VW-1 All Hands Alumni Association



In this issue

03 **Edition Online**

04 **News From Cyberspace & Mail**

06 **Branson Update**

08 **Branson - Things to do**

12 **VA Update**

The SCUTTLEBUTT from your PRESIDENT

Greetings Shipmates,

We're getting closer to when our VW1 All Hands family will be celebrating another reunion in Branson, Missouri. I hope all of you have your reservation booked at the Clarion Hotel. Jane and I along with Pete Wasmund, Chuck and Sandra Lange were visiting Branson two weeks ago. Pete and I were checking on golf courses for our reunion this coming April. It seams all courses in Branson are hilly but, we have settled on the least challenging of the hilly courses.

We will be playing Holiday Hills Golf Club. Pete and I agreed that our participants will enjoy our choice.

Since returning from our Branson trip, I have made golf arrangements with their Head Golf Professional for tee times and fees. Green fees and cart are $55 each with a 9:00 am start on Thursday April 25th, 2019. If we have enough players, fees may be dropped to $45 each, so let's get your reservation in ASAP after Sally sends out the registration forms.

While in Branson we paid a visit to the Clarion and an old friend, Joe Acuna. Joe who you remember was the former Marine who took excellent care of us the past two Branson Reunions and made a CD recording of pictures of those attending the reunion set to music. A great friend who we will honor with a presentation.

I received a letter from Jim Galinsky today inquiring of a shirt and hat order. Jim informed me he is having medical difficulty with a previous knee replacement which developed an infection. Those who know Jim or served with him, keep him in your thoughts and prayers. I'm sure he would like to hear from fellow shipmates.

Chaplain Tom "Andy" Dunn had hip replacement surgery and treatment for prostate cancer. Andy said he is doing well with both. We need to lift Andy and his wife Joyce up with our prayers.

Gary and Gay Oulman are recovering from health issues, Gary has bladder cancer which he reported has not advanced since his treatment and will be checked again in January. Gay has completed procedures on her leg vein circulation problems and is doing well. Gary and Gay thanks all for their continued thoughts and prayers.

Did you ever wonder what happened to people you met during your VW1 service on Guam? I often think about what happened to five young Marines. This story goes back to Thanksgiving 1965 when several neighbors helped Jane and I celebrate Thanksgiving Day with five Marines.

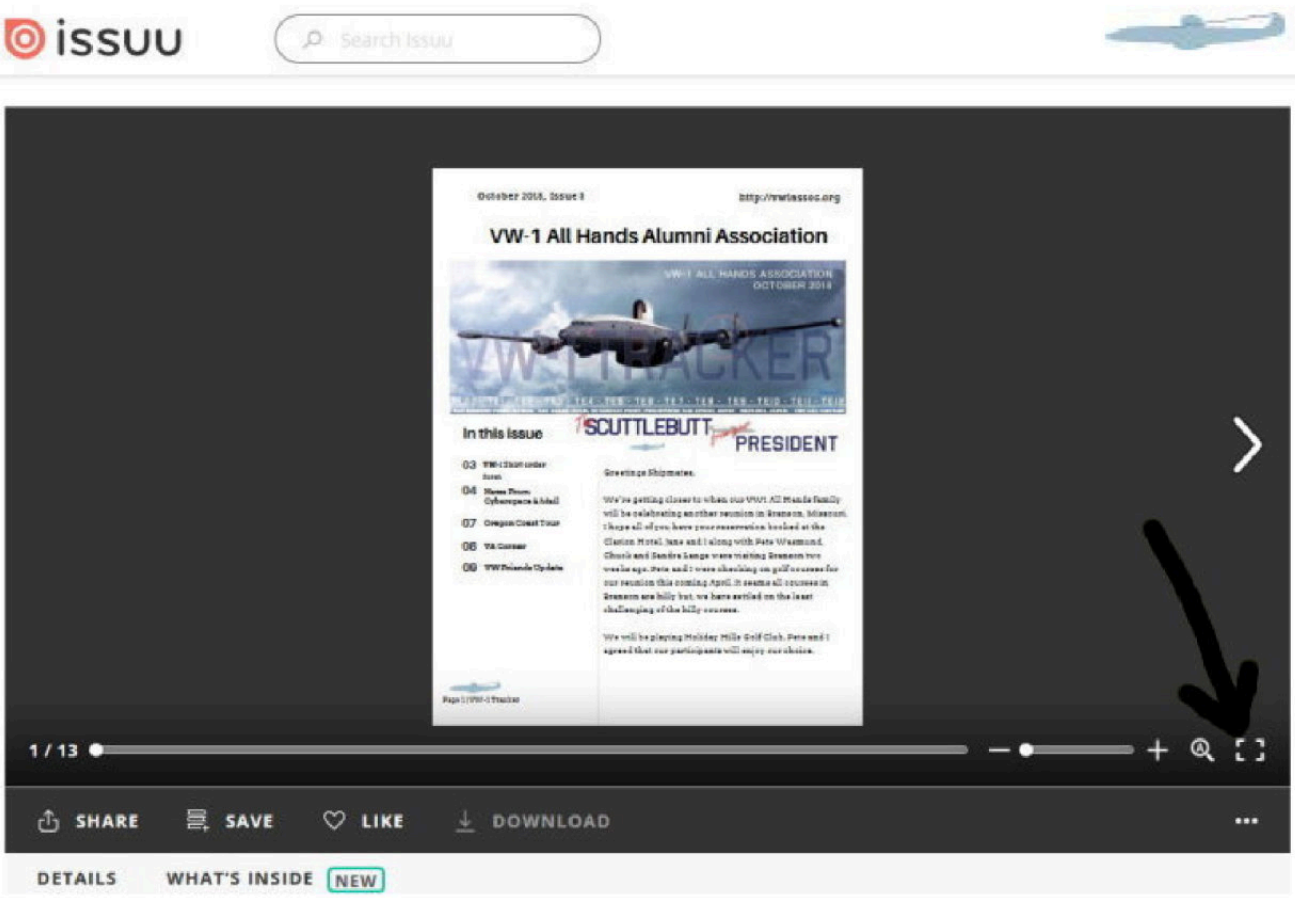
They were patients from the Naval Hospital recovering from wounds they received in Vietnam. Regrettably I didn't write down their names, I only remember they were 18 or 19 years old scheduled to go back to Vietnam as soon as their wounds healed.

We had a wonderful time with great food and drinking beer during the afternoon. We all knew these young men were serving in the toughest duty of that terrible war. Are their names etched on that black granite wall in Washington D.C. or did they miraculously survive and go home to their families? God Bless our active service men and our veterans!

Ralph

Newsletter now online

Read Now



Click on square box on lower right hand size to enlarge publication

NEW FROM CYBERSPACE AND MAIL CALL

George Dean (7/27) Email Removed "Coming out of a restaurant last evening, wearing a Typhoon Tracker hat, a guy asked me, 'when were you in VW-1?' I told him 'Two tours, 63 – 65 and 70-72, till it folded'. He said 'I was there 66 – 68 as an ADR and we operated out of Chu Lai, than I went VP, did 30 years and retired as an E9'. Then his wife requested they join their group as they were being seated. I didn't ask his name, where he lived, or if he was a member of the organization or had viewed the web site. There was quite a noisy crowd, so I left. Thought about going back and trying to discuss more, but decided not to. Possibly a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity, too. Wish I'd had a card so I could tell him to call me. RATS!!!!"

Cruz & Grace Martinez (7/27) Email Removed "We're doing okay here. It is just that we have gotten to an age where we don't feel like traveling long distances and don't want to fly. I guess we'll drop out of the VW-1 organization. I'm sorry, but age has definitely caught up with us. My mother passed away Dec. 2016 so we won't be traveling to Kansas any time soon. Thank you for your friendship and we have enjoyed the reunions we have attended, but I guess it's time to quit. Blessings to all."

Scott Bates (7/27) Email Removed "As much as it pains me to do it, I will need to let my membership drop. Finances have failed me and I am not able to continue. I completely dislike this as I have felt a strong kinship with those of my Dad's association with VW-1. God be with you and all the other Typhoon Trackers. I will always care for all of you."

Mike & Brenda Yates (7/27) Email Removed "I thoroughly enjoy getting informa- tion about the squadron activities. Hope to attend the rendezvous coming up. Unfortunately, we have three horses, 19 chickens, 5 bee hives, and 2 dogs on ten acres to take care of. But we will certainly try."

NEW FROM CYBERSPACE AND MAIL CALL

Pat O'Donnell (7/27) Email Removed "Things have been hectic here so far this year. During a storm last November a tree fell on my garage and did considerable damage to the house as well. Repairs were just completed. Thank God for insurance! The book 'From Guam and Beyond" brought back many memories. Great read! Need more enlisted men's stories. I was in Atssugi when the trail dragger incident happened with Crew 7."

Buster & Cathy Tipton (8/16) Email Removed "I'm sorry we have not kept in touch. We both read the Tracker and admire all the work put into this organization. We miss being with you guys. The past four years our health has deteriorated and we've been unable to attend, so we are dropping out of the Association. We miss everyone. Thank all who have made the Association such a success. Wishing all many years of good health and happiness."

Duncan & Patti Sprinkle (9/27) New Address:

Address Removed Twain Harte,a Address Removed /

Email Removed

Gary & Gay Oulman (10/2) Phone call: There seems to be some confusion about the Oulman's home address. It is Address Removed Lakeland, Address Removed

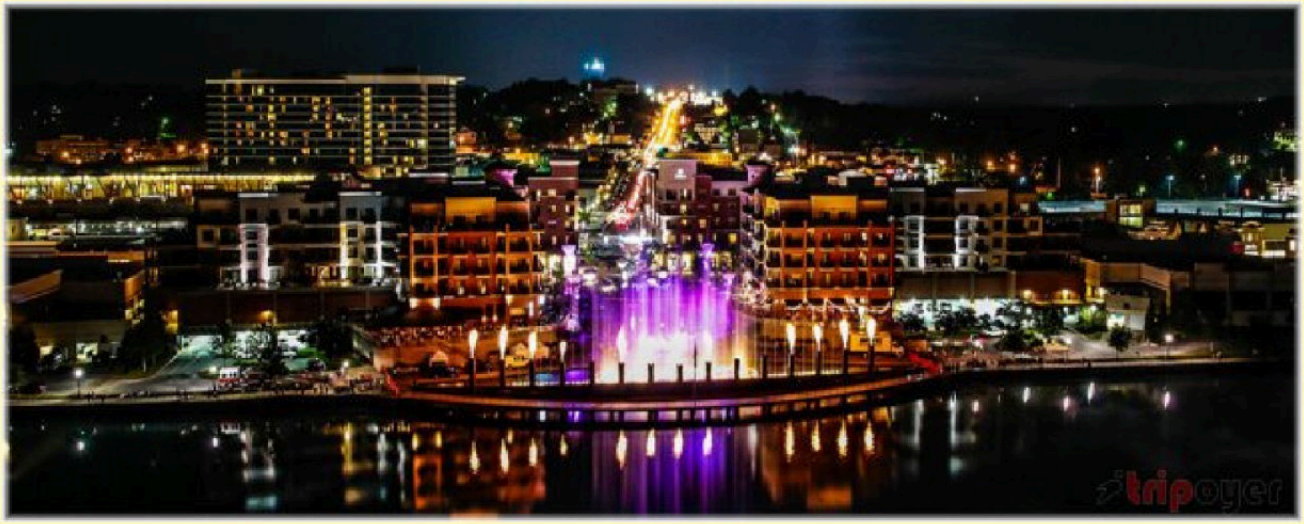


July 2018 - Old Habits Die Hard - Bill Schumacher & L.J. Hill @ Fargo, ND Air Show

Branson, Missouri

April 23-28, 2019

Preliminary Agenda



Tentative Itinerary for Branson

The latest reservations report from the hotel is sparse and I know many who plan to come are not yet on that list. I encourage you to do so asap so as to get the room configuration of your choice. In order to attend all events, you need April 23 (Tuesday) through a departure date of April 28th (Sunday). Call the Clarion at 417-334-7666 and tell them you are with the VW-1 All Hands Alumni group for the $ 69.00 per night (single or double) rate, including breakfast Wednesday through Sunday. I realize that at our advanced (?) age it is a gamble to commit too far ahead, but you can always cancel, so why not go for it! Since this will be my last reunion serving as “reunion planner”, I (selfishly) want to go out in a “blaze of glory”.

Tuesday, April 23.
Registration 12 to 6 pm. Running buffet lunch 12:30 to 4:00 / Dinner buffet 4:30 to 7 p.m. .Short business meeting for last minute details, etc.at 6 p.m. Free evening

Wednesday, April 24th
9:30 a.m. Bus: Shepherd of the Hills "Homestead Tour (tram, not walking) with history guide and tower view opportunity. Prox. 2 hours. (10 to 12 noon)

Guest of their own for lunch and/or dinner today

7 p.m.: Million Dollar Quartet Evening Show (8 pm show Wednesday)

Thursday, April 25

Golfer's Day (Arranged by President Ralph Scott - Prox. eight persons involved)

Two trips on same day at prox. same time: About 9 a.m. start / back to hotel by 1 o'clock /
(1) Fish Hatchery (2) Titanic
4 – 5:30 p.m. Business Meeting / Evening free (May plan in room activity)

Friday, April 26

11:00 a.m Lunch cruise: .Showboat Cruise with show (12 - 4 pm) / Evening Free

Saturday, April 27

Sight and Sound Samson Show at 11:30

Dinner at 6 P.M. w/Auction and missing man ceremony

BRANSON REUNION DATES

Get Onboard For April 23- 28, 2019 Branson



CLARION HOTEL

Reserve Your Room

800-725-2236 417-334-7666.
https://clarionhotelbranson.com/

Shepherd of the Hills Historic Homestead Tour



This activity was requested by several VW-1 members as it is one of the few things our group has not yet done in Branson. We will be taking the two hour tram tour with a guide to explore the history of life in the late 1800's. We will visit Old Matt's Cabin featuring many items of interest and a period church that was relocated from Morgan County. We will conclude with a trip in a glass elevator to the top of the tower, affording us a comprehensive view of the entire Branson area and the beautiful scenery surrounding us..

Million Dollar Quartet



This is one "rocking" show, bringing back our era of music. It is based on the electrifying true story of the famed recording session on 12/4/56 when Sam Phillips, the "Father of Rock" brought together Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins. It was the only time in their careers they were united in an impromptu session that has come to be known as the greatest rock jam session of all times. With this combination of talent you will hear not only rock, but gospel, R & B and country hits. The music actually permeates the theater!

Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery



This will not be for everyone, I'm sure, but I was surprised at how much I did enjoy it. This is the largest trout-rearing facility – both rainbow and brown - operated by the Missouri Department of Conservation. The hatchery produces between 350,000 and 400,000 pounds of trout each year, 80 percent of which goes into Lake Taneycomo, which is directly behind the nearby dam. There is an interesting conservation center on site where the public can learn about trout, aquatic life, and information on aquatic resource management. And, yes, you can feed the fish!
Thanks go to Bob (Floyd) Orsini who was the first of three to make this recommendation.

Titanic Museum Tour



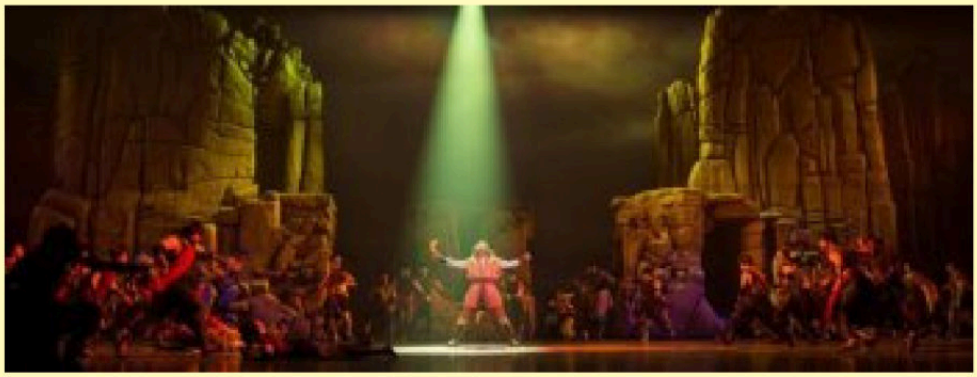
This is another of those "tours" I didn't take for years of traveling to Branson because it seemed uninteresting. Once again I was surprised. A neat trick they do is to give you a passenger's name when you "board" – then at the end you can find out if you were a survivor or not. I was intrigued with the amount of time and effort they took to display and educate on the actual construction and mechanical workings of the Titanic. I suspect the actual sized models of the engines might be very interesting to many of you sea-going fellows. It is a walk-through interactive experience that includes authentic artifacts, news coverage at the time, and the opportunity to dip a finger in 28 degree water and touch a real growing iceberg.

Showboat Branson Belle Table Rock Lake Cruise



This one is a “do-over” but it is a great way to spend an afternoon. We will have lunch and see a show while aboard, as well as having time to enjoy the beautiful scenery during an extended intermission between dining and the show. The show’s change on a regular basis so it is impossible to tell at this point exactly what we will be seeing next April. Years ago I went to a Dad, Mom and children family show in Branson. They all played a variety of instruments, sang, etc. The Father told the audience the family had lived in California and where he had been a foot doctor …. actually he didn’t say “foot” but I can’t remember the name of the specialty … CRS syndrome. Their family’s hobby was music and they entered a competition for musicians - first prize being the entertainment on the Branson Belle for a short period. They won the contest and came to Branson for that reason. They never left …. getting booked in a local theater as the regular show. They declared they did not want to raise their children anywhere else! I thought it was a neat story … the American Opportunity kind. An interesting bit of information about the “Queen of the Ozarks” …. she was launched on August 13, 1994 using two tons of bananas as lubricant. She took nine seconds to slide into the water traveling at 14 mph during the launch – faster than she’’ll ever travel on water! The time of year ought to provide us with great weather.

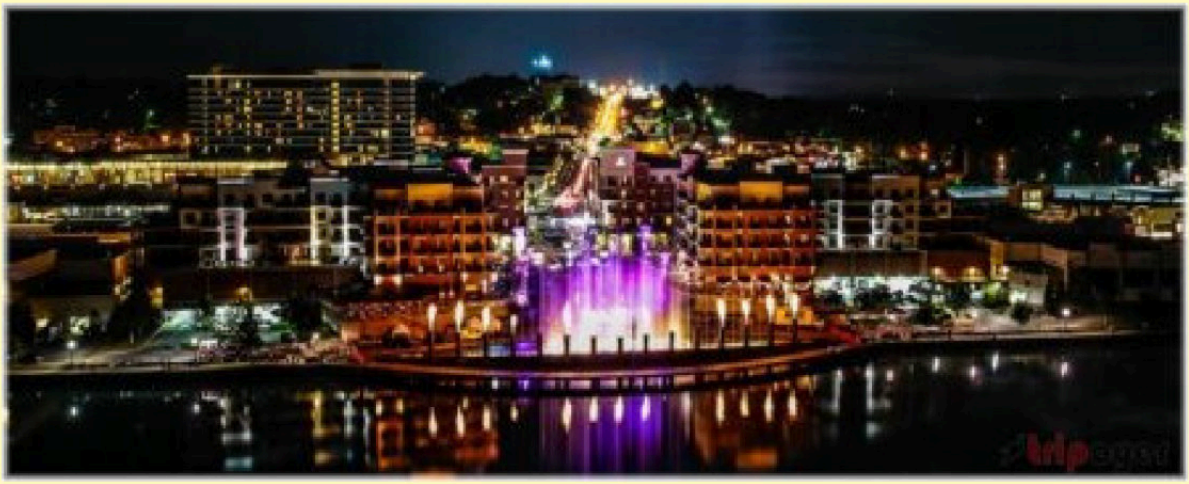
SAMSON @Sight & Sound Theater



Last time around it was Moses, this time it will be Samson. This is such a remarkable, unique theater that I just could not resist booking our group once again. Given the size and scope of the theater, the special effects alone keep bringing me back.

SAMSON @Sight & Sound Theater 'cont

For those of you who may not have been last time, the theater expertly combines original music and script with unforgettable acting, special effects, vibrant costuming and live animals. In Moses I was intrigued to see how they separated the waters … in Jonah I thrilled with the whale swimming around above my head … with Samson I want to see how he manages to wrestle with the lion. An absolute must see!



Make Your Reservations Today!

BRANSON REUNION DATES

Get Onboard For April 23- 28, 2019 Branson

AIR BORNE EARLY WARNING VW-1 SQUADRON ONE REUNION

CLARION HOTEL

Reserve Your Room

800-725-2236 417-334-7666.
https://clarionhotelbranson.com/

VW-1 All Hands Shirt Order Form



Legend: (Style) MB=Mens Blue, MG=Mens Gold, WB=Womens Blue, WG=Womens Gold
(Logo) TRK=Tracker, VW1=Pegasas

Name on Shirt	Years Served	Style	Size	Qty	LOGO	Cost

Sub Total	
9% Tax	
Shipping	
Total Cost	

Shirt Cost= $40 per shirt Sml up to XL + $2 for XXL +$4 XXXL

Shipping = $5 per shirt

Make check out to Ralph Link

Mail to:

Ralph Link

Address Removed

Address Removed



CLICK TO PRINT

VA Corner

Latest VA news

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



Beyond disability compensation, health care and home loans, VA offers pensions to qualifying wartime Veterans and their families to help them deal with financial difficulties. This is a needs-based, tax-free, monetary benefit.

Qualifying Veterans must have limited or no income, be 65 or older or have a permanent and total non-service-connected disability. Veterans who are housebound or require the aid of another person to perform daily activities may qualify for an increased pension rate.

Filing a Fully Developed Claim is the fastest way to receive a decision.

Here are typical steps:

1. Select the type of pension claim and gather the evidence it requires.
2. Collect military medical and other records.
3. Gather any private medical records.
4. Certify there is no more evidence.
5. Submit your application.

Visit Explore.VA.gov to see if you or a loved one qualifies for pension benefits or click below to learn more about all VA benefits.

Explore VA Benefits