

We moved from E. Lansing, MI to Chicago where I became a banker, which I did for one year (that VP-1 sort of thing again). I then spent ten years in the retail automobile and truck dealership business rising to general manager of several dealerships. During this time, Marie and I had a daughter, Stephanie, and now a grandson, A.J. Csornok.

I then moved on into the "new" micro computer and data communications industry for 25 years and worked for and managed several small companies.

My first VW- reunion was at Myrtle Beach. I missed San Diego, but brought Marie to Colorado Springs and each reunion thereafter.

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 6)

were talking to her on that last day and she said that our VW-1group was just about the best group they ever had. She had nothing but praise for us. That made us feel very good."

Gay Oulman (5/4) Email Removed "As Gary and I were driving away from the Viscount in Tucson, following the reunion, I penned these thoughts. I found them when we were cleaning out the car and decided to send them on so they could be shared with the group. "VW-1 reunions are always a humbling experience for me, with the love and dedication that flows through this group of men, and the feeling of sorority with the ladies. That is why when we lose one of the members, or a spouse, there is such a vacancy to never be filled. Bless you all. You overwhelm us and we love you all."

Victor Zarich (2/18) Email Removed "My **1980 World Book** lists Agana as the Capital city and Tumuning as the largest city,. The Naval Air Station and Andersen Air Force are listed as military bases. The **2012 World Book** at the library now states that Hagatna is the Capital city and the Naval Air Station is gone, although I believe the Naval Station may still be open, even though it is not listed."

Thank You

From the Tracker Editor

The first reunion without our VW-1 All Hands Founder and my husband, Ed Metzger, is now behind us. I have all of you who attended the Tucson reunion to thank for making it as easy for me as it was. In truth, I was both joyfully anticipating and uneasily dreading the event. It was a bit incomprehensible to me as to how it would be without Ed at the helm, working side-by-side with me and cutting up at the auction.

The love and support demonstrated by each and every one of you was heart-warming and enforced my determination to stay involved and to continue to work to make the VW-1 All Hands Alumni the very special organization that it was under Ed and will continue to be under our new leadership.

For those of you who did not attend, I want to tell you that at the end of the auction I was called to the front and Floyd Orsini presented me with a most exquisite quilt made by his wife, Pat and given to me on behalf of ALL the VW-1 group for my involvement and contribution. I was humbled to be so recognized. The organization exists and succeeds because of the contributions of so many that often go unmentioned. To be so singled out was an honor. The group also presented me with an envelope with a card and $$$ and, being as I was somewhat in a state of shock, I'm not sure I even said an appropriate Thank You. I do so now.

Thank you even more so for letting me continue to be a part of the VW-1 family.

Sally Metzger
Secretary/Treasurer

Tucson Financial Report

INCOME:

Events Payments	$ 13,301.00
Auction	3,000.00
Ship's Store Sales	744.00
Golf Refund	112.00
Golf Donation	30.00
TOTAL:	$ 17,187.00

EXPENSES:

Organization Expenses (2012)	656.00
Viscount Suites	$ 8,338.48
Pima Museum Tour	1,891.50
Pima Luncheon	846.73
Tucson City Tour	150.00
Titan Missile Tour	280.50
Gaslight Theatre	1,200.00
Golfer's Fees	531.00
Buses for Tours	3,631.00
Tips /Bus Drivers/Kitchen	270.00
Shipping Expenses	223.12
Snacks	87.77
TOTAL:	$ 18,106.10

Amount used from General Fund:	$ 919.10
VW-1 Account Balance 5/1/2013	$ 2,777.74

New Members (Continued from Page 4)

Jim G. Wilson **ATR2**
Address Removed 12/64 – 8/66
Manitou Springs, Address Removed
Phone Removed
Email Removed

Electronic Crew Chief. First drove a white van pickup and delivering. Then got on a flight crew and deployed to Sangley Point.

And the winner is .....

Williamsburg, VA for 2014

The other top two choices for the next reunion were Savannah, GA and Pensacola, FL, but a large majority opted for the Virginia location. Initial inquiries of the area shows that there will be lots to choose from there for activities and some military things to consider within a reasonable distance. As is our policy we will attempt to have a host hotel one year in advance to facilitate the planning for you folks. So the Chamber of Commerce there has been contacted and the work will begin. The tentative date is from September (after Labor Day) through late October. The date selected will depend on the rates offered and we must take into consideration the hurricane season on the East Coast. As planning progresses information will be available both in the Tracker and on our VW-1 web site.

Thanks go to Kathy Green for volunteering to be a co-planner for the 2014 reunion. New eyes and new ideas will be a welcome addition in the effort to keep our reunions successful.

Greetings from Ralph Link, the new President – and other Scuttlebutt

I am sure as Jane and I felt, all were sad to see our Reunion come to a close. Sally and her team, as usual, were able to exceed our expectations for a great hotel and activities. The tours were fantastic that I went on and the ones I didn't go on, the feedback by those who went was all positive and enjoyable. Special thanks to Steve Birdman for his arrangements at the Pima Air Museum and the ability to go aboard their Air Force Connie. Pete Wasmund, our interim President and full time webmaster, deserves kudos for his hard work after the loss of our beloved co-founder, president and shipmate, Ed Metzger. Also, Pete is doing a bangup job developing our VW-1 website and is currently updating the appearance and function.

For those shipmates and wives who attended and those members who could not attend the Tucson reunion, a proposal came up at the general all hands meeting about allowing membership from outside the VW-1 family. The proposed change was voted on and seconded, but was tabled after the discussion by the attendees was turning negative. As it turned out there are several shipmates and wives who are against enrollment from outside the VW-1 family without a narrow set of conditions, i.e. family (brothers, sisters and children of those who served in VW-1 as non-voting associates) and predecessor squadrons that were folded into the makeup of VW-1. The overwhelming concern of the members I spoke with is that the VW-1 All Hands Alumni Association would become diluted and it would take away from the unique identity and mission of this very special squadron if we allowed others outside of these guidelines to join. Before our next reunion in Williamsburg, we will be polling all hands for their opinions and recommendations. This is your Association and I, as President, will carry out the dictates of the majority of the members. Thank you for your support.



GOLFERS HAD A GOOD DAY ..... twelve of our attendees enjoyed a day in the sun. First place went to Steve Davis and Ron Snyder with an 83; followed by Ron Hibler and Jesse Garcia with a total of 86. No need to define who came in the last two spots, but the other participants were Ralph Link w/Duncan Sprinkle; Jack Gergal w/Carl Vonasch; Bob O'Reilly w/Pete Wasmund and Scott Wagner w/John Rice. Our new officers must have had their new responsibilities on their minds as they didn't do as well as usual! The guys donated a total of $ 142.00 back into our treasury. Thank you.



Address Removed

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



