



VP-68 Hawk's Nest

Volume No. 22

VP68 Alumni Association

September 2006

2006 Fall Muster - 14 OCT 2006

The date is set. Mark your calendars, Saturday, 14 Oct 06, we will once again be holding our annual Fall Muster at the Sports Page Club located on Andrews AFB in Washington, DC. The doors will open at 1600. Pizza will be served at about 1700 followed by a general business meeting and officer elections at 1800.

For all current members there will be NO CHARGE. Guests and all others will be \$5.00 per person for pizza and non-alcoholic beverages. Alcoholic beverages are purchase only.

2006 Elections

In accordance with our by-laws, at the general business meeting we will conduct elections for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. These positions are 2-year terms beginning from 01JAN07 to 31DEC09. If you would like to run for office, or nominate somebody for office we must have this in writing. Please submit all nominations to Dick Fickling by 02OCT06 at p3css1@aol.com. If you nominate somebody, we must have a letter from them accepting the nomination and stating that they are willing to fulfill the obligations of that office for the two year term.

Crew News / Alumni News

VP-68 Fly-In

On Sunday morning, 09JUL06, VP-68 sponsored a fly-in at the Butler County, PA Airport (BTP) north of Pittsburgh, PA. The event was hosted by Jim Rozycki and the attendees were Rex Lake and Elsie & nephew, also John & Judy LeNard, Jacque & Chris LaValle. The gang enjoyed a great breakfast buffet in the "Runway Restaurant" dining room overlooking the airport and was topped off with a birthday celebration for Jacque. As always, great food, lots of laughs and the time "flew" by way too fast.

Here the Maryland detachment prepares to fly back home



Local Reunions

The VP-68 Alumni Association strongly encourages that it's membership keep in touch and get together regularly locally to keep the bonds of friendship and brotherhood strong and alive.



Pictured above are (front) Dale Schuman and Pat Moreitti and (rear) George "Doc" Durity and Darlene Hines who along with their "better halves" met at the Fleet Reserve Association in Goose Creek, SC. It had been many years since they had seen each other and wearing the VP-68 ball cap helped them identify each other and for the next few hours the food, drink and sea-stories flowed. They brought VP-68 photo albums and promised to keep in touch.

Command Master Chief Charlie Brown

CAPT Bob Smith submitted this update to us on our good friend and shipmate Charlie Brown:

Dear Blackhawk's,

I just got off the phone with Charlie Brown and his wife Opal. The conversation was short, but sweet. I'm not sure that Charlie remembered me, unfortunately, but I sure remember him so well. The first time that I met Charlie was just before our first Summer Cruise to Bermuda in the early 70s. After arriving in Bermuda, I needed to conduct some business with the Command Master Chief and found him---Charlie Brown---on the third deck of the run down Bermuda enlisted barracks, wearing nothing but a pair of shorts on a hot summer day, painting the walls of the place right along side several E-3s recently assigned to VP-68. To describe Charlie as a "hands-on administrator" would be a gross understatement. So today, I started the phone call to Charlie by asking, "would you help me with the painting of the enlisted barracks in Bermuda this afternoon"? I soon figured out that Charlie was not sure what I wanted or who I was, but quickly answered that he "would be happy to help". That's what you call a "can do" man.

I spoke a while with Opal and she told me that they have been living in Ft. Myers for about 15 years; that Charlie's medical problems started about 6 years ago; that Charlie takes a few medicines to ward off further effects of diabetes. Opal hasn't

lost a step and was very talkative. Charlie seemed cheery as always. I'm sure he would love to hear from other Black-hawks.
All the best, Bob Smith

Charlie Brown
19591 Oak Forrest Drive
Ft. Myers, FL 33912-6210
(941) 267-3186

Navy Humor:

Thanks goes out to Rex Lake for providing some Navy humor:
“Admiral One-Ear”

A young Naval Officer was in a bad car accident, but due to the heroics of the hospital staff his only permanent injury was the loss of an ear. Since he wasn't physically impaired, he remained in the military and eventually became an Admiral who was sensitive about his appearance. One day the Admiral was interviewing three Master Chiefs for the Command Master Chief position. The first Master Chief was a Surface Navy type and it was a great interview. At the end of the interview the Admiral asked him, “Do you notice anything different about me?” The Master Chief answered, “Why yes. I couldn't help but notice that you are missing your starboard ear so I need to know whether this impacts your hearing on that side.” The Admiral got very angry at his lack of tact and threw him out of his office. The next candidate, a Submarine Master Chief, when asked this same question answered, “Well yes sir, you seem to be short one ear.” The Admiral threw him out also. The third interview was with an Aviation Service Master Chief. He was articulate, extremely sharp and seemed to know more than the other two Master Chiefs put together. The Admiral wanted this guy, but went ahead with the same question, “Do you notice anything different about me?” To his surprise, the Aviation Service Master Chief said, “Yes Sir. You wear contact lenses.” The Admiral was impressed and thought to himself, what an incredibly tactful Master Chief. “And how do you know that?” the Admiral asked. The Aviation Service Master Chief replied, “Well, it's pretty hard to wear glasses with only one ear!!”

Membership:

It is fast approaching the time to renew your membership if you are an annual member, ***check the mail label and if there is an “M-05” next to your name***, your dues are due soon! Failure to renew means you could be dropped from our roster, lose membership rights and no longer receive this newsletter. Please take a moment and mail your check to the association. Make checks payable to **VP-68 Alumni Association** and send it to:

VP-68 Alumni Association
2414 Rolling Farms Road
Glenshaw, PA 15116

Consider converting to a Life Membership and never have to write another check, annual dues are \$10, Life Memberships are \$100 unless you are over 75 and then it is only \$25.

“Smokin”

Carrie Blazek had a very unpleasant experience this year and almost lost her house in the process. She had her roommate's nephew from Iowa staying with them while looking for a job in the area. He was a smoker and Carrie had a strict non-smoking policy in the house. In fact, there was even a no-butts-anywhere policy!!! She was on skiing vacation in Aspen, CO when she received the phone call “Josh set the house on fire!”. Not being able to print the next few sentences she spoke, we pick up the story with the explanation. He normally smokes outside on the concrete patio. But this one time he smoked on her deck outside her “Florida” room and some ashes fell through to the dry leaves below. When he was finished he went back inside. Well, the leaves caught fire, which caught the deck on fire which caught the “Florida room on fire. There was no fire inside the house but the heat melted the blinds and singed the drapes but filled the rest of the house with smoke. If you know about smoke damage there is much work and restoration involved.

Carrie and crew had to move out and have all contents removed and sent out to be cleaned. They thought they would be back in the house in a few weeks...that was 19 weeks ago!!! Between the contractor and the insurance company the nightmare was only beginning. The insurance company was the biggest snag...lots of dialog and promises between the adjustors and the corporation...not lots resolved. Advice from Carrie is document and backup every piece of correspondence, phone calls, dates, times etc., etc. etc.. The latest goal for moving back in is Labor Day weekend. Come to the Fall Muster and over a few beers Carrie can elaborate this all.

2006 Spring Fling:

On Saturday, 06 May 06, the Blackhawks held their annual “Spring Fling” at the NAS Pax River beach house on base. The weather was terrific and the gang enjoyed some great fel-



lowship along with fantastic picnic food. Every year somebody surprises us with something extra for the troops to eat. A good time was had by all. We waited too late to take the photo but caught a good bunch before they left. Plan now not to miss the picnic in May 07. The sea-stories get better and the more new folks that attend the more new stories will surface (names & dates changed to protect the innocent!!!!)

Official News:

Retired I.D. & TriCare: by Jim Rozycki

It crept up on me sooooo much faster than I anticipated it would, but I turned 60 and very easily started to collect my long awaited Navy retirement. I went to the local military processing facility and with my old ID card and my SSN walked away with my new & shiney "Gray" ID card. Who is that old man's picture that replaced the one on my Pink card? Then the 'ole retired Army E-7 serving me asked me (actually drilled me!!!) why I hadn't signed up for Tri-Care yet? One example is that I will be paying the same for a whole year under Tri-Care as I am now paying monthly under Blue Cross!!!! And....my doctor is already participating!!!! After giving me tons of info and some personal experience with the system I walked out of there armed with all I needed and decided to share it with the few of you who haven't reached that age yet. Anyway, here is some sources of contacts that he gave to me:

Phone numbers:

- 1-877-TRICARE TRICARE
- 1-800-538-9552 DEERS Eligibility
- 1-888-647-6676 Military Medical Support Office
- 1-888-DOD-CARE TRICARE Information Service
- 1-866-DOD-TMOP TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy
- 1-866-DOD-TRRX TRICARE Retail Pharmacy
- 1-888-838-8737 Delta Dental
- 1-866-773-0404 TRICARE for Life

Internet:

- healthnetfederalservices.com Health Net Federal Services
- mytricare.com PGBA Website
- tricare4u.com TRICARE for Life

Snail-Mail:

Claims Mailing Address:

Tricare Claims
PO Box 870140
Surfside Beach, SC 29587-9740

Enrollment Mailing Address:

HNFS Enrollment
PO Box 870143
Surfside Beach, SC 29587-9743

TRICARE for Life Claims:

WPS TRICARE for Life
PO Box 7890
Madison, WI 53707-7890

IMPORTANT: If you have a change in your status, or change in address, be sure to update your records in DEERS (Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System).

Update addresses electronically:

Tricare.osd.mil/remote TRICARE Prime Remote

Fax address changes to:

1-831-655-8317

Call Mon to Fri 6am to 3pm PST (except federal holidays)

1-800-655-8317

You may also visit a uniformed services personnel office. The nearest one can be located at: www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl

The gentleman at the process center and the woman at TRICARE here in Pittsburgh were extremely helpful (and patient with my ignorance of the system). If you are approaching age 60, or over 60 and haven't contacted TRICARE, now is the time to do it. Good Luck!!

Change of Address ????

Please get in touch with me if you move or change e-mail addresses, it is the only way we can keep track of you. Send your updated information to: wright_kathleen@bah.com or 4773 W. Braddock Road, Apt 204, Alexandria, VA 22311

Newsletter Input:

If you have a notable event, milestone or any other information that you wish to share with your former squadronmates please forward by snail mail to: 4773 W. Braddock Road, Apt 204, Alexandria, VA 22311 or by e-mail to:
Kathy Wright - wright_kathleen@bah.com
Rex Lake - rex_lake@prodigy.net
Lew Johnson - ljohnson1@cablespeed.com

Calling All Blackhawks:

The Membership Committee, headed up by Dick Perkins, is still searching for former Blackhawks who are not yet members of our Alumni Association. If you know of anybody please forward their names and contact info to Dick via e-mail at vp68co@yahoo.com Membership applications may be downloaded from our Website www.vp68.org

**HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE
FALL MUSTER
14 OCT 06 • 1600
SPORTS PAGE CLUB
ANDREWS AFB**

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Glenshaw, PA 15116

