VW-1 All Hands Alumni Association



The SCUTTLEBUTT from your PRESIDENT

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Greetings Shipmates,

The 2019 Reunion is history but many great memories will remain. One memory that stands out was the absence of Sally, our rock, co-founder and the lady with all the right answers. I personally and profoundly missed her council and foresight. She has assured me she will be in Rapid City in 2020!

Attendance was around 74 with several new members and several members attending for the first time. All of us came together to contribute to the success of our 2019 Reunion. Several members went above and beyond, Andy and Joyce Dunn provided all of the snacks, Pete Wasmund, Gay Oulman and Judy Stotts kept us supplied with soda. Jack Gergal stepped up again as auctioneer. Countless others pitched in to do whatever to add to our success. A big THANKYOU to all!!

The Grand Plaza Hotel served us very well with few glitches. The staff was very attentive and very supportive for our successful reunion. Well-done Sally for getting a Hotel rescheduled and booked with very little if any disruption to our original reunion date.

The 2020 Reunion location was voted on and Rapid City, South Dakota won out by one vote over Pensacola, Florida. Vice-President Scott Wagner gave a very good run down of the area attractions and activities. Scott will be the Planner and will be forwarding recommendations to me and the other board members for hotel and activities. The 2020 Reunion will take place in the August-September time frame.

Election of officers was held and results are as follows, Ralph Link - President, Scott Wagner - Vice-President, Bob O'Reilly - Secretary, Barbara Chapin - Treasure and Mike Webber volunteered for Ship Stores. Positions that did not change, Chaplain - Andy Dunn, Newsletter – Bob Stephenson, Web Master - Pete Wasmund.

I'm sending Bob a group photo of most of the attendees to put in the newsletter.

Fare Winds and Following Seas,

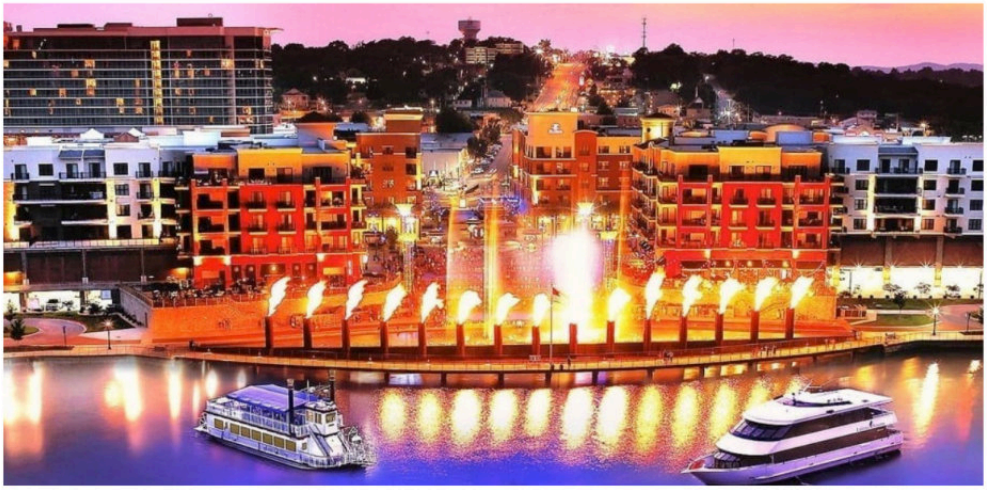
Ralph

Had a Blast In Branson!



Branson Belle


VW-1 ALL HANDS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
BRANSON, MISSOURI - APRIL 27, 2019



Branson Reunion Notes from the Minutes
April 23 - 28

Chaplain, Andy Dunn, reported on deceased members since the last reunion:
Eric Hanberg, deceased 04/20/17, VW1 1968 - 1970
Frederice Standish, deceased 06/04/17, VW1 1963 - 1966, 1970 - 1972
Bob 'Gump' Cumpright, deceased 08/03/17
Jim Tandy, deceased 08/18/17, VW1 1965 - 1967
David Gamber, deceased 10/17/17, VW1 1963 - 1964
James Galinsky, deceased 10/20/17, VWi 1968 - 1971
Jim Geiger, deceased 09/17/17, VW1 1967 - 1968
Donald 'Don' Martin, deceased 09/20/17, VW1 1969 - 1971
Dean Marchione, deceased 12/14/17, VW1 1963 - 1965
Richard Kirschman, deceased 11/06/18, VW1 1956 - 1959
John Chitwood deceased 04/04/19

Andy has also sent over 30 cards to either sick or deceased family members. Please notify him if you know of any sick or deceased family members. He loves to send cards and the people love to receive them.

Discussion regarding next reunion location. Should they be held West Coast, Central and then East Coast? It was determined that any city, regardless of location, could be voted on - majority rules. The nominated cities for Fall 2020 were: Minneapolis, Minnesota - Pensacola, Florida - Reno, Nevada - San Diego, California - Laughlin, Nevada - Tucson, Arizona - Rapid City, South Dakota. The winner was Rapid City, South Dakota. The event planner for the 2020 reunion is Scott Wagner.

Branson Reunion Photos



Registration, Ralph Link and Charles Lange



Welcome to the reunion, Jack Gergal unloading the car



Hurricane Tracker Hackers: Bob O'Reilly, Ralph Link, Carl Vonasch



Hurricane Tracker Hackers: Dan Morton, Pete Wasmund, Guest, Jack Gergal



Bob O'Reilly is telling a real whopper to Gay and Gary Oulman



A few words of wisdom by Tom Hoover



Judy Stotts just loves Elvis



Len Bailey brought the flight suit



and it fit too!



Joanne Madsen wanted the book
'From Guam and Beyond'



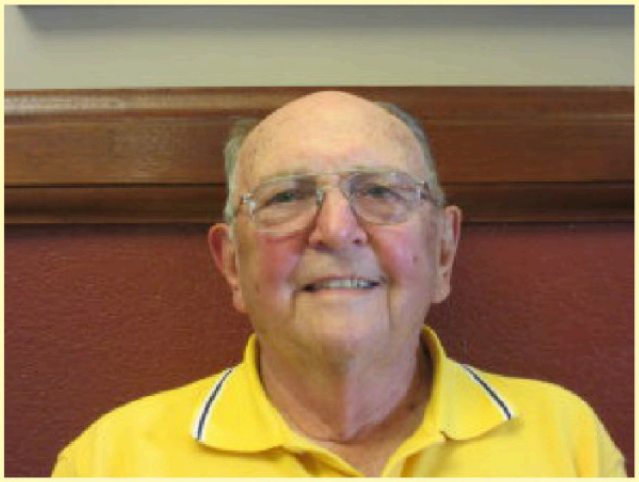
Sandra Lange gets a big bear hug from Pete Wasmund -
it's time to say goodbye



Farewell - Ralph Links packing up as Gary Oulman supervises



Election of Officers:



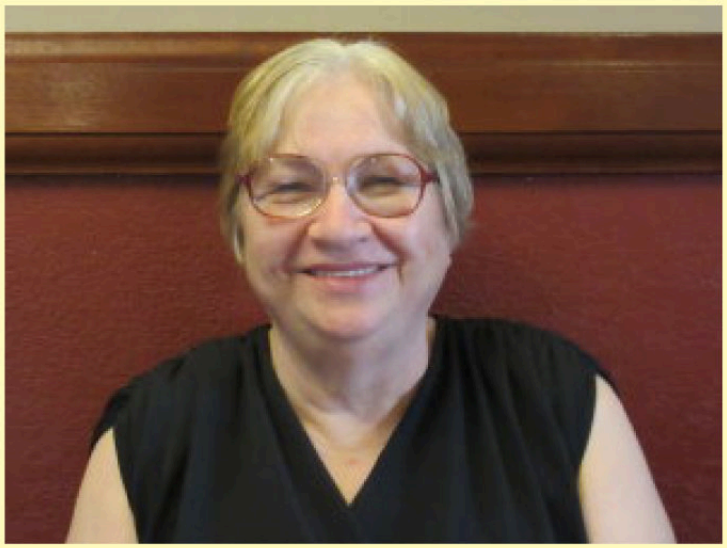
Ralph Link, President



Scott Wagner, VP



Bob O'Reilly, Secy



Barbara Chapin, Treas



Andy Dunn, Chaplain

Committee Chairmen



Pete Wasmund, WebMasterd



Tracker: Bob Stephenson



Ship Stores: Mike Weber

Branson Reunion – April 23 - 28, 2019

Financial Report

INCOME

Member Payments (75)	$ 13,073.00	
Auction	1,806.00	
Ship's Store (Hats, pins, patches)	221.00	
		$ 15,100.00

EXPENSES

Grand Plaza Catering / four meals		5,479.21
Gathering Plus		
Homestead Tram Tour / 51	$ 1,843.60	
Showboat Cruise / 52	3,972.80	
Samson / 42	3,097.20	
Transportation Charge	176.25	
Hotel Set-up	200.00	
		9,289.85
Beer & Soft Drinks	200.00	
Busdriver Tips	150.00	

Refunds to Members:

Million Dollar Show Cancellations (29)	1,450.00
Doty, Frank cancellation	467.00
Chitwood, John cancellation	222.00
Stinson, Jim cancellation	292.00
Chapin, Phillip	240.00
	2,671.00
	$ 17,790.06

NOTE: $ 2,690.06 Deficit paid from General Fund

2019 Financial Report as of 5/13/19

Beginning Balance January 1, 2019 $ 7599.28

INCOME (1/1/19 thru 5/13/19

:

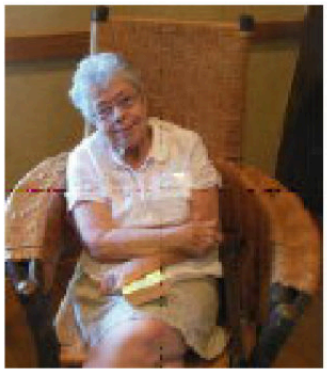
Reunion		$ 13,073.00
Auction		1,806.00
Ships Store (Hats,Pins,Patchs)		
Reunion	221.00	
Non-Reunion	25.00	
Dues		1,920.00

Donations	32.00	
		17,077.00
		$ 24,676.28

EXPENSES:

Reunion	$ 15,119.06	
Reunion Refunds	2,671.00	
Office Supplies	17.80	
Tracker Postage	30.00	
Regular Postage	148.05	
		17,985.91
Current Balance (5/13/19)		$ 6,690.37

End of an Era by Sally Metzger



It seemed very strange to know there was a reunion going on and that I was not there! In my heart and mind it has always been "my guys" and "my group". I knew all would be well because we are a "can do" and "make it happen" sort of people. It sounded to me – in hearing about it – that everyone pitched in and contributed in whatever way was needed. I expected nothing less and am delighted that everyone I've spoken with had a good time.

It was twenty years ago –January of 1999 – when Ed and I placed a few ads in military publications and made a few phone calls and proposed a VW-1 Reunion group. Having gone to a Navy reunion for a different squadron, we had agreed that we would like to go to one for VW-1. Mac Stotts was the first individual to fill out a membership form and send us a check…. Thank you, Mac. We did not have any concept of what we were getting ourselves into; but it was one of the best decisions we ever made. The last week of October in 1999 we held our first reunion in Branson, MO. It was for three nights only and we had 30 people pre-register and another six showed up at the door. How wonderful it was to sit in a room filled with old and new Navy friends and listen to the stories! For 12 years Ed and I worked it together and when he passed on in 2012 you allowed me the privilege of continuing to be a large part of the VW-1 All Hands Alumni Association.

Our largest reunion was again in Branson in October of 2011 –132 attendees with another 12 individuals canceling. Our membership had grown to over 350 and we required two buses to get us to activities. We knew when we started that we were terminal, considering the squadron folded in 1971. There were 76 attendees in 2019! Considering the many health issues that plague many of our members, I'm amazed that we are still getting the participation that we are! I'm excited about Rapid City as our next location. Scott Wagner will do a great job of organizing it, I'm sure.

I'm looking forward to sitting on my duff and enjoying conversation with my VW-1 friends. God willing Winston and I will be able to attend and my heart will cooperate. I'm been assured that it is not as good as new, but estimated to be good for about fifteen more years, so that just might get me to Rapid City!

It is with mixed feelings that I have reached the decision to step down from the positions I have held all these years. There are two facts I cannot ignore. First, the VW-1 All Hands group was a labor of love for both Ed and I. Once he was gone, it never was quite the same to do it alone. There was a bitter-sweetness to the events and a hollowness that hounded me during each reunion. Secondly, it is not as easy to keep all the balls in the air and feel assured in my mind that all if going to work out well when the reunions are unfolding. Maybe that is "age related"??

Just remember that I love you all and feel truly blessed to have been an integral part of the Association these past twenty years. THANK YOU! Hope to see you in South Dakota!

NEW FROM CYBERSPACE AND MAIL CALL

New Addresses

Dan Ragan

Address Removed Address Removed

Dallas, Address Removed

email unchanged: Email Removed

New Members

Larry L. Fillhard, Address Removed Escondido, Address Removed
Wife: Kiyoko Phone Removed / Email Removed
Did two tours: 1959 - 1961 & 1963 - 1966. Rank/Rate: TD1
Job: Operating and Maintenance of Flight Simulator

Wayne C. M. Sponic

Address Removed

Millersburg, Address Removed

Home: Phone Removed

Cell: Phone Removed

1959-1961
Job: former VW-1 (Engine Build UP Electrician) and VW-3 (PM-6 Flight Crew) on the fabulous C-121 Super Connie's as an AE-3 Aircraft Electrician at NAS Agana, Guam