ISSUE 54 **VW-1 TRACKER** NOV. 2013

Get Ready to Party .....

SEPTEMBER 22 – 26, 2014

It is now a "done deal". The contract is signed and the deposit is made. The host hotel is

Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center
6945 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg, VA 23185
Tel: 757-220-2250 www.fortmagruderhotel.com

As usual, the reunion will be for four nights, Monday thru Thursday, but the hotel is offering to give us the contractual rate for three days prior and three days following our reunion. There is a continental breakfast included each day for two per room during this entire 10 day period.

There are three type rooms available. The normal room is $ 99.00 (+ taxes of 11% and a $2.00 occupancy fee per night per room) for either two double beds or one king bed. The Junior Suite is a base rate of $ 149.00 and there is also an Executive Suite available at $ 199.00. If you are bringing friends or additional family members, I suggest you speak to the hotel about what style room would best serve your needs.

Reservations can now be made at your convenience. Be sure to identify yourself as a member of the VW-1 All Hands Alumni Association to receive the guaranteed rate. Kathy Green and I were both impressed by the cleanliness, service and friendliness of Fort Magruder Hotel. They will attempt to put us all in the section of the hotel which is very close to our hospitality room. This meeting space is very generous and will allow us to hold all scheduled activities with room to spare. There are the usual amenties: indoor pool, exercise room, one restaurant, and a bar that also serves food. The food was excellent and reasonably priced. The location of the Fort Magruder is not one of the assets since there is only one restaurant near enough to be an easy walk and all other outside activities will require a car, taxi or bus.

The Williamsburg, VA area brings history to life with such clarity that it a treat to listen and observe. If you are a history buff, you will love this area. The historic triangle consists of Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown. These are three very different venues. Jamestown focuses on the very first colony, of course, and shows how very influential it was in the ultimate development of America into a democracy. Colonial Williamsburg does a fantastic job of recreating life in Virginia once the area had grown and become established. It is a model small city with artisans, craftsmen and a structured government. In many ways the settlers had created a "mini-England" and then the seeds of revolution were sown and Williamsburg became divided. Yorktown was historically important in the Revolution itself and the focus there is more of their contribution in achieving our independence from England.

We have some difficult choices to make in deciding what the group will be doing as a whole. Our time together is so limited we cannot begin to do all three. This issue is devoted to giving you a bird's eye view of the possibilities. We encourage you to come early and/or stay late so that you can enjoy this historic area on your own time and at your own pace Go on the Williamsburg, VA web site and research the area yourself. This could help you decide how much time you need to schedule for the 2014 trip to make your visit most enjoyable.

-- News from Cyberspace & Mail Call –

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

Tom Bates (8/28) Email Removed "Just a quick note to get my correct email address to you. I'm not sure how it happened, but my correct one is Email Removed I'm looking forward to the next reunion in Virginia.

Christy Clark (8/31) snail mail from Christy Winchester Clark " My new name and address is: Christy Clark, Address Removed Weatherford, Address Removed

Dan Ragan (9/3) Email Removed "I received the current Tracker recently. I always enjoy reading news from the group. In the "News from Cyberspace" section there is a snail mail from Ishmael Brown with a picture of "Crew One" patch. If it has not been brought to your attention before now, it was designed by Gordon Olson, who was with VW-1 from 1954 – 1956. He was an architect in his professional career."

Ralph Link (9/3) IPad: Email Removed "My good friend Sally is in the dark as to what happened to me in Tenn. After dinner Friday night at the Oulman's and while returning to the Lodge with Steve and Kathy Davis, I had one of my sneezing jags after which I lost vision in the upper half of my left eye. Long story short, went to the emergency room in Paris, TN and was told had possible torn retina. The doctor made arrangements with an ophthalmologist Saturday morning and after a thorough exam, said I suffered an eye stroke (blood clot in the eye).

The bottom line is, I'm going to have to get used to vision in one-and-a-half eyes. Jane and I went to the University of Iowa Medical Center which has the best vision school in the mid-west. They put me through the ringer with every test known to man. The outcome was the same as told to me by the doctor in Tenn. I was pretty well resigned to my fate when I returned from our mini reunion in Jackson but the family and a few friends insisted I go to Iowa.

Jane and I appreciate your prayers and kind words of encouragement. In a way, your prayers have been answered. I'm at peace with my loss and am thankful I still have one-and-a-half good eyes. I still ride my big Harley, play golf, shoot at the range (I still have my dominant right eye) and do all the things as before. I see no reason I can't continue to serve you as your president. Thanks for your support."

Bob Tuttle (9/9) Email Removed "In the August issue of the Tracker, you wrote an article about VW-2 and a plane shot down near North Korea. My brother was in VQ-1 at the time when that plane was shot down and he was even scheduled to be on that flight. Just thought I would make that correction. The plane that got shot down was PR-21 from VQ-1. The bass player in my band was on that aircraft. The remains, which were picked up by the Russian Navy, were shipped back to the hanger in Atsugi after being examined in Russia. From the measurements of the hole in the tail section, we concluded that it was a Russian aircraft that shot the plane down. All 31 men onboard were killed."

Dan Roper (9/13) Email Removed "My dad, Lcdr Daniel P. Roper, served under Capt. Barton and then Cmdr. John Gibbs. He was assigned to VW-1 from 1965-1967. He was in maintenance. He passed away Dec. 15, 1993.

Nacho & Joyce Rodriguez (10/01) "Prayers do get answered if you know the right angel – in this case I think it was Ed Metzger. I have always prayed that Nacho would one day find one of his crew members

Colonial Williamsburg

The decision has been made that we will not be visiting Colonial Williamsburg as a group primarily because of the prohibitive size of the area. It is one mile long and half-a-mile wide and is a reproduction of an actual village, complete with period costumes, working craftsmen, and role-playing personnel. No motorized vehicles are allowed into the area, so there is LOTS of walking. The staff offered to get us Segway's – those little battery operated scooters that you stand on and zip around – but somehow I didn't see "sixty-or-seventy sixty-or-seventy-year-olds" doing this for the first time together. I did not want to get ambulances to stand by to take care of the broken hips, ankles, and legs!

For those of you still willing and able to do the degree of walking required, it is a great experience and very well done. It certainly would take at least one full day to do it justice.

Yorktown Historic Area

Yorktown has four venues to explore – Historic Yorktown, the Yorktown Battlefield, the Victory Center and the Riverwalk Landing – plus the added attraction Yorktown Schooners that go out twice daily and cruise the York River.

Historic Yorktown

Here you can experience many 18th century homes, visit the location where the surrender terms for the Battle of Yorktown were negotiated, and the home of the commander of the Virginia militia with its walls still bearing the scars of cannonballs fired upon the village in 1781. See the monument commissioned by the Continental Congress in 1781 and completed in 1884, to commemorate the victory at Yorktown and to memorialize those who lost their lives for freedom. Picturesque streets are the backdrop for art galleries and antique and specialty shops. Take a ride on the free trolley around Yorktown. It remains much as it was during the waning days of the American Revolution. Yorktown is located only 12 miles east of Williamsburg and is a scenic ride via the Colonial Parkway.

Yorktown Battlefield

A tour of the Battlefield begins at the National Park Service Visitor Center where the battle on land and at sea is presented through a series of multimedia exhibits. You can walk through a full-sized replica of the quarterdeck of a British warship, view the movement of troops through a special lighted map display, and browse through a beautiful collection of Revolutionary War artifacts, including the tents used by Gen. George Washington to plan the siege. A 16-minute film, "Siege at Yorktown" discusses the importance of the battle. The Park Service has reconstructed a nearly complete picture of Gen. Washington's siege. Earth works and siege lines mark the positions of both British and American troops during the battle. Tours of the Battlefield are conducted from the Center by park rangers. Maps and audio tours are also available for a self-guided driving tour.

Yorktown Victory Center

To gain an understanding of events that led to America's war for independence and the impact of the war upon ordinary men and women, start your tour at the Yorktown Victory Center, a museum of the American Revolution. An introductory museum gallery presents the Declaration

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Yorktown Historic Area (Continued from Page 3)

of Independence as a radical document that inspired decisive action. Among objects on exhibit is a rare early broadside printing of the Declaration dating to July 1776. In the Witnesses to Revolution Gallery, you will meet 10 individuals who lived during the 18th century and recorded their observations in letters and diaries. Another gallery describes this decisive campaign of the Revolution and the diversity of people and nationalities who were involved in the siege and the British surrender at Yorktown in 1781. The living history program offers visitors the opportunity to experience the Revolutionary-era firsthand. Outside the main museum building are recreations of a Continental Army encampment and a 1780's farm where costumed interpreters depict and discuss daily life during and after the Revolution. The encampment setting includes quarters for officers and the regimental surgeon and a dozen soldier's tents. Here visitors can be "recruited" into military service and watch demonstrations of musket and artillery loading and firing and 18-th century medical practices.

Riverwalk Landing

Here you can stroll on the boardwalk along the York River or sit on one of the many benches and enjoy the natural beauty of the York River. The area has several specialty shops, designed in the spirit of Colonial architecture that offer patriotic items, home décor, jewelry, clothing, gifts, quilts and more. There are several unique restaurants, many on the waterfront, serving seafood and other fine cuisine. The free trolley passes through every 15 minutes and makes the circuit to the three other major Yorktown attractions. It is not unusual to see strolling performers or hear beach music during your visit. The dock in this area is where the Yorktown Schooners, the Serenity and Alliance, take two cruises daily. They are a pair of tall ships that leave the dock under power, but then take a two-hour cruise under sail down the York River.

Jamestown Settlement and Historic Jamestown

Jamestown Settlement

More than 400 years ago, on December 20, 1606, three merchant ships with passengers and cargo embarked from England on a voyage that would set the course of American history. On May 13, the 104 passengers – all men and boys – selected a site on the banks of the James River for what was to be America's first permanent English settlement, predating Plymouth in Massachusetts by 13 years. Through living history, a film and gallery exhibits, the development of the colony and its impact on the Powhatan Indians, longtime inhabitants of coastal Virginia, are vividly depicted at Jamestown Settlement. Aboard life-size replicas of the three 1607 ships, you'll get a sense of the spirit of opportunity that motivated the Jamestown colonists, as well as the difficult living conditions endured by 17th century voyagers. In the museum's re-created fort, you'll see how the colonists copied with an unfamiliar environment. You'll be introduced to the Powhatan Indians, in a setting re-created from an early 17th century archaeological site. Your visit to Jamestown Settlement begins with an introductory film that presents an overview of Jamestown's origins. The museum is a masterpiece of design and has life-sized displays of all phases of the early settlement, including how the settlers brought the English culture to American; their complex relationship with the native Indians; and their influence on the future of the democratic way of life that American chose in the future. After leaving the museum, you arrive outside at the re-created Powhatan Indian village where historical interpreters discuss and demonstrate the Indian way of life. A short walk from there is the pier where replicas of the three ships that carried the settlers to Jamestown are docked. You can speak with costumed interpreters about the four-and-a-half-month voyage from England and go aboard the ships and

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News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 2)

from when he was Crew Chief during his two tours of duty in Vietnam. He had thought when he found the VW-1 family while attending the reunion in Branson, he would find someone. However, there wasn't anyone he flew with from Crew 6 at that time. Then upon receiving the latest newsletter, a new member name appeared that Nacho recognized. He placed a call to the new member in Spokane, WA, and miraculously it was one of his crew mates, Michael Yates. Mike found VW-1 on his own like Nacho. Nacho put him on the speaker phone and the conversation that flowed was unbelievable. We knew he was the real deal when he mentioned a certain tattoo that Nacho had gotten on one of their excursions. Most people don't recognize it, but Mike recounted the story of how it came to be. Since then, we have kept in contact with him and his wife, Brenda. We look forward to having Mike and Nacho reunite, possibly before the reunion in Williamsburg. We are also looking for a few more crew mates, one of which is in California by the name of Garretson. I cannot begin to express the joy Nacho felt. So thanks for keeping the newsletter and reunions alive. Our sincere best wishes to all the VW-1 family."

Ennis Eaton (10/26) Email Removed (From an e-mail to VW-1 President Ralph Link) "A good friend of mine sent me an e-mail this morning concerning the small recruitment video on your website. Great teaser. I took it upon myself to forward it to my personal friends on my e-mail list. I hope it will generate some interest in your organization and its activities. I am requesting two things. Is it possible for me and any other member of VW-4 to join your organization? Also, I would like to mention your organization in our fall/winter newsletter if it has your okay. Two years ago at our all hands meeting our organization voted to allow any organization that flew weather recon to join our group. I assigned two people to get in touch with VW-1 and send an official invite. Did you guys ever receive one?" Our official website is: www.navyhurricanehunters.com Please take a look and browse around."

Ralph Link (10/28) Email Removed (Response from R.Link to above e-mail) "The video was authored by our web master, Pete Wasmund. Pete's intention was to generate interest in our Association by fellow VW-1 shipmates, as well as other AEW personnel. We would like to extend an invitation to you to join us at our next reunion in Williamsburg next September 22, 2014., We will be discussing allowing guest membership at our business meeting during this reunion. As of now, we have only allowed VW-1 personnel and their family members as members of our group. That being said, we welcome interested outside guests to join us. As to your second question, we would welcome your mentioning our Association in your newsletter. The question of outside membership came up at our business meeting at the last reunion in Tucson in April. It was tabled at that time so everyone could give it some thought and it will be addressed at our meeting in Virginia in September of 2014. I am not aware of your invitation for all Wx recon to join with your organization. This is not to say someone was not contacted here. Our previous president and co-founder Ed Metzger, passed away a year ago last February and he may have received your offer. I became President during the Tucson reunion."

(**Note:** The above two e-mails refers directly to a subject that came up at the Tucson business meeting and generated some strong diverse opinions on the subject. It will be on the business agenda for next year. We ask that all our members give this issue some thought and share your opinion with Pres. Ralph Link and/or VP Scott Wagner Email Removed or send to the Tracker for inclusion in the "News from Cyberspace". This organization belongs to each of our members and your input would be invaluable in arriving at the best decision on how to handle this membership issue. As to whether we received an invitation to join the Ennis group, I have no recollection of that. However, it appears that was about the same time as Ed's decline and it may very well have slipped through the cracks during that difficult time. If so, my apologies.)

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News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 5)

Pete Wasmund (10/30) Email Removed "When I brought up the initial question of others joining up with us I only had in mind those squadrons that were direct predecessors of VW-1 and VW-3, which supplied a lot of the aircraft and personnel to VW-1 in June of 1960. My/our idea of this is becoming more liberal. Although I can see the benefit of "guest membership."

(NOTE: This topic was brought up at the last reunion and then tabled until our next meeting so that everyone could have a chance to think it through. It is on the agenda for September 2014 and we ask all the VW-1 Association members to be thinking about how they would like this matter resolved.)

Ralph Link (10/29) (E-mail from Pres. Link to Carl Vonasch) "Since you introduced the recommendation that we develop a factual and official letter for reading into the Congressional Record, I'm requesting you take the lead responsibility for this project. I am requesting you develop this letter since you have in-depth knowledge of the mission and role that VW-1 contributed during the Vietnam War. I'm confident your passion for the part we all played during our respective tours, are the best choice to complete this project successfully. With the success of this project, many of our shipmates may be more successful dealing with the Veterans Administration for their deserved benefits. Let me know if you are willing to accept this responsibility for helping your fellow shipmates, as well as the official recognition of all squadron members' contribution to the Vietnam War."

(**Note:** Ralph informed me 11/19 that Carl had agreed to work on this project to prepare a letter on the VW-1 All Hands Alumni Association read into the Congressional Record. The project is well underway but will take some time until completion. Thank you, Carl, from all the VW-1'ers. We look forward to hearing more on this project.)

Dick & Jo Lee (11/05) Email Removed "Just to let you know we'll be moving to Arkansas on November 6th. Our new address is: Address Removed Lincoln, Arkansas Address Removed Cell: Phone Removed

Floyd & Pat Orsini (11/7) Email Removed "We were very saddened to hear about the passing of Joe Vilsack. When I came to my first reunion at Myrtle Beach, he was the first person to welcome me to the flock. We have been friends ever since even though we were in VW-1 at different times. He was such an important part of the Association. The one regret I have is that I wasn't able to find another Willy Victor model to make because he really wanted one. I told him that I could never part with the one I made and he understood, but I also told him if I ever found one or if he found one, I would build it for him. It seems every year we lose a dear friend or two. Well, somewhere down the road we will all get together again. On a happier note, would you believe that we are going to be getting chickens next year. Only a few, and it's a long crazy story, but come hell or high water we plan on coming to Williamsburg net year."

Nacho & Joyce Rodriguez (11/15) Email Removed "We decided to take a Fall ride before the inclement weather sets in. It was a two-hour ride to Rantoul to the Air Museum on the closed Chanute AFB. We had planned to one day make the trip after first hearing about the plane restoration at the reunion in Branson. We regret not going sooner since the weather was sunny but biting windy. We had the museum to ourselves. Since Nacho was a Crew Chief (6), one of the workers offered to take us aboard even though there were no tours that day. Volunteers come from all over to spend time helping in the restoration. They will need help painting the aircraft come Spring. We hope to return and lend a hand. I have a few outside photos to share and will send the inside photos on another day. Have a blessed and wonderful Thanksgiving."

New Members to VW-1 Family

John M. Hodge **AE2**
Address Removed 5/70 – 5/71
Collinsville, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Lucia Email Removed

As 1st Lt. operated storage room in barracks/ Made 3rd class and went to AE Shop/Check Crew. After going to VQ-1, flew with Crew 25.

John Jackson **LT**
Address Removed 4/57 – 9/58
Fredericksburg, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Darleen Email Removed

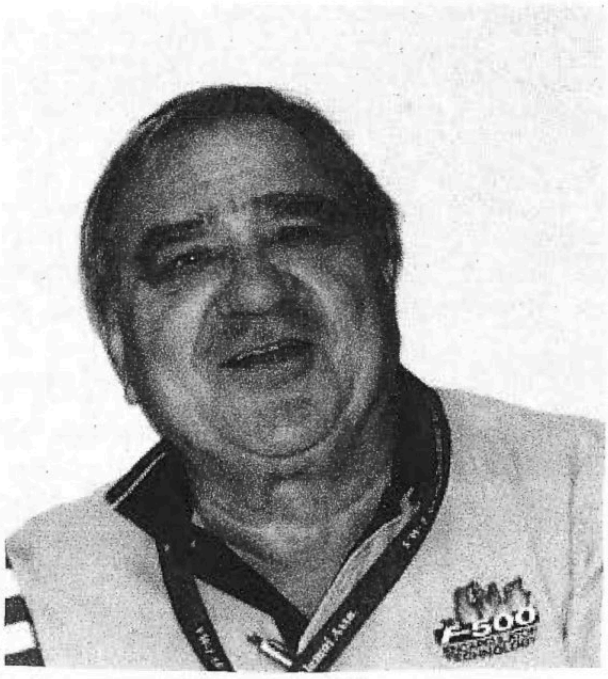
Flew on Crew 8 – Red Devil

Richard Kirschman **LT/JG**
Address Removed 1956 -1959
Point Reyes Station, Address Removed
Wife: Doris Ober Phone Removed
Email Removed

CIC Officer; Legal Officer. Flew #3 "Red Devil"

Robert (Bob) Tuttle **ATN 2**
Address Removed 4/66 – 10/68
Petaluma, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Marilyn Email Removed

In communications and flew primarily with Crew 4. I was a CICS trainer. We changed The way the CICS used radar in the Gulf.



Anthony (Joe) Vilsack

Passed February 2013

Anyone who attended any reunion since Joe first found the VW-1 All Hands group knows him. He was a strong supporter of our association and a genuine "people person". Joe always had a smile – always had a friendly word – always reached out to help whenever he could.

Joe was in VW-1 from 1957 to 1959 and he flew with both Crews 1 and 6 as an AE-2. As most of our group will attest, he too felt that VW-1 was the outstanding duty station of his career.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Mary Ann and to the family. Joe's ready smile will be sorely missed.

It is just a little late to say "Happy Thanksgiving" but I want you all to know that when I count my blessings all the VW-1 family is high on my list of those things for which I am most grateful.

..... from Your Editor, Sally Metzger

Jamestown Settlement and Historic Jamestown (Continued from Page 4)

experience just a bit of what it had been like to make that voyage. On the way back to the Visitor Center you find yourself inside the wooden stockade of the Settlement's colonial fort with wattle-and-daub structures and thatched roofs. Interpreters are engaged in a variety of activities typical of daily life during the 1610-1614 time period, such as agriculture, carpentry, blacksmithing and the preparation of meals. There are daily demonstrations of matchlock musket firing. We were impressed by the interpreters and guides in the Jamestown Settlement.

Historic Jamestown

Located a short distance from the Jamestown Settlement is Historic Jamestown, the original site of the 1607 James Fort. You can walk in the footsteps of Captain John Smith, Pocahontas, and the men and women who settled England's first permanent colony. The Visitor Center has exhibit galleries, an introductory theater presentation and a museum store. Once outside, take an archaeology walking tour. In the mid-90's archaeologists unearthed conclusive proof of the remains of James Fort. Digging has continued and is still going on. They have excavated more than one million artifacts from the site. Remnants of the early settlement are still visible, including the 17th century brick church tower. The Jamestown Memorial Church, statutes and monuments commemorate important personalities and events of Virginia's first capital. The Jamestown archaeology museum displays more than 1,500 artifacts from James Fort and tells the story of how the location was discovered and what their excavations have revealed about the settlements. Here is also where you can follow the story of a fourteen-year-old English girl named Jane" by the archaeologists who found her. Her remains were discovered in 2012 among other evidence of "the starving time" winter of 1609-1610. Analysis of her bones identified signs of survival cannibalism - the first forensic evidence of such in the American colonies.



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

JACKSONVILLE FL 320
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