ISSUE 6 VW-1 TRACKER JULY 2001

AIR AND SPACE HISTORY AWAITS

If you haven't been to the Pensacola National Museum of Naval Aviation, then you are in for a very special treat. The VW-1 Association will be spending the day there next May 1. It is one of the largest and most beautiful air and space museums in the world. There are over 130 restored aircraft representing Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard aviation. These historic and one-of-a-kind aircraft are displayed both inside the Museum's 291,000 square feet of exhibit space and outside on the Museum's 37 acre grounds. Our group will have a special tour of the flight line aircraft and the building where the aircraft restoration is done. We are negotiating to get as much time as possible for this special tour.

The Museum also tells the human side of Naval Aviation and features memorabilia from each era of flight including personal mementos from historic battles, flight logs, vintage equipment and flight clothing. Somewhere in there is the VW-1 patch as we donated one to them on our return trip from San Antonio last year. It would be a real challenge to find considering the hundreds of patches displayed.

The West Wing is devoted almost exclusively to World War II carrier aviation and showcases a full-size replica of USS Cabot's aircraft carrier island and flight deck.

The IMAX theatre film "The Magic of Flight" captures the thrill of flying. You can experience a take-off in an F-18 fighter jet and land on an aircraft carrier at over 150 miles per hour. Another "must see" is the Cubi Bar Café - an exact replica of the famous Plaque Bar of the Naval Air Station Cubi Point in the Philippines.



For those of us who have been to the Pensacola Museum, we are more than eager to go back as it is always an unique adventure. For those of you who have never been there, you truly have a rare treat in store because of the grandeur and magnitude of this tribute to Naval Aviation.

New Members

Hall, Lonnie **AE3**
Address Removed
Cheney, Address Removed
3/67 – 9/68 Phone Removed

Lonnie reported to VW-1 as an AA, straight out of Boot Camp and was assigned to the AE shop as Striker. In April '68 he made AE3 and was assigned Calendar Inspection Crew. He noted that "VW-1 was one of the best duty stations in my Naval career".



Thanks to Suzanne & Vaughn Callison ..... in Lake Forest, CA. for sending a picture. Vaugh was an AX in VW-1 from 5/65 to 4/67. He told us that his nickname was "Cal" or (God forbid) "Bingo". He is now a case management counselor at the San Clemente Drug Center. Hope to see their smiling faces next year about this time at our reunion in Pensacola.

Lange, Lewis **AE2**
Address Removed
7/68 – fall '71 Phone Removed
Wife: Nancy

Went to Flight Engineer training shortly after arriving and flew with different crews for two years; then to Check Crew for the last year. Made rate in late '71 to AE1. Wife Nancy and our new daughter arrived in Guam in Dec. of '68. Comment: "Flying in the storms is the best training going for being able to drink coffee from an open cup in a car."
E-mail: Email Removed

Peterson, Robert E. (Bob) **AE-3**
Address Removed Address Removed
Maple Lake, Address Removed Phone Removed
7/60 – 7/62 Wife: Letitia (Tish)

Flight Electrician with Crew 4 and 6. After VW-1, went to VP-9 and VP-19; then Com-10 To OASU at Pax River and Com 15 Panama. Retired in 1975. Email Removed

Rice, John **AMS-3**
Address Removed Oklahoma City, Address Removed
6 /61 – 10/62 (1st) Phone Removed
11/65 – 1/68 (2nd) Wife: JoAnn

Flight Crew Metalsmith on TE-2 and TE-6, first tour: Then as AMC2, AC Flight Crew Metalsmith on TE-4 (2nd tour). The last 18 months I was Crew Chief on TE-4, the promotion based on the recommendations from John Houdek and LCDR Bates, Pilot of TE-4.
E-mail: John Email Removed

Rogers, Richard **ADR2**
Address Removed Starke, Address Removed
1960 – Oct. 1962 Phone Removed
Wife: Kaletyo

Worked on Check Crew before becoming the Crew Chief on TE-4. Advance to ADR-1 shortly before transferring to NAS China Lake, CA.
E-Mail: Email Removed

Getting to Know You .....
John & Kaneko Houdek



John Houdek joined the Navy in July of 1952 at Washington DC. After some initial time on flight decks, he was assigned to the O2N2 generating plant where he made liquid oxygen and nitrogen; yet was still rash enough to reenlist for a two year tour of duty in Japan. It was a wise choice, however, for there he met and married Kaneko (1958).

Returning to the U.S., he tried the civilian way of life. After 14 months it was back to the Navy and he began to get into the "good stuff" as he was assigned to VW-13 in Pax River, MD. The family increased in size when son Robert was born. John made E-6 and went to AD "B": School in Memphis.

From there it was VW-1 in Agana as a Crew Chief on TE-4. John stated : "It was the best duty I had in the Navy."

While there he put on the Chief's insignia. Kaneko was working in The Office Restaurant in Agana. From that exalted duty station he was transferred to NAS Lakehurst, NJ ... "the worst duty". But it did have a positive side for there a second son, James, was born. John terminated his shore duty to return to NAS Agana where he was Power Plants Divison Chief. During this period, Kaneko worked at the Crows Nest Restaurant. John's next assignment was the Naval Air Rework Facility (NARF) in San Diego. As an E-8, he was assigned the duties of Flight Test Line Chief, Acting Division Officer and Command Master Chief when an E-9 was transferred and not replaced.

John retired from NARF in June of 1980, kicked back for ten months and then went to work for the Postal Service; while Kaneko worked at The Golden Dragon Restaurant in San Diego. Both The Houdek's retired in June of 1997. Since then They have done extensive traveling in the US and Taken four cruises. Now they are relaxing at their home in Chula Vista, CA; enjoying the grandkids and looking forward to the '02 VW-1 reunion.

Combat Air Museum - KS

Couresy of George Dean

In the mag for ANA "Wings of Gold", there is an article about the Combat Air Museum at Forbes Field in Topeka, KS and I quote: "We have in our collection, and are restoring a U.S. Navy F9F-5 Panther (BuNo126226). Records indicate –VF-51." The museum has roughly 95- 99% of the aircraft, Including the engine.

This is just one of the features of the museum. Other Navy aircraft include the SNB-5, Stearman N2S-5, C-47 Skytrain, F3D Skyknight, TA-4J Skyhawk, F11F-1 Tiger, US2A Tracker, Lockheed EC-121T Constellation, F4D Phantom II, T-28 Trojan, CH-53A Sea Stallion and other aircraft and missiles from other services.

As you can see, this is no small potatoes operation. If you are in the Kansas area, especially around Topeka, drop in and look 'em over. I haven't, but I have some friends who have been extremely impressed and they're ex-Air Farce (sic).

So, Connie guys, there's one to LOOK AT and APPRECIATE!

- - - - - - - - VW-1 News from

George & Christine Dean: (4/13/01) "Maybe most of you know that (then Cdr. Barton – ex-crew 5 Good Guy) has been writing. Wrote a book on Howard Hughes & the Spruce Goose. Really good. Lee Thompson loaned me his copy some time ago and it was a great read. Then it seemed unavailable, out of print. I recently found it in paperback. Got a copy and the catalogue. If anyone wants the info, I'll be happy to send it. Also got a book on the Connie. Some real good pictures & info, though just skimming gives a preponderance of the attention to TWA and the Air Farce (sic). Does have TE-6 in there, on the deck at Atsugi, though it lists Barbers Point as home base. The picture is later then '56, which is when they moved to Duva."

Randy Mossness, AECS Retired: (Not a member, but package has been sent). 5/22/01 "Was in VW-1 for a short tour (66-67) time frame. Was on Crew 8 with JJ Reddy, Leo Wynn, Sugar (don't remember first name), LCdr. Chenowith, Carl Sanger, JC Wells, Bob Krall, and Mo Morris. Also lost track of Ted Maki, an ADR-2 on Crew 6, last known in Jax in early '80's. Appreciate any help you can give." E-mail: Email Removed

Jim Carlstead: (5/6/01) "My e-mail address is now Email Removed I am getting a cable modem hookup but don't know when I will be able to operate that so please stay with the juno address. My wife has alzheimers disease and I don't know when I will be able to make another reunion but please keep sending updates and news. Someone called me awhile back and I was rushed and didn't get his name. I would like to get in touch with anyone interested and apologize for the poor manners I displayed."

Ken & Helen Cotton: (5/26/01) "We haven't forgotten your request about Laughlin, NV. They'll be holding our 50th year class reunion there in October so should be able to get information then." (Note: Request was to check out possible reunion sites for Reunion #4 near the West Coast.)

LeRoy White: (4/10/01) "Your note came while I was visiting June today. I think her comment was "They are nice people and I don't even know them." She seemed to be feeling pretty good today. She stayed up for ice cream and a sing along. X-rays didn't show a problem from her fall last week. I do like the new logo."

Jim & Caroline Geiger (5/01) "Thank you both for keeping this association "alive". I know it takes a lot of your time. We plan to be in Pensacola in 2002."

Mike & Mary Jane Baldwin: (5/01) "We are doing pretty good now. I (MaryJane) have had my 6th back surgery. I had a total spinal blockage. I had 12 hours of surgery on Jan. 11th. Thanks to wonderful doctors I can now walk again and a wonderful husband cared for me after ten days in the hospital. Can now drive, so can be independent again."

Norman Tokle: (5/29/01) "Keep up the good work. I enjoy the newsletters. The new VW-1 logo looks great".

Cyberspace - - - - - - - - - - -

John & JoAnn Rice: (5/01) ...."I will echo your statement regarding VW-1 as a fine tour of duty. That experience, along with VP-31 COMNAVAIRPAC C-121J assignment and my employment at the Seattle based Boeing company provided me with the technical training, experience and tools needed to gain my present position as the FAA National Resource Specialist over Airworthiness issues relating to civil aircraft certification. I like to say I am now in my 44th year enjoying my aviation hobby."

Ray & Sue Keighley: (4/1/01) "Received the VW-1 newsletter yesterday and were so pleased to see the pictures and be reminded of the wonderful time we had in San Antonio. We took some pretty good pictures also, but just haven't gotten around to sending them to you or the other persons in our pictures. Will try to get them sent soon."

Les & Carol Dodge: (5/13/01) "Les has finished radiation, but we aren't sure how much more chemo he has to endure. He has a good day and a bad day, so our plans are never definite. Yesterday he was able to handle a picnic in the country and really enjoyed it. Today he is cooking Mother's Day dinner but gets a little short on breath."

Gary & Gay Oulman: (5/20/01) "Sorry we could not stop and see you on our recent trip to Florida. Mom had a stroke and we had to head to Iowa. Her spirit is really tough, and she tries hard to do her therapy. We have not found anyone wanting to live out in the tullies and buy our house. So if not by winter, Gary says we will go to Plan B. I'm not quite sure what that is yet. His doctor's appointment went as he expected. They cannot improve on his arm, so he will just have to live with it as is. The nerve is permanently damaged. It certainly is not a severe thing, so he can accept that."

Lewis & Nancy Lange: (3/21/01) " Nancy and I got to Guam in mid and late 1968. I got there first because we were waiting on the first baby to be born. I went to FE training almost right away, after passing my NATOPS with Dale Gladden. I was on a couple of different crews. Ray Keighley, Bill Kemp and Rick Hall were the first FE's I was with. For my third year in VW-1, I was the lead AE in the check crew and then to Barber's Pt. for one year; then to Memphis in the ADCOP program, and spent nearly the rest of my career in tailhooks. Retired in '88 – Sept. 30th, my birthday – a nice gift to me. Currently a correctional officer in Florida. I love this computer stuff." E-mail: Email Removed

Cruz & Grace Martinz (5/01) " Did you get the flag I sent?" (Yes we did, and thank you). " I should know the new member, Lonnie Hall, as I had the AE shop then. I will have to drop him a line for a picture."

Victor & Charlotte Zarish. (5/01) "With these Twin Cities, MN area code changes for Your computer and VW-1 listing. Darold Borrowman in Burnsville is now a (952); Donn Sjolander in Edina is now a (952)."

(We love the way that our members take care of each other!!)

— TAPS —

Don Lee

"I am sorry to inform you of Don's death from congestive heart failure on Dec. 28, 2000. He was so pleased to have been associated with VW-1 and was happy to have joined the Association. He would have liked to attend the reunions, but his health did not permit. The new logo is wonderful. I wish you continued success."

Betty Lee

Ron Brelsford

"It is my sad duty to tell you that my dear Ron died of metastatic lung cancer (which went to his bones) on March 22nd. He was a special person and a credit to the US Navy and all the groups he served with. He was a true gentleman."

Jean Brelsford

W.J. Mueller (Bill)

"I just received information that Bill died in January (2001). Bill Jr. called this morning in reply to my letter, sent to renew contact. He did not elaborate, so I don't know the circumstances. Ruth and June exchanged cards every year for a long time. Bill and Ruth operated a Muskie Fishing Guide business on The Lake of The Ozarks for a number of years. I remember him in Guam as being in operations as F/E and as former CPO, LDO and possibly LCDR. He was not a member of VW-1 Association as far as I know but I have Ruth's address if anyone would like to have it.

LeRoy White

Friday, May 3rd

Battleship USS Alabama

The USS Alabama, at the Battleship Memorial Park in Mobile, AL will be included in the Pensacola Reunion as an "optional" trip. The USS Alabama was the recipient of nine WWII Battle Stars, and saw action in the Atlantic for a year before joining the Pacific Fleet in mid-'43. After signing the war-ending surrender documents in September, 1945, the "Mighty A" led the American fleet into Tokyo Bay.

Battleship Park also includes a submarine, the USS Drum., the B-52 Stratofortress "Calamity Jane"; and the A-12 Blackbird spyplane, to name just a few attractions.

If you haven't seen this historic site, you may want to include it on your itinerary. It is well worth both the time and money.

Service to the Nation

Reprinted from the Minneapolis Star-Tribune - 5/24/01
Courtesy of Mike & MaryJane Baldwin

Now that the EP-3 crew has been returned to us by the Chinese, little interest will remain in the topic over the weeks to come. But let me remind those old enough and educate those not old enough of the VQ-1 Squadron's loss (same squadron as the EP-3 that landed on Hainan Island) of an EC-121 with 31 servicemen on board.

On April 15, 1969, an EC-121 was shot down by the North Koreans over the Sea of Japan. This aircraft was essentially performing the same mission as the crew on April 1 over the South China Sea.

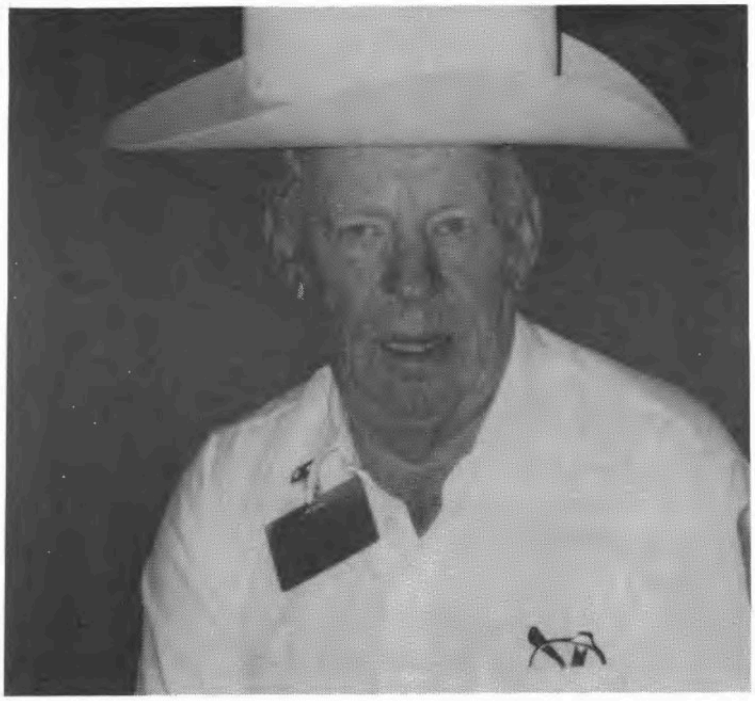
My point is to remind the citizens of this wonderful and free country that it remains that way at a great cost – even during so-called peaceful times. I flew as a crew member on the EC-121s (we called them "Willy Victors" in the Navy because of the Navy's designation, WV-2) in the early '60's, during the Cold War. Little attention has been given to those peacekeeping missions that were in place to enhance our nation's security.

For those who are interested in this subject, the story of the shootdown of the EC-121 by the North Koreans and much more information can be found on the "Willy Victor" page:

http://www.willyvictor.com

Thousands of former crew members and veterans would appreciate more folks taking note of and educating themselves about this little-known service they gave to the nation.

- Wes Mortensen, Chaska





QUESTION OF THE MONTH ....
"DOES THE MAN MAKE THE HAT OR DOES THE HAT MAKE THE MAN?"
The question takes on significant importance when considering the two pictures above. "Moon" Mullen (AGCS – '69 – '72) and Lee Thompson (AE – '64 – '66) With their individual, uinique hat-wearing pizzazz the answer is left up to you!

(Pictures courtesy of Mack & Judy Stotts)

Plant a Seed .....
And a Tree Will Grow (Or an Idea Bloom?)

Is it possible there are some VW-1'ers out there who share our passions? For Ed, it is fishing – for Sally, gambling. That being the case, we are giving some thought to extending our trip to include some time in Biloxi immediately following the reunion – May 4th & 5th (Saturday & Sunday}. Our thoughts are that we could drive over to Biloxi after checking out of Pensacola, find a good Show to attend on Saturday evening; then Sunday Ed & Company could take a fishing trip out into the Gulf of Mexico and Sally and Company could do the Casino Tour. By Monday morning we may be able to tear ourselves away from this fantasyland and head for home.

The reunion is running Tuesday through Friday and definitely will NOT include any trip to Biloxi, since this is a very individual addiction not enjoyed by all. If any of you folks with an similar interest in Biloxi would like to receive information once we have researched it, let us know. We are looking at hotel rooms; show tickets; and Deep Sea Charter costs.

It is always hard to say our good-byes when a reunion ends and the idea of getting a little extra time in with some of our favorite people certainly appeals to us.

We are planning a trip to Pensacola/Biloxi the first part of August and should be able to get a general idea of pricing at that time. We already know that Saturday nights are the most expensive, but if we have a "pool" of folks we might be able to get a better deal.

Think about it!!

VW-1 Ship's Store



BALL CAPS

with Scrambled Eggs

$ 9.00 Each

Navy Blue
Mesh or Solid Back
(Specifiy Style)
Embroidered in Gold

Add $ 3.50 for Postage **$ 7.00** Each



SQUADRON PATCHES



1948 – 1952
Duck with Lightning



1953 – 1971
Winged Horse w/Warrior
(Specify which Patch)

$ 5.00 Each
(Add $ .50 for Postage)

LAPEL / HAT PINS

NEW: B-17 Pins – Also Connie Pins,
Aircrew Wings, and U.S. Navy Retired Pins
(Add $ .50 for Postage) **$ 3.00** Each

Order through Email Removed or call Phone Removed
or send order to our mailing address.
If you are ordering a hat, please disregard the postage requirement on any patches and pins you order as they can be put in the same box.



VW-1 Association
c/o Ed & Sally Metzger
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