ISSUE 53 VW-1 TRACKER AUGUST 2013

VW-1 Leaders of the Pack

Last issue you met our new President, Ralph Link and Vice President, Scott Wagner. But as you know, any organization does not run smoothly without the assistance of others in the group. This time around you will meet those who have stepped up and volunteered to take on a responsibility in order to help ensure our organizations success. They wrote the following brief autobiographies so we may get to know them better. Our thanks go out to them.

Pete Wasmund - Webmaster

My wife, Dottie and I have been members of the VW-1 All Hands Alumni Association since shortly before the 2002 reunion in Pensacola, FL and have thoroughly enjoyed all the reunions, newsletters, mini-reunions since. Our VW-1 shipmates are the best!

After completing AT "A" school in February 1958, I was transferred to the CIC school at Brunswick, GA as ships company flying as a radar tech on the WV-2 aircraft used in training CIC officers and men. Dottie and I were married in the NAS Brunswick Chapel, David Cousineau was my best man. Our first child was born in Brunswick about a year later.

I served with VW-1 on two different tours of duty. The first was from March of 1960 to February of 1962. I flew as the 1st Tech on TE-12 BuNo 145924 for several months and was moved to TE-1 BuNo 145935 when TE-12 was transferred to Litchfield Park. I was assigned as ECC when the current ECC was transferred. I was discharged in April of 1962 and employed by All State Insurance for almost a year as a computer engineer. I re-enlisted in the Navy in March of 1963 and attended ATI "B" school in Memphis. My 2nd tour of duty with VW-1 began in November of 1963 and ended about August of 1966. I served as ECC on TE-6 BuNo 145932. Two of our four children were born on Guam, one on each tour.



After my second tour of duty with VW-1, I was assigned to HC-1 Det. 43 aboard the USS Coral Sea, then instructor duty at NATTC Memphis. In 1972 I was assigned to HS-6 deploying on several different naval ships; and in 1975 as an Instructor at NATTC Memphis. I retired from the Navy in January 1979 with 22 years of service. I had been selected for Senior Chief but opted for retirement instead. My favorite assignments were with VW-1.

I worked for DuPont as a temporary for about 12 years and also for 10 months as an Associate Professor instructing Navy personnel on a shipboard approach control radar system. I worked another ten years for other companies that operated former DuPont processes on the

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-- News from Cyberspace & Mail Call --

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

Dan Cruz (5/28) Snail Mail "Sorry I haven't kept in touch, but I don't do much writing or traveling. I was planning on attending the Tucson reunion but something came up so I didn't make it. Hope everybody had a good time. I hope to make the next one. Enclosed find my dues. Say hi to everybody for me."

Art & Mary Winter (10/22) Email Removed "Sorry we are unable to make the Tucson reunion due to family issues on Mary's side of the family. She lost her oldest son this month due to cancer. Now her oldest daughter has been diagnosed with a progressive stage 4 cancer. Received this news after her son's death. "

Chuck Johnson (5/25) Email Removed "Good seeing everyone in Tucson. Sorry I couldn't stay for the entire reunion. I received my copy of the May Tracker today. Someone was asking about the EC-121 that was shot down. I received an article several months ago from Dick Gilmore, Metro on Ed Nafus's crew. We were on Guam when it happened. The plane and crew was from our sister squadron in Atsugi, Japan. Lots of worried wives on Guam. Great job with the reunion. You know how to entertain the troops!"

Jim and Caroline Geiger (5/17) Email Removed "We live in a little town at about the 3500' elevation in the Sierra Mountain Range of Northern California. Our population is 298 folks! Caroline and some of the local gals have a quilting gathering once a month and share ideas for projects. The current project is making the "Flag Quilts" for the veterans in our end of the state. It takes Caroline about 80 hours to make one quilt."

(NOTE: Thank you, Caroline, for bring one of those memorable quilts to the auction.)

Victor Zarich (5/29) Snail Mail "The only North Korean shootdown of a EC-121 that I am aware of is VQ-1 in 1969 out of NAS Atsugi, Japan. AEC Laverne A. Greiner was aboard, probably as a flight engineer. Tragically, I found out later that he had volunteered to replace someone else."

George Dean (6/23) Email Removed "I just typed in: ellwoodcityledger/local fathers giving back and up it came. Several articles but the first one listed Larry Markowitz and there he is .... WORKING! Larry was one of my Crew 5 Good Guys when we tracked typhoons. He's from New Castle and I was raised 15 miles away. We met on the other side of the world and were on the same crew. There was another guy from the area, too – on my 2nd tour. Can't think of his name, but he was a flight engineer. Larry and his wife met with us when we went to PA last year for a family reunion. Hope to do the same this year if my wife is able to make the trip."

George Dean (7/2) Email Removed "There will be a "Midway Island" reunion at Glasgow, KY on June 5th – 8th, 2014. Out shipmate, Michael Wilson Email Removed is ram-rodding the event, and he has extended a warm invitation to all of us AEW & Willy Victor sailors and, especially to BarsRON Det. as well as Midway station personnel. Even for those who did not fly at Midway, you will surely have a great time at this affair. Just dust off a few sea stories. We're all shipmates and here is a great place to enjoy sharing those important and historic times. Mike notes that Pearl Harbor and Battle of Midway survivors are planning to attend also. Sounds like Glasgow is going all out for this celebration. Please get your name and contact info to their Tourist office of official info, etc. I also think there is a face book connection to "Midway Island Reunion" also."

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Leaders of the Pack (Continued from Page 1)

DuPont plant. During the last 10 years of working I was the electrical and instrumentation engineer working primarily with process controllers associated with the plant safety shutdown systems. I retired at the end of 2003 and now work as a starter one day a week at the Navy golf course in Millington, TN and take care of the VW-1 web site.

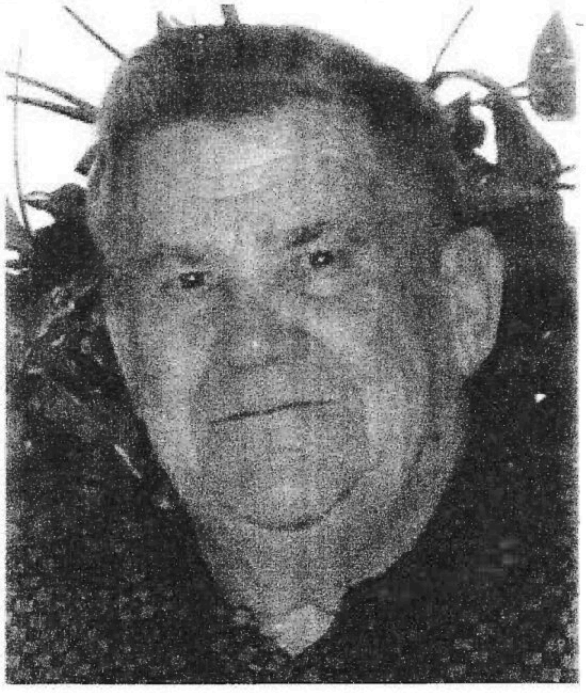
Dottie and I enjoy getting together with our four children and their spouses. 9 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren on holidays and other special occasions throughout the year.

NOTE: Pete barely mentions the VW-1 website, but that has been the primary source of recruiting new members ever since its inception. It continues to keep all our members informed and in touch. It has been his "baby" since day one and we all owe him a huge debt for the contribution of his creativity and computer skills. Thank you, Pete.

Dick Lee, Chaplain – Chaplain

Born in South Bend, Indiana, I also lived in Michigan and Minnesota growing up. I joined the Navy in 1948. My first squadron was Key West, VT all weather training, then to AD-A school and back to Key West, then to O & R in San Diego. Next, I went to Hawaii for VR8 and VR7 Flight Engineering School for the Connie. From there to VW-15 in Patuxent River and Newfoundland for five years. Next was AD-B School in Memphis, TN; then to VT at Milton, FL; and finally to VW-1 I 1963 ad 1964 – the best squadron in the NAVY. While there I belonged to the VW-1 Rifle and Pistol Team and participated as both Coach and Shooter. After Guam, I went to VP-42 in Washington and flew 46 combat missions. The hotel in Saigon where I was staying was hit with plastic explosives that took out here rooms deep and seven stories high. I then went to VP31 in San Diego and retired in 1967.

In 1975 I found the LORD and He changed my life. After retirement I went to Denver, CO and spent three years at Gunsmith School; then started a materials handling business. In 1992, I sold out to my partner and moved to Bonita Park, Nazarene Church Camp in the mountains of New Mexico. I did volunteer work there for 18 years and went on three mission trips during that time.



In June of 2012, a forest fire came through, destroying over 200 homes. I lost everything. shortly after the fire, I married my neighbor, Jo, who also lost everything. We now live in Monte Vista, CO, where we volunteer at our church and community activities. I also like to sit in my "man cave" on the front porch and watch the grass grow.

Note: Dick has been our Chaplain almost from the beginning. We had the pleasure of meeting Gwen, Dick's first wife, who died in 2006. Who among us that attended the Pensacola reunion

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New E-Mail Addresses

Bates, Thomas Email Removed

Bleakney, Richard Email Removed

Bleyenberg, Dick Email Removed

Cohen, Louis Email Removed

Cook, Victor Email Removed

Goss, Wallace Email Removed

House, Jim Email Removed

Martinez, Cruz Email Removed

Miles, Ronald Email Removed

Ray, Don Email Removed

Quigley, Mike Email Removed

Rea, Ray Email Removed

Rice, Jim & Mazie Email Removed

Turner, Lloyd Email Removed

Wallis, Jim Email Removed

Wallis, Charline Email Removed

New Addresses

Richard Bleakney
Address Removed
Sparks, Nevada Address Removed

Thomas Barrett
Address Removed
New York, Address Removed Phone Removed

Louis Cohen
Address Removed Address Removed
Dallas, Texas Address Removed

Jim House
Address Removed
Lutz, Florida Address Removed

New Members to VW-1 Family

Craig Borsheim
Address Removed
Mesa, Address Removed

Douglas B. Cole **ADR2**
Address Removed 2/67 – 8/68
Middleburg, Address Removed Phone Removed
Email Removed

Was check crew for awhile; then flew as Flight Mech on TE-9.

Clarence A. Hames **ADR3**
1 Hilltop Court 3/67 – 10/68
Glasgow, Address Removed Phone Removed
Email Removed

First went to power plants. First deployment to Chu Lai was with Crew 5 on 7/11/67 as an AA.

Paul Simoneaux **AZ3**
Address Removed 2/69 – 2/71
Gonzales, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Myrtle
Email Removed

Maintenance Control Shop. Kept the records of the aircraft.

Michael F. Yates **AN**
Address Removed 9/66 – 8/68
Spokane, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Brenda Email Removed

Flew as AEW Operator with Crew 6. In Jan. of '67 was ground pounding at Detachment Charlie in Chu Lai.

Roy Wiggs **AT1**
Address Removed SE 3/70 – 10/71
Salem, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Vicky Email Removed

Flew as AT on various crews

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will ever forget when Gwen and Dora Reddy got locked in an historic home during one of our tours! Fortunately, those on the bus preparing to leave the area did miss them and a search party was sent out!

Now we have been doubly blessed because Dick introduced us to Jo, his wife, at the recent reunion in Tucson. What a lovely couple they make. God be with you two.

Jim Geiger – Ship's Store

My name is Jim Geiger and I live in Stirling City, CA. We are located about 120 miles north of Sacramento in the Sierra Nevada Mountains at 3500' elevation. Population: 298. I was born and raised here and currently live on the same property where I grew up. I'm third generation from both sides of my family to live here.

I attended "A" school in Memphis and started my career as an ADR. I was assigned to VW-1 from 1967 – 1968. After attending systems training for the Connie, I worked the "nose docks" for several months. I qualified for air crewman and was assigned to TE-3 as flight mechanic where I remained for the duration of my tour with the squadron.

While on Guam I married my college sweetheart from California. Caroline flew to Guam on one of PanAm's first flights to the terminal at Agana NAS. Our first of three children was born at the Naval Hospital in Agana.

Upon leaving VW-1 in August of 1968, I was assigned to VP-42 at Whidbey Island, Washington flying SP-2H's. I was discharged from the Navy in February 1970 and returned to college and A & P School, certified A & P IA (Airframe & Power plant with Inspector Authorization); and remained in aviation for the duration of my 45 year working career. I retired from United Airlines as a Boeing 747 maintenance trainer in 2003.

NOTE: Jim attended his first reunion with us in Tucson this year. It didn't take him long to step right up and volunteer when the need for someone to handle ship's store was needed. I know his wife, Caroline, will assist him in getting those orders out to our members. Thank you both.

Lee & Martha Thompson – Historians (by Sally Metzger)

Those scrapbooks can be a lot of work but Lee & Martha manage to get the job done so that we have a history of each of our reunions, who attended them, and a documented photo of many, hopefully all, of the attendees.

Our very first reunion was in the fall of 1999 in Branson, MO. Number two was held in San Antonio in the fall of 2000 and they have been 18 months apart ever since.

Each reunion is documented in our scrap books and the Thompson's manage to get them to each reunion, even when they are unable to make the trip themselves. They have scrapbooks of their beautiful gardens at their home and they brought them to a reunion to show and tell. One look at those albums and we knew who our scrapbookers should be! Thank you for your dedication to this important service. You are appreciated.

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News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 2)

Michael Wilson (7/2) "I met with the Chamber of Commerce on yesterday and the excitement of having a reunion in Glasgow is growing tremendously. Here is a rough plan of the events: Thursday, June 5th is a meet and greet, followed by tours of either Mammoth Cave, the Corvette Assembly line, or Corvette Museum. The evening is a welcoming the local officials. Friday, June 6th: Golf scramble (reunion attendees teaming with locals), a Bowl-off for those that do not golf (bowling teams will be a mixture of locals and reunion attendees. That evening will be the banquet. Saturday, June 7th will be mini-reunions, show and tell of relics and items pertaining to Midway. This will be open to the public. Saturday evening will be the showing of film footage of the Battle of Midway (as much as we can obtain). Sunday, June 8th is a Memorial Service in the morning; followed by mingling of the attendees and that evening a closing ceremony on the public square with a band."

Bob Barrett (6/10) Email Removed Note: As a result of asking for help proving he was deployed to Viet Nam with VW-1, Pete Wasmund was of great assistance in putting Bob in touch with ex-shipmates. Bob heard from Ed Nafus, Rick Clarke, and Jim Galinsky. Helping our guys get their benefits was the unexpected result of forming the VW-1 All Hands Alumni Group that Ed Metzger, the association founder, was the most proud.

Richard Cordle Snail Mail (7/5) "I am a bit late in returning the dues because I was in the Des Moines, Iowa VA Hospital. On or about October of 1966 on the U.S.S. Kearsarge (CVS 33) a portable liquid oxygen tank exploded, killing five personnel and injuring three. I was one of the three, but glass and iron entered into us that lived. After 45 years, these objects have found their way to my feet and hands, involving operations from August 2012 to June 2013. I have about five more to take out and will then be free of those parasites. Otherwise, I am doing fine."

Ishmael "Charlie" Brown (Snail Mail)

"Here's a crew patch designed by a crewmember late summer of 1955. We had recently completed an operation out of Kadena AFB, Okinawa. It entailed all crews present flying a fifteen hours up, four hours down rotation for extended periods. Since the four down also included a debrief/brief, garbage removal, replenishing supplies and refueling it didn't leave much personal time. It wasn't unusual to see a crewmember climb down the ladder and fall asleep on the tarmac, just to be away from the noise and vibration. I thought some of our later members might get a laugh out of it."



Richard Bleakney (7/15) Email Removed

"I wanted to go to the AZ reunion, but could not arrange it. Lowena was working and Sara was in school and does not yet drive. We are working on that since she already does have her learner's permit. I am planning to make Williamsburg for sure. We are in the middle of moving as I speak, we will be on the road back to Nevada on Friday. Sara is starting this fall at the University of Nevada at Reno.

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News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 6)

Sue Kreutzer (7/20) Email Removed "John died October 11, 2012. I will take a look at the memorial pages on the VW-11 web site. Our time on Guam, though brief, was special as it marked the beginning of our married life. Just want you to know, John was not a conventional man, so I will need to think and pray about "if" he would want to do a memorial notice. John had told me for many years he did not want a formal funeral. He always said he just wanted a big party. He was diagnosed on October 1 and we had that big party on October 6th. John loved it. He was still lucid enough to enjoy every second. He was the oldest of 16 children and only one brother preceded him in death. So there were over 10 family members and friends here that day. When each one left the party, John said "see ya later". It was a beautiful day. The next day his brothers and sons joined him to watch a Bronco game together. We honored his request for no funeral, but we will do the military honors at Ft. Logan on the year anniversary of his death this October."

Ron Sparks (7/19) Snail Mail "I have added congestive heart failure and low blood sugar to my list of ailments. I am living by myself and fighting with all my might. I go to wound care three times weekly for diabetes wound in my foot. I can see good results showing now. E-mail is Email Removed

David Herda (7/17) Snail Mail "Life has been hectic and frustrating the past few months. It seems everything at home is breaking and the furlough for government employees is costing me 20% of my pay. So we are pinching pennies and cutting corners. The will not be a part of that cutting since I so appreciate your efforts, the newsletter, and the opportunity to gather with you all, which I fully intend to do one of these years. God bless."

Christy Winchester (7/18) Email Removed "I got married in May. In June my husband was diagnosed with cancer and given ten months with chemo. They will give him the treatment as long as it is effective, then stop. Also, we (my brother and I) are working feverishly to get our house finished so Gary can get some months of enjoyment in it."

Bob Orsini (8/09) Email Removed "I just saw the pictures of the next quilt Pat is making for the auction for next year. It will blow you away. Also, she has every intention of coming to Williamsburg."

NOTE: Pat's quilts have become almost tradition at the auctions. They are one of a kind creations with a VW-1 theme that gets lots and lots of attention and bring a lot of $$$ into the VW-1 treasury. Looks like you will have another chance to bid on one in the fall of 2014 in Williamsburg, VA!!

Steve Davis (8/09) Email Removed "After we returned from Tucson, I became ill, running a temp of 105.5 for seven days with the doctors unable to determine what was going on. We suspected Valley Fever from the dust at Tucson. Short story was I missed 21 days of work recovering. I got really behind and have just about caught up. I have not had time to dive into the programming that Pete uses for the VW-1 web site, nor have I communicated with him. All my fault. But we got very busy and time management did not permit it. Sorry. I will address this with Pete in a few days. I elected to remain on a different food consumption plan as a result of my illness and, to date, have lost 43 pounds. Now I am off the diabetes medication, having to buy new clothes and doing very well. Kathy and I really enjoyed meeting our fellow shipmates and we talk about the trip often. "

Stella Zieglar Snail Mail in regard to **Frank West:** "I am Frank's sister and am taking care of his needs and affairs. He is now in the Line Oak Medical Center, Address Removed Blanco, Address Removed My address is Address Removed Blanco, Address Removed My phone number is Phone Removed or Phone Removed Frank has continued with his membership in the VW-1 Association and would enjoy any cards you might wish to send."

NOTE: While reading through the News from Cyberspace one last time it occurred to me that several of our members could use a card or a "how you doing" for their old shipmates. It you have a moment – and the inclination – drop a line here and there. It is what I'm going to do this evening.

Leaders of the Pack (Continued from Page 5)

Joe Vilsack – Memorabilia (by Sally Metzger)

Those two heavy boxes have travelled back and forth to all the reunions and each time they get just a little bit heavier. When the call went out at the Tucson reunion to get a volunteer to do the toting back and forth, Joe and Mary Ann spoke up. Since they attend ALL the reunions – even those on the East Coast, far, far away from their California home – I wonder how they will get them to the next reunion. But I'm confident it will happen, whatever it takes.

A major attraction at any of our reunions is our memorabilia. It started with a few things and then, over the years, attendees have brought interesting things about their VW-1 years and then left them to be enjoyed at future reunions. The guys spend hours in the general meeting room poring over the books, pictures and articles. They are a vital feature of our reunion's successes.

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Those mentioned above are performing specific services for our beloved VW-1 group and they all deserve a pat on the back. Let me add, however, that there are several others who have contributed and are not specifically mentioned here. Foremost among them is **Jack Gergal**, who after Ed's death, took me aside and volunteered to keep the auction alive and well by volunteering for that chore. Tucson was not easy, being the first without our founder, but Jack did an admirable job and we appreciate greatly his willingness to be our VW-1 auctioneer.



VW-1 Association
c/o Ed & Sally Metzger
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