ISSUE 56 VW-1 TRACKER MAY 2014

See What's on the Agenda

Monday, September 22

Our reunion agenda for Monday's is set in stone. Many come early and are put to work Monday a.m. in preparation for the official registration time beginning at 12 noon. We have what we call a "running buffet" which begins at 12 ('til 3) with sandwiches and such - then changes late afternoon to something hot and salad - ending at 6 p.m. It is "meet and greet" day. Everyone is catching up and seeing who is showing up and generally getting into the spirit of the reunion. We have a volunteer photographer and everyone is asked to have their picture taken for posting on the web site when Pete adds the Williamsburg reunion to the list of prior reunions.

Folks are free to come and go as they please. There is enough food to accommodate everyone so you can pick at the buffet at your leisure throughout the day. Sometimes groups choose to go out for dinner simply to have some time with special friends they haven't seen in some time. Once you register, your time is your own. The vast majority choose to stay in our meeting room until they are ready to go to their room, or until the hospitality room closes at 11 p.m.

For "first timers" there is often a question of what do I need to bring to wear. **ALL** of our events are informal, casual wear only. Be comfortable and be yourself. Our reunions are family affairs and most of our members bring their spouses with them; sometimes along with other family members who are interested in visiting the area. If you have some memorabilia you can bring to share, that is always appreciated. We will have a memorabilia table in the meeting room the entire time of the reunion and the guys enjoy sitting and poring through it in their leisure time.

As for any auction item you bring, it should stay in your room until Thursday afternoon and then brought down when you come to the business meeting at 4:30. It will be put on display so folks can take a look at the items for auction before the auction begins at 8 p.m.

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Tuesday, September 23

Jamestown Settlement

The first trip of the Williamsburg Reunion will be a short bus ride to the Jamestown Settlement, America's first permanent English settlement. Once you disembark, we will proceed to check in and be appointed a guide to do a tour of the outside settlement area. Guides are scheduled one per 25 persons in a group. They are state employees and not allowed to keep tips, so if you are really pleased with one, a personal thank you is all you can offer. The outside tour lasts just over an hour and includes a reproduction of an early village, an example of the Indian living quarters, a reproduction of one of the ship's that the Jamestown settlers arrived in – and which you can board. The walking is easy with no hills or difficult areas.

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-- News from Cyberspace & Mail Call --

Victor Zarich (2/8) Email Removed "I took a seven month Naval Reserve Mediterranean Recall in 1984 with the USS Inchon, LPH-12, home ported in Norfolk, VA. We arrived in Rota, Spain in mid-August, after 13 days at sea crossing the Atlantic. I had liberty ashore and went looking for the Acey-Deucy club on base. There was no Acey-Deucy Club! There was, however, a new E6 – E9 Club, which I could attend as a PO1. I thought to myself, even though I was not a Chief Petty Officer, at least I could be considered a Senior Enlisted Non-Commissioned Officer!"

Dave Keeton (2/14) Email Removed "I'm back! The past couple of years have been really mixed up, frantic, etc. Awhile back, Linnea, my wife of 40 years, passed away. In December 2010, while sitting in our home in Stockton, CA, ALONE, I was watching snowflakes blowing in off the distant mountains. At that time, I decided I did not want to live there any longer. I thought about warm places that I had visited in the past. The Philippines kept coming to mind. In April 2011 I visited Angeles City (outside of the old Clark US Air Force Base). Later I met some military retirees from Cavite City (Sangley Point) in Subic. When the military pulled out of the Philippines in 1991 all the restaurants, clubs, etc. catering to the military closed up. Same with Subic, although in Subic, there are a small number of clubs. Angeles City, on the other hand, has a large military retiree population. All four military organizations have active groups here: VVA (Vietnam Vets); AL (American Legion); VFW; and the FRA. My three week vacation in April, with extensions, turned into a three month stay. In July of 2011 I returned to CA to clean up my affairs. Three weeks later I returned to Angeles City to spend the remaining years of my life. Last year (2013) I applied for a Special Resident Retiree Visa and was accepted. No more normal visas or extensions. I can live here for as long as I want and enjoy the good life as a retiree. This April I will have been here for three years with no problems. Angeles is between a couple of mountains, not sea level, no problems with flooding or the typhoons that affect other portions of the Philippines. All VW-1 hands are welcome to communicate with me by either e-mail or US snail mail. We can discuss the old flight crews, questions on the Philippines, or whatever. My address is Address Removed Address Removed

George Dean (2/15) Email Removed "I was without power from Wednesday till this afternoon. Ice storm messed lots of things up. The power line was lying on my driveway with a big limb from a neighbor's tree holding it down. But I had heat, as I have gas logs in my fireplace, a gas heater near this machine and a gas heater in my enclosed sunroom. Luckily it wasn't frigid temps so I was able to maintain in the 60's, which was more than many could do. Have a gas grill, too, so I cooked there. The assisted living place where my wife is lost power and was without it for about 18 hours. Then they got a generator in. Finally got a 2nd, then a 3rd and this afternoon got regular power, but Comcast is still out so it's b-o-o-o-r-r-i-n-g just sitting around. Also snapped my cable/phone line. I figured I'd have to wait a day or two to get that part finished, but the power guys hooked that up for me while they were at it. Surprised me!"

Ralph Link (2/12) Email Removed "FYI, VW-1 is part of recorded history as of February 6, 2014. All hands can be extremely proud of their service in VW-1 being recognized in the Congressional Record of the United States Congress. We will have available at our reunion in Williamsburg copies of the official document for those in attendance and will try to make available copies for those who could not attend. We will cover the details on distribution in a later Newsletter. A big "atta boy" to Carl Vonasch for his suggestion at our reunion in Tucson. He got the ball rolling. I worked with Carl and Gregory Gulvas of Congressman Visclosky's staff in putting together the final draft."

(Continued on Page 4)

New Members

Wesley H. Durant, Jr. (Wes) **LT**
Address Removed 4/57 – 8/59
Berlin, Address Removed Phone Removed
Email Removed

1st LT Division Officer; flew with various crews. I joined VW-1 at Barbers Point in 1957. While out flying, the CO called a meeting of all single officers. As the only one missing, I was volunteered to go to Guam to rebuild the new squadron area. So I was the first VW-1 officer on Guam. I got a four month head start, which was how I became 1st LT Division Officer for the balance of my tour. What I learned from that position served me well during my lifetime. I also enjoyed navigation.

Rex Gray **ATR2**
Address Removed 5/68 – 11/70
Palmer, Address Removed Phone Removed
Email Removed

Flew all the time, tech operator. Remember Crew 3. 1 – 6 month TDY ChuLai and TDY Point Magu for PMR. Finished as enlisted CICO (Combat Info Control Officer)

Wayne M. Mikkola **AMS2**
Address Removed Address Removed 12/68 – 12/69
Ramsey, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Judy Email Removed

Flew as flight metalsmith on TE-5. My most memorable moment: Flew weather for return of Apollo (first manned moon landing) July 1969, from Johnston Atoll after spending ten days in Hawaii.

Shell Surgeon **AD3**
Address Removed 9/59 – 4/61
LaPine, Address Removed Phone Removed

Power Plants / Transport. Went to WV prep school at Barber's Point. Serviced engines and props. Transport: 2nd Mech., preflight, clean, loaded and unloaded cargo. Two months on attachment at Naha, Okinawa. Temp. assignment taking plane to Litchfield Park, AZ.

2013 Financial Report

Beginning Balance:	**$ 3,165.45**
Income:	
Dues	$ 3,800.00
Hats, Pins, Patches	1,192.00
Shirts	22.00
Donations	202.00
Reunion (Tucson)	16,327.00
Total:	$21,543.00
Balance	**$24,708.45**
Expenses:	
Postage	$ 390.24
Office Supplies	433.07
Hats, Pins, Patches	124.00
Shirts	22.00
Tracker (Printing & Postage)	1,280.58
Reunion (Tucson)	18,025.44
Reunion (Williamsburg)	828.98
Total:	$21,104.31
Balance 1/1/2014	**$ 3,604.14**

You're Invited

The VW-1 Vanguard Group is having their next reunion October 13 – 17th in Mobile, AL. Monday will be registration; Tuesday is a trip to Pensacola Naval Aviation Museum. Wed a.m. is Bellingrath Gardens and a tour of the city Antebellum homes or the Battleship Alabama. Thursday is an open day with a group dinner that evening.

The VW-1 Vanguard group is primarily comprised of those who served in the early 50's. This would be a great opportunity to get acquainted with fellow VW-1er's. If you are interested in attending, contact Dan Ragan, at Phone Removed or you can e-mail him at Email Removed

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 2)

Robert Ahbol (3/2) bob Email Removed "Our long RV trips come to a close, at least for now, so we won't need the Escapee's Mail Service. My cell number is Phone Removed home phone is Phone Removed The cell phone goes wherever I go, so it should be considered my primary number. Our address is Address Removed Address Removed Mission, Address Removed I've heard about the Madsen's being the Mission area but have not been able to find him in the phone book. If you send me his phone number I would enjoy calling him."

Al & Joanne Madsen (3/6) Snail Mail "Starting to think about going back north. Hope it warms up as they have had a bad winter – still are, in fact. Our new address beginning in April will be Address Removed SE, Menomonie, Address Removed

Frank Doty (3/2) Snail Mail "I regret to tell you Jackie and I will not be coming to the reunion in Williamsburg. Unfortunately, it conflicts with my 60th high school class reunion, which is on the same date. They are the only people I have known longer than you and my shipmates and this is possibly our last time together. I will miss you all and look forward to the next reunion, wherever it may be."

Shell Surgeon (4/15) "Members only VW-1 Tracker? It seems to me that this is what it is. As a new member I am opposed to any group desiring to join from outside the VW-1 family. Why cannot those wanting to produce their own association do so? They may have their reason for joining VW-1, but it is not going to preserve the special times we are known for. That is our goal, is it not? We are unique in that we are from one unit of one individual squadron, having its own set of historical events that excites us. If a group of people tied together by a special experience are invaded by those of another special experience, it is then diluted to less importance to those of the VW-1. I know something about those in VW-1. I proudly served there! I highly respect the brave service men and women who have served this wonderful America, but I do not have the same commonality as I do with those who served in VW-1. We must save the uniqueness of our experience with a very special USN Squadron, VW-1!"

Pete Wasmund (4/16) Email Removed "In some respects I agree with what Shell is saying. However, I do believe that VW-1's predecessor squadron members should be allowed to become members. VPW-1 (the 1948 version), VP-51 squadrons and the VX-4 and VC-11 det's were the parents and grandparents of VW-1 establishing the procedures that were later used or further developed by VW-1. VW-3 shared similar experiences with VW-1 .... except, of course, the Vietnam war. In my mind, excluding these squadrons would be like excluding grandparents, parents and a sister from a family function."

Bob Fuller (4/16) Email Removed "Norman Hemerick, E-4 Aircraft Mechanic – VW-1 June 1970 to April 1972 – passed away last December from prostrate cancer complications. His widow, Linda, is trying to substantiate that he was in country and therefore exposed to Agent Orange. She cannot find any orders or paperwork to prove such. I told her that she may only have to prove that he was on Guam, since Agent Orange was stored there. If any of you were in VW-1 during this time frame, please get back to me at my e-mail or at Phone Removed (cell). She needs our help and I hope we can provide some.

NOTE: Linda called me here in Florida and asked for help also. If you have any information or documentation that can be of help, she can be reached directly at Email Removed or at her home phone at Phone Removed With luck we can add Linda to our list of folks that have been helped by VW-1 ex-shipmates to get benefits they deserve.

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News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 4)

Bob (Floyd) Orsini (4/15) Email Removed "Looks like Pat will have to bow out again. We just have too many things to take care of – five dogs and now 30 chickens. Since we both are on a limited income we just couldn't afford it at this time. We also have two homes to maintain and it is just hard trying to find people to oversee things while we are both gone. She will be there in spirit. Hope everyone understands. I will be there. Wait until you see the quilt! See you in September."

Dan Ragan (4/28) Email Removed "We, like the VW-1 All Hands Association" are looking forward to our reunion this coming fall. I would like to invite any/all of your group that may wish to join us in Mobile, AL to "come on". All are welcome. Those who would like to share some camaraderie with us will need to contact me so I can get them a registration form. Your Association's membership roster has my contact information. We will be visiting the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, FL, along with other places.

NOTE: For any who may not know, Dan, a member of the VW-1 All Hands Alumni Assoc. is also the leader of the VW-1 Vanguard Association, a group formed primarily of the early 50's VW-1'ers. From reunion description he sent to be included in this newsletter, it appears the reunion will be in Mobile, AL the week of October 13th

Norbert Monohan (4/28) Email Removed "I am going to miss this years' reunion as I have a number of family and friends visiting those weeks and months. Have fun! I have a routine now and that is helping. I have caught up with all of the clean-up projects and have Linda's gear stored and/or distributed. So, life is going on....."

John & Susan Johnson (4/28) Email Removed "We moved in January to the North Georgia mountains. I (Susan) retired long before I wanted to because our house sold – in FOUR days! It was a blessing and a curse."

New E-Mails and/or Addresses:

Robert Deeds Email Removed
John L. Johnson Email Removed
William Kemp Email Removed
Gerald Short Email Removed Email Removed
John & Carole Sill Email Removed

Robert Ahbol Address Removed Mission, Address Removed
Cell: Phone Removed Land line: Phone Removed

John & Susan Johnson Address Removed Blairsville, Address Removed
Cell: Phone Removed Land line: Phone Removed

Richard (Dick) Lee Address Removed Lincoln, Address Removed
Phone Removed (Land) Phone Removed (Cell)

Al & Joanne Madsen Address Removed Avenue SE, Menomonie, Address Removed

Duncan Sprinkle Address Removed Gilroy, Address Removed Email Removed

See What's on the Agenda (Continued from Page 1)

Once the outside tour is complete you will have free time to spend inside where there is a 20 minute movie, a very well documented and well laid out Museum, and a gift store to explore. There is also a nice cafeteria and whenever you become hungry – or just need to sit down and rest awhile - you can purchase a lunch there anytime during our free time, which will run approximately 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. If something outside caught your eye and you didn't have enough time on the tour to see it to your satisfaction, you can go back outside and explore at your own pace.

The bus should be back at the hotel by 1:30 so you get a chance to freshen up, maybe take a nap. If you opt to dine with the group, the dinner is at 6 p.m. in the hospitality room, followed by entertainment by ***William the Conjurer***. This interesting individual will present a period magic show focusing on 18th century traditions and humor, with some history thrown in. The most unique item he may bring is a quillotine! There will be some audience participation and, hopefully, no one will lose their head. The show will last about 45 minutes.

There is a $ 40.00 pp charge for this event so you must sign up for it on the registration form. For any who do not wish to eat with the group, please leave the hospitality room by 6 p.m. to enable the caterer to get an accurate head count. Following the entertainment, the hospitality room will be open to all for beer & sea stories from 8 'til 11 p.m.

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Wednesday, September 24th

Naval Base Cruise, the Nauticus Museum and the Battleship Wisconsin in Norfolk, VA

The bus departs at 9:00 a.m. It is a longer ride than any of the other trips, but worth it.

These three combined venues are located in a limited area and allows for moderate walking. The group will go directly from the bus to board the Victory Rover for the 11 o'clock cruise. The cruise is about two hours. Upon boarding you will receive a bag lunch from Panera Bread Company. Note that the registration form has a selection of sandwiches from which you will choose when you register for this trip. Drinks, including beer, are available for purchase on the boat. Once the boat leaves port, there is a running dialogue on things which they pass, with some background history and interesting facts. The return trip is much faster with very little dialogue and would be the perfect time to enjoy your bag lunch, which also includes chips, a pickle and a cookie. The boat is a two-decker which provides better viewing from the covered top level and better protection from the weather on the lower level.

Once you return from the cruise you can enter the Museum and use the time before the bus departure at 3:00 to explore the museum and/or the battleship. Although the Battleship Wisconsin looks accessible from the front of the complex, entrance to it is actually from the second floor of the Museum through a walkway. Your ticket provides you full access to both the Museum and the Battleship so you can spend your time wherever you wish.

Note: There are two trips planned for Thursday and this is also golf day so choose accordingly

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See what's on the Agenda (Continued from Page 6)

Thursday, September 25

Yorktown Victory Center

The bus leaves the hotel at 9:00 a.m. for the two hour guided tour at the Victory Center in Yorktown. You will do the inside Gallery of the American Revolution and the historic role this area played in gaining our independence from England. Another gallery describes the decisive campaign of the Revolution in depth. The outside part of the tour includes recreations of a Continental Army encampment and a 1800's farm where costumed interpreters depict and discuss the daily life during and after the Revolution.

A 20 minute movie depicting this era is worth seeing. The bus will leave the Victory Center at 1:00 and have you back to the hotel by 2:00 p.m. Lunch is not provided for this trip.

Yorktown Schooner Cruise

There is one bus going to Yorktown so they will drop off those going to the Victory Center and then take you to the historic downtown, the area where the Tall Ships are docked. You will have about an hour to enjoy the historic area and see the authentic restoration. There are shops to visit and a short river walk area.

Then take a step back into history aboard one of the two Yorktown Tall Ships – the Alliance or the Serenity. This two-hour Schooner Cruise departs from the Yorktown River Walk Landing at 11:00 a.m. Once it is powered away from the dock and into the York River it proceeds under sail. The Cruise takes you past the Victory Monument and the Battlefield where our country won its independence. There is a running dialogue of the historical importance of the river and the area and its place in the Revolutionary War. The bus will pick you up at approximately 1:15 so you should be back at the hotel by 2 p.m.

Caution: The one negative about this trip is the bathroom facility on the schooner. It is necessary to climb down an iron rung ladder that is almost straight up and down into the lower gallery where there is tidal movement and little space. If you have mobility problems it would not be easy to do should you require the bathroom facility during the cruise.

Business Meeting @ 4:30 p.m. in the Reunion hospitality room

Please make every effort to attend this meeting. We held over an issue from the Tucson reunion which will address exactly if and/or how you want to define the membership qualifications for the VW-1 All Hands Association in the future. There has been some contact from other VW squadrons and Willy Victor outfits as to whether they could join our group. We need to make a decision on how we want our Association to evolve and your participation is essential.

Buffet Dinner @ 6 p.m. in the Reunion hospitality room

Auction @ 8:00 p.m. If you have brought an item for the auction, please bring it to the hospitality room when you come to the business meeting at 4:30. Tables will be available for display so members can look and see the items that will be auctioned off.

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See what's on the Agenda (Continued from Page 7)

Friday, September 26 8:00 a.m. to 11 p.m.

The meeting room will be open for people to pick up their memorabilia and to say their goodbyes until the next reunion in the spring of 2016 – wherever that may be.

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Between now and September think about where you would like to see the VW-1 All Hands Alumni hold their 2016 reunion. Since we have one every 18 months, the time frame after Williamsburg will be the spring of 2016. Although not in stone, we have encouraged the group to alternate their selections from East Coast to Central to West Coast areas so that all members have a chance of having a reunion closer to their specific area. So the spring of 2016 would more likely be Central – or perhaps West – but not on the East Coast for awhile.

If you have a place in mind, do some research and bring it to the reunion so you can present it to the group and explain what attractions would be available and why you think it would be the best place for the group to go.

Planning to Attend the Williamsburg, VA Reunion?

Register Now



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



