



VP-68 Hawk's Nest



Volume No. 28

VP-68 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

July 2008



We Are 10 Years Old!!!

(by Jim Rozycki)

The VP-68 Alumni Association is 10 years old this year. We were officially incorporated in the State of Maryland in 1998. Happy Birthday to us!!!!

Our first meeting & picnic was held on 15AUG98 at the Coral Sea Room on NAF Andrews with about 30 attendees. We adopted our By-Laws, elected our first slate of officers and started forming committees.

Volume No. 1 of the Hawk's Nest was published in FEB99 as a one page newsletter. We were looking forward to the VP-68 30-year reunion and now the 40-year reunion is just down the road a bit. We have grown from a few die-hard Blackhawk's with no treasury to a very stable and sound veteran's group.

As one of the co-founders, I am extremely proud of our organization and the spirit of camaraderie that prevails today. Having served in VP-68 from 1971 to 1991 when I retired, I made so many friends and shared so many adventures and that association with all of you influenced my life in such a positive way and always will.

But, VP-68 is gone and is no longer producing new Blackhawk's. Our membership is decreasing each year and the sad thing about that thought is that there are still a lot of former Blackhawk's out there that don't even know about our Alumni Association and the fun we have.

Each one of us should try to get just get one former Blackhawk to join. Please take some time and call that former crew or department or shop mate.

Have them visit our website and have them join NOW!!!!

www.vp68.org

2008 Spring Fling

The annual VP-68 Alumni Association "Spring Fling" picnic was held on Saturday, 26APR08 at the NAS Patuxent River Beach House.

We had over 50 Blackhawk's and guests attend and even Mother Nature attend this year and the weather was fantastic. Shown above are some of the gang. Just look at that clear blue sky and view of the bay!!! If you weren't there.....you missed a great time.

Every year we see some new faces and this year was no exception. Jack Baker came up from Florida, Ron Stevens and William (Merle) DeLancy also came.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

2008 Fall Deployment

The VP-68 Alumni Association "Fall Deployment" will occur on 03-04-05OCT08 at the Naval Recreation Center, Solomons,MD.

More on this fantastic event later in this issue but first.....

WARNING:

You must be registered no later than 05SEP08 to attend this event. Absolutely no walk-ins for the dinner.

Please fill out the registration form on the last page of this issue and mail it along with your payment to assure your spot for this fun-filled gathering of Blackhawk's.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 & 11)

Alumni Association Elections

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

"SPRING FLING" from page 1

Lots of good food was to be had and our hats off to Jacques LaValle and his staff of volunteers for a job well done. Here Jacques does some QA/QC on the grill.



As our By-Laws require, a business meeting was conducted. Reports were given by the Secretary and Treasurer and were voted on and accepted. The details of the Fall Deployment were discussed by Joe Odenthal with notices to be published in this newsletter and on our web-site.....www.vp68.org

After we shut down the picnic, a bunch of folks reconvened over to the "Captain's Table" restaurant on the boardwalk in Solomon's Island for a great meal, lots of laughs and of course...more sea-stories.



We all hated to end the evening...so we didn't!!!! Finally the kind restaurant folks begged us to depart so they could go home! Here die-hard Blackhawks (l-r) Mike Gerred, Vince "AP" Apostolico, Carrie Blazek, Rex Lake, Jacques LaValle and Kevin Dillon make a statement that once again we soared with the eagles and hooted with the owls!!

Doc's Adventure Home

George "Doc" Durity, his wife Barb and son Jeff drove up from Walterboro, SC to attend the Spring Fling as they always do!! They had a great time at the picnic...as they always do!! They enjoyed the food, friends and laughter...as they always do!! They even all wore their custom yellow VP-68 T-shirts...as they always do!!

Doc tells the rest of the story of what "THEY NEVER DO!!!"....

We left PAX about 5:00PM on Saturday to head back to South Carolina. Just about 9:00PM, just inside the NC state line we had a blow-out on the right front tire and it shredded it to bits. I put on the donut spare and drove 2-1/2 hours at about 45 mph with the emergency flashers on. We finally found a T/A truck stop to get a new tire but they don't sell car/van tires. They suggested I go to the local Wal-Mart about 15 miles away and buy one, bring it back and they would mount it as the Wal-Mart auto shop had closed at 7:00PM. By the time we got back to the T/A truck stop it was 12:39AM Sunday morning, now only one mechanic was on duty changing tires on 3 big rigs and 1 with air conditioning problems ahead of us. Two hours and \$35 later we got back on the road and arrived home at 7:30AM Sunday morning. Having gone 24 hours without sleep I went to bed immediately because.....I was really "tired"!!!!



July 2008 Fly-In

On Sunday morning, 13JUL08, the Blackhawks held their 2008 Fly-In at the Chesterfield County Airport located on the southwest side of Richmond, VA. The two aircrews were Jacques & Chris LaValle, and John LeNard with Dave Borggren



driving in from Suffolk, VA. Rex Lake and John Carr got "thunderstormed-in" and were unable to fly down from Fairmont, WV. The gang ate at the King's Korner Bar-B-Que and Ribs Buffet. As usual, lots of laughs were to be had and of course a few sea-stories were told. As they all put it ever so cleverly...they were just "plane" having fun!!!!

Navy Humor

"Chief, I have reviewed this case very carefully," the divorce court judge said, "and I've decided to give your wife \$775 a week." "That's very fair, your honor," the Chief said. "And every now and then I'll try to send her a few bucks myself."

30 Year Project

(by George & Nancy Frey)

Most hobbies take time, money and patience but this one wins the prize. Pictured below is the fruit of 30 years of all the above and more. This beautifully restored T-34, number 672 is now completed and only has 5 hours of flying time at this writing.



George caught the flying bug as a helo gunner in Viet Nam. After his discharge from the Marines, he pursued his pilot's license in 1966 and soon affiliated with the T-34 Association in Rockville, IL. In 1976 he bought the fuselage and that began the long journey to today. An interesting fact is that George received his check flight in T-34 #662 at Pax River given to him by VP-68 pilot Cdr. Rich Little. The stencil on the front canopy reads "CDR G.M.FREY, USN RET" and the rear canopy reads "YNC N.E.FREY, USN RET CREW CHIEF".

Over the years, George searched the country high and low for the many parts needed for this bird. Every rivet, hose and instrument had to be found, bought and shipped. Currently residing at Rostraver Airport in PA, "672" will soon relocated to its new home in Chambersburg, VA near George and Nancy.



Editor's Note: George is still recuperating from back surgery and we wish him a speedy recovery. He and Nancy can't wait to start their flying adventures with "672" so look for them at future VP-68 Alumni Association Fly-Ins. And finally, this is proof that "patience pays off."

VP-68 Ship's Store

We have a variety of VP-68 items for sale such as:

VP-68 Ball Cap	P-3C rubber stamp
VP-68 Aircraft Lithograph	P2V-7 rubber stamp
"Sky Is Reserved" Video	and more.....

Please contact Kathy Wright at:

wright_kathleen@bah.com or mail to
4773 W. Braddock Road, Apt 204, Alexandria, VA 22311.

Estes Fund Painting

As you all know, in honor of their pilot Capt. Harry Estes, Paul Monaghan donated the Morgan Wilbur P-3 painting that he won at the 2005 Reunion to be raffled off. Capt. Estes' entire crew are devoted to him for saving their lives in an encounter with a mountaintop while flying in a P2-V in Ireland (see "Kissed a Mountain", Volume No. 24, APR07). Tickets were sold over many months and events and the raffle was held at the 2008 Spring Fling at Pax River.



Now, fate has a funny way of conducting business!! Shown above, the winner of the drawing was no other than Bill "cheap" Schott, one of the aircrewman in the P-2 that bounced off of that mountaintop with Capt. Estes!!! Bill was definitely moved by the occasion and had the painting framed and as he so eloquently stated...."the bird has taxied to it's final parking place of honor in my home".

Navy Humor

(submitted by Rex Lake)

He just couldn't seem to get to work on time. Every day, 5, 10 minutes late. But he was a good worker, real sharp, so the boss was in a quandary about what to do about it. Finally, one day he called him into the office for a talk. "Jeff, I have to tell you, I like your work ethics, but your being late often is bothersome." "Yes, I know Boss, and I'm working on it." "Well good. That's what I like to hear.

It's odd though, you're coming in late. I know you're retired from the Navy. What did they say if you came in late there?" "They said, "Good morning, Admiral."

**Take a short break from reading this
Hawks Nest and go circle 04OCT08
on your calendar...go do it!!!!**

Blackhawk People News

Taps

(by Jim Rozycki)

It is with a heavy heart that I convey the passing of another Blackhawk and personal friend and crewmember, AW1 Paul Costello. Paul passed away on 15MAY08. Paul was a Life Member of our Association and a Plankowner in VP-68. I first met Paul at NAS Norfolk while flying ASW in S-2F's and he was among the first "Pittsburgh Bunch" to transfer to VP-68 at Pax River from NAS Norfolk in 1970.



Paul was the most even-keeled guy I've ever known. He usually had that great smile going and was always fast with a corny joke or pun and rolled with all the punches that the Navy could throw at us. I never saw Paul angry, and he always tried to lighten up the most dark moments. Paul had the patience of a saint and could usually be found with his running mate John Gorman. He was a great guy to be around.

I had the honor of flying in the same crew with Paul and some of the other "Pittsburgh Bunch" for many years. Along with being JEZ operators tracking submarines together we also shared a lot of Navy airlift adventures once a month commuting from Pittsburgh to VP-68 at both Pax and Andrews.

Our most sincere thoughts, prayers and condolences go out to Paul's wife Violet and daughters Michele and Sandy and their families. Paul will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery. So until we meet again our friend....."Fair Seas and Following Winds." God Bless.

Frank Ferney

Jacque LaValle recently ran into Frank at the Pax River NEX and reported that he is on the mend and doing well. Frank had some open heart surgery to repair a leaky valve and some arrhythmia problems on 15MAY08. Best Wishes Frank!!

Scott Grzybowski

Scott and Sharon Grzybowski recently moved to Key West, FL on a job transfer (and even informed us of his address change hint, hint!!!). Scott is still a CWO4 Flight Engineer flying C-130's with VR-53 and looking for a reserve slot down south otherwise he will probably retire from the Navy. He said he still hopes to make the Association functions and welcomes friends to visit them "down south". His address is 17144 Coral Drive, Sugar Loaf Key, FL 33042. As he so nicely stated it..."I had the opportunity to both work and live in paradise so I am taking it!!"

John LeNard

John and Judy LeNard recently returned from a 3-week vacation in Alaska. This trip covered most methods of transportation and then some. They flew commercial airlines, rented cars, took a cruise ship, rode a tour bus, flew in a helicopter to the glacier top and even got to travel via dog sled in the snow!! Kind of reminded John of a 2-week ACDUTRA!!!

Landon Donahey

(submitted by Jacque LaValle)

You know you are getting old when some of the "kids" start retiring!!! Seems not too long ago we "capped" Landon as a new CPO (see Volume No. 11, Fall 2002).



AWC Landon Donahey retired on 17MAY08 at NAS Willow Grove with a total of 23 years of service. Pictured above are (l-r) CWO2 Tom Donnelly, Jacque LaValle, AWC Landon Donahey, Captain Beck, Landon's brother Dan Donahey and Carrie Blazek..... all Blackhawks!! On behalf of VP-68 Alumni Association, Jacque presented Landon with an official "CPO-Retired" ballcap. Are our old eyes failing us or is that an Air Force uniform on that lad!!! E-Gads!! Chiefs, get hold of him and give him some "counseling"!!! Dan is now affiliated with the Air Force Reserve in Pittsburgh.

William (Merle) DeLancey

Merle attended the Spring Fling and joined the Association so we welcome him "Back to the Nest". In an email to Kathy Wright he wrote..."Kathy, please understand that I am on my way back to the sandbox. I really want to maintain my ties with my friends at VP-68. It is where I became who I am today. I'm proud of my heritage and want the alumni of VP-68 to know that their prodigies are doing great things and that we will continue to contribute. VP-68 trained us, and we might not be doing the mission that we started out doing, but we are still pulling in the same direction. I will tell you this, I grew up in the Navy and they can put any uniform they want on me, but bottom line is my underway is haze gray the that means underway!." (Merle now works as an electronic engineer with the U.S. Army.)

Bob Barnes

Bob recently emailed us to tell us he has less than 3 years till retirement age. He finished his tour of duty in Afghanistan with the Army and got in from theater in June. He noted he has lots of medical/dental work to catch up on....as he puts it...overall lack of medical support tragic over there. He noted that along with the job they had to do, the Navy in Kandahar helped set up support for a local school there. He will give us more details later. In fact, he says that he is going to try to attend the Fall Deployment (wished we used another name!) and tell us all about his deployment in person. Welcome Home!

Glen Gadberry

On a recent trip to a hospital in Kentucky to visit his sister, Harry Lee Smith (wearing his VP-68 ballcap) was stopped by former Blackhawk AOC Glen Gadberry in the halls. Glen said he certainly never expected to run into anyone from his old squadron there. They exchanged some names they both knew and Harry Lee promised Glen to pass this on. Glen promised to join the Alumni Association and hopes to start making our events. Welcome back to the nest Glenn!!

(Editor's Note: see page 1 "Lost Blackhawks" comment. Better yet...everybody just start wearing those VP-68 ballcaps everywhere you go!! (See Ship's Store on page 3.)

Becky Connick

While doing some personal travel, Becky Connick pulled a RON in Naples, FL on 19APR08 and visited and had dinner with Patty and Capt. Bob Smith (no! not Bob Paty...see Vol 27, MAR08 Hawk's Nest). Bob was PPC of the CAC4 Skypigs from 1970 to 1980.



Then, on another trip for a wedding on 06JUL08, Becky did a RON in West-By-God-Virginia (Fairmont) at the "Lake Estate". Rex and Elsie rolled out the red carpet and the cold beer for this momentous occasion. They had a great visit topped off with Elsie's fantastic cooking. The next day, Wall Street reported that Budweiser stock went up \$5 a share! Below, Rex and Becky before her trip back home.



Again, another fine example of the friendships and camaraderie we Blackhawk's share. Keep 'em stories and photos comin' in and as always.....we'll keep the light on for ya!!!

Dale Schuman

Dale notes that South Carolina is his home now and usually only makes the trip to Dahlgren, VA to visit his son and wife but is going to try to attend the 08 Fall Deployment. He is only about 15 miles from George "Doc" Durity, Pat Moreitti, Darlene Hines and a few other Blackhawks and they have occasional mini-reunions. Hope to see y'all in the fall!

New Evans Restuarant

(submitted by Jacque LaValle)

For those of us that used to drill at NAS Pax River this is good news. The New Evans' Seafood Restaurant at St. George's Island reopened on 11JUN08, just six months after construction began. They opened with no advertising and with its resurrection St. George's Island has once again become a dining destination. The new owners, Chuck & Julie Kimball said they have been flush with customers since their opening.

Word of mouth spread fast around St. Mary's County and the customers just kept coming to the point that they ran out of food first Saturday night but did better on Sunday. "We knew it would be good but nothing like this" Kimball said after the restaurant's first week. "Not one negative comment".

Evans Seafood got its start back in 1962 when its then owner Robert "Bugs" Evans started out with an oyster shucking shack that quickly turned into a restaurant when folks found it more convenient to just buy and eat their seafood there on the island. For nearly 40 years the restaurant grew to meet the growing demand for seafood and Evans helped put St. George's Island on the map as the place to go for seafood in the county. Kimball took over the business in 2004 after the family could no longer run the business. "Bugs" died in 1994.

Carol Evans, "Bugs" Evans' daughter-in-law said "I'm so glad they are finally open. The rumors are all around the county, people are whispering 'Evans is open, Evans is open.'"

We will try it out firsthand and give y'all a full report at the Fall Deployment.

Ruler of the Sea

(by Jim Rozycki)

In the Volume 27, March 2008 issue of the Hawk's Nest, I inquired about a fantastic painting of a P-2V with an explosion in the water behind it that had been on display in our Ready Room at the 2005 Reunion. Lew Johnson responded as the owner. The painting is titled "Ruler of the Sea" by Don Feight and Lou has copy 441 of 500.

Charles Macgill also responded and gave me the website. Unfortunately, this lithograph is no longer available for sale but a replacement called "Ruler of the Sea II", \$48.00 + \$7.50 shipping/handling and other great paintings may be viewed at www.feightstudios.com through Feight Studios.

Take another short break from reading this Hawks Nest and go get a pen to fill out the application for the Fall Deployment on page 11.

Marine Humor

(submitted by Bruce Blackwelder)

John "Jack" Bolt, who launched West to his final reward in 2004, was the only two-war U.S. Marine Corps "ace". As a junior officer during World War II, he scored six enemy kills while flying the Vought F4U Corsair. As a Major, he scored six more while flying the North American F-86 Sabre during a Korean War exchange tour with the U.S. Air Force. Jack Bolt was a "hoot".

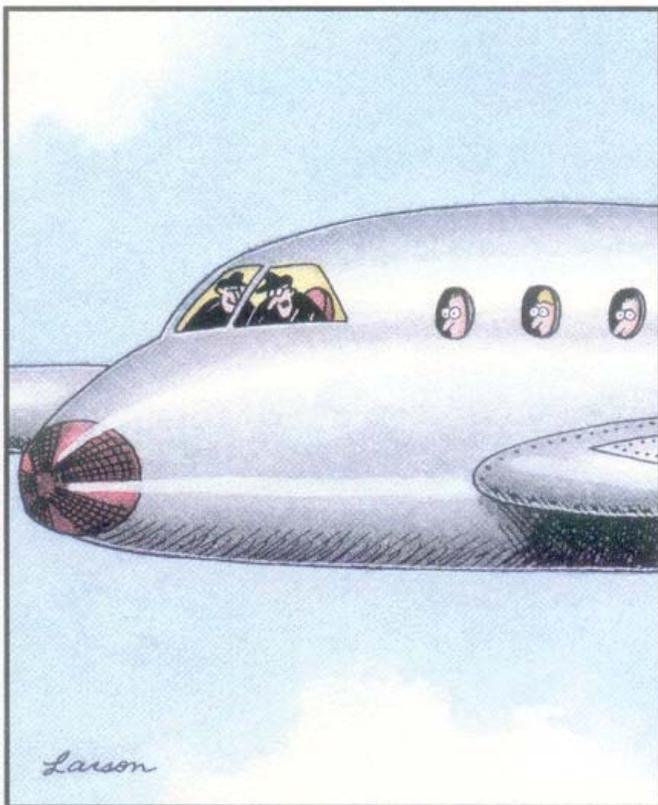
During a commercial airline flight several years ago, he was seated next to a young mother with a babe in arms. When the baby began crying during the descent for landing, the mother began nursing him as discreetly as possible. Jack pretended not to notice and, upon debarking, he gallantly offered his assistance to help the various baby-related impedimenta.

When the young mother expressed her gratitude, Bolt responded: "Gosh, that's a good looking baby...and he sure was hungry!" Somewhat embarrassed, the mother explained that her pediatrician said nursing would help alleviate the pressure in the baby's ears.

Jack snapped his fingers, shook his head, and in true fighter pilot fashion exclaimed, "Dang! And all these years I've been chewing gum!"

The Far Side - Aviation

Here is another aviation related cartoon from The Far Side by Gary Larson.....enjoy! His cartoons are the greatest....look at the eyes of the passengers!!!



"The fuel light's on, Frank! We're all going to die! ...Wait, wait. ... Oh, my mistake—that's the intercom light."

Still Serving

Ever wonder where those decommissioned P2 and P3 aircraft all went? Some were scrapped, some sent to the "bonnyard" in Arizona, some were sold to foreign countries but



in a recent article about all of the California brushfires there was a photo (above) of some of the firefighting aircraft being refueled and re-loaded with fire retardant and low and behold...there was a P3 and two P2 aircraft. Good chance that one of us might have flown on one of these birds!!

New B-2 Stealth Poster



New Khaki Uniforms

(submitted by Dick Fickling)

Maybe if I live long enough, beards will come back too, well...only for some of us!

Here is a link to the article that was released 31MAY08 about the wear test for the Service Dress Khaki.

NNS080NNS080531-01.

Service Dress Khaki Wear Test Commences

http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=37508



The CPO Service Dress Khaki is worn by Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Joe R. Campa Jr. for the first time as he participates in the wear test to evaluate the wear, its appearance, functionality and comfort of the uniform.

The wear test has commenced in six major Navy communities encompassing commands in Washington, D.C.; Norfolk, VA; Millington, TN; Newport, R.I.; Yokosuka, Japan; and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Shown here is the Officer Service Dress Khaki. The style is reminiscent of the uniform worn during World War II and Vietnam eras.

Right now, chiefs and officers have to bring two sets of dress uniforms on board ship. With the Service Dress Khaki, they would only need one dress uniform. With the Service Dress Khaki, the wearer could easily go from service to dress just by donning a jacket.

Editor's Note:

Chiefs don't put their khaki elbows on greasy pier capstans!!!



Benefit Updates

(submitted by Kevin Dillon)

Future of Military Healthcare

We all need to be more aware of the health care benefits we receive and what the House and Senate are doing with them. They are receiving constant pressure from several groups arguing that the healthcare that we get isn't fair to all of them and what they have to pay. The following notes are excerpts from several magazine articles from several sources but the message is the same in all of them.

The DOD task force on the future of Military Health Care, in its final report in 2007 said that the relatively low health fees paid by military retirees versus the growing cost of military health benefits are out of step with overall trends in the U.S. health care system and unfair to the U.S. taxpayers. For example: the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, Section 711, required the Secretary of Defense to establish a task force to examine matters related to the future of military health care. He appointed 14 members asked to address ten key issues, two of which were; 1) Alternate health care initiatives to manage patient behavior and costs, including options, costs and benefits of a universal enrollment system for all TRICARE users and 2) Programs focused on managing the health care needs of Medicare-eligible military beneficiaries.

They proposed 3-tier fee increases generally patterned after those DOD has recommended for the past 2 years. Fees could go from the current \$460/year to \$1,800/yr by 2011.

Pharmacy increases proposed were from the current \$3 (generic), \$9 (brand-formulary) and \$22 (non-formulary) to \$15, \$25 and \$45 respectively.

The Task Force made 12 recommendations that could substantially impact your health care benefit. The report can be viewed on the Naval Reserve Association website at www.navy-reserve.org Go to: "legislative resources" and follow the links.

Currently, the FY2008 prohibits increases of TRICARE fees including pharmacy copayments

The bottom line here is to be aware of what the House, Senate and DOD are proposing. Go online and visit the Naval Reserve Association website...they are watchdogs of this action.

Gray-Area Vets

Rep. Robert Latta (Ohio) plans to introduce legislation that will provide TRICARE coverage for the "gray-area veterans". This bill will provide thousands of Reserve Component members entering "gray-area" retiree status from losing health coverage for themselves and their immediate family members, but the retiring Reservists will pay the full cost of coverage. These Reservists are eligible for TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) while serving in the Reserves, however they lose coverage while in "gray-area" retiree status, and then regain full TRICARE eligibility at age 60. This legislation will allow Reservists to continue their TRICARE coverage after their 20 years of service, but before reaching retirement age.

Hearing Aids

TRICARE does not cover hearing aids for retirees or their family members. However, some military treatment facilities support the Retiree-At-Cost-Hearing-Aid-Purchase-Program (RACHAPP) for service members in need of hearing aids. This program allows members to purchase hearing aids at government cost.

At www.militaryaudiology.org/rachap/state.htm you can view facilities along with contact information and whether or not the facility provides hearing aids at cost to military retirees. This info is subject to change at any time. Retirees can use any facility that will accept them. You don't need to return to your service affiliation to participate in this program. Dependents of military retirees are generally ineligible to participate in this program at the current time.

Association Officers

President	Lou Abbott louabbott1@verizon.net
Vice-President	Jacque LaValle jacque.lavalle@verizon.net
Secretary	Kathy Wright wright_kathleen@bah.com
Treasurer	John LeNard johnlenard01@comcast.net
Historian	Ed Stanfield edstanfield@mrisc.com

From the Secretary

If you move and change your mailing address please let me know as that is the only way we can keep track of you.

Send your address information to:

wright_kathleen@bah.com

or mail to

4773 W. Braddock Road, Apt 204,
Alexandria, VA 22311.

From the Treasurer

Please note that all dues payments and financial matters are to be mailed to:

VP-68 Alumni Association
708 Schindler Drive
Silver Springs, MD 20903-1330

Make checks payable to: **VP-68 Alumni Association**

Questions??? contact John LeNard at 301- 445-2261

or email at johnlenard01@comcast.

Membership

Members who have not renewed their dues by March of each year will be dropped from our roster, lose their membership rights and no longer receive this newsletter.

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

Alumni Association Elections

(by Dick Fickling)

This year, 2008, is an election year for the VP-68 Alumni Association. The election will be conducted at our business meeting to be held at the Fall Deployment on 04OCT08.

In accordance with our By-Laws, every two years we will conduct elections for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. These positions are two-year terms.

If you would like to run for office, or nominate somebody for office, we must have this in writing. If you nominate somebody, we must have a letter, signed by them, accepting the nomination and stating that they are willing to fulfill the obligations of that office for the two year term. You may use either the Nomination Form on vp68.org or separate letter or email. If you choose to run or nominate somebody for office, please submit your nominations & acceptances to run to me no later than 01SEP08 to p3css1@aol.com or mail them to

my home address at: VP-68 Alumni Association
276 River Oak Drive
Weems, VA 22576

President's Corner

Time slips by!! Yes it does and too quickly for most of us. Unless you are within sight of that "Retirement Milestone" you probably wish that time would slow down. I wish someone would take away a birthday or two from me. Taking a moment from my usually hectic schedule I did some basic math. Didn't quite run out of fingers, but almost. This year I will be retired from my Navy career for 10 years. What? Let's check that again, something's wrong. No, darn it, it will be 10 years. In fact, VP-68 itself has been retired for 12 years!! Day-um!!

My point here I that the VP-68 Alumni Association is keeping the interaction alive with many social events throughout the year(s). We provide avenues for members and non-members alike to keep the squadron "alive".

The Fall Deployment is around the corner with only two reservations as of this week for a "1 or 2-RON" at the Solomon's Recreation Center. This doesn't include the day-tripper stopping by to enjoy the festivities and old friends (sorry about that) and not staying over. Please look at our website for more info. FLASH: My crystal ball shows the Maryland State Highway Administration finally planning to either replace the Thomas Johnson Bridge or add another span slightly north of the current bridge. If this happens, the main road will bi-sect the Solomons Rec. Center leaving its future existence in serious doubt. Meetings have occurred that highlight that possibility. Please take advantage of the Fall Deployment to enjoy this beautiful Rec Center while you still can. Memories fade quickly so bring your camera.

Also in the works is the VP-68 40-Year Reunion. More news about that in the future but don't miss out!!

Put the CY 2009 Spring Fling on your calendar today. We will determine a definite date later, but plan on late April or early May at the NAS Pax River Beach House. They keep making improvements, but as everything else, also the prices. But, for the location and facilities I still think it is the best value out there.

The planning, coordination and logistics of these events takes a great deal of effort, personal sacrifice and dedication to make them successful. Thanks to all of those dedicated folks for all of your hard work. I know that prices keep rising out of control, especially gasoline but each person and family member must decide if the investment of attending is worth the price. If at all possible and within reach, I encourage each of you to attend an event and renew or sign up for alumni Membership and keep the fires burning.

I will close with a statement that says it all as told to me years ago. "We aren't making any new VP-68 squadron members" You finish the thought.....!

Lew Abbott, President

Calling All Blackhawks:

(by Dick Perkins)

The Membership Committee 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 me via e-mail at:

vp68co@yahoo.com.

Membership applications may be downloaded from our Alumni Association Website at: www.vp68.org

Aviation Terms

(submitted by Rex Lake)

AIRSPPEED - Speed of an airplane. (Deduct 25% when listening to a retired fighter pilot.)

BANK - The folks who hold the lien on most pilots' cars.

CARBURETOR ICING - A phenomenon reported to the FAA by pilots immediately after they run out of gas.

CONE OF CONFUSION - An area about the size of New Jersey located near the final approach beacon at an airport.

CRAB - A VFR Instructor's attitude on an IFR day.

DEAD RECKONING - You reckon correctly, or you are.

DESTINATION - Geographical location 30 minutes beyond the pilot's bladder saturation point.

ENGINE FAILURE - A condition that occurs when all fuel tanks mysteriously become filled with low-octane air.

FIREWALL - Section of the aircraft specifically designed to funnel heat and smoke into the cockpit.

FLIGHT FOLLOWING - Formation flying.

GLIDE DISTANCE - Half the distance from an airplane to the nearest emergency landing field.

HOBBS - An instrument which creates an emergency situation should it fail during dual instruction.

HYDROPLANE - An airplane designed to land long on a short and wet runway.

IFR - A method of flying by needle and horoscope.

LEAN MIXTURE - Nonalcoholic beer.

MINI MAG LITE - Device designed to support the AA battery industry.

NANOSECOND - Time delay between the Low Fuel Warning light and the onset of carburetor icing.

PARACHUTES - The two chutes in a Stearman

PARASITIC DRAG - A pilot who bums a ride and complains about the service.

RANGE - Usually about 3 miles short of the destination.

RICH MIXTURE - What you order at another pilot's promotion party.

ROGER - Used when you're not sure what else to say.

SECTIONAL CHART - Any chart that ends 25 nm short of your destination.

SERVICE CEILING - Altitude at which cabin crew can serve drinks.

SPOILERS - FAA Inspectors.

STALL - Technique used to explain to the bank why your car payment is late.

STEEP BANKS - Banks that charge pilots more than 10% interest.

TURN & BANK INDICATOR - An instrument largely ignored by pilots.

USEFUL LOAD - Volumetric capacity of the aircraft, disregarding weight.

VOR - Radio navigation aid, named after the vortex effect on pilots trying to home in on it.

WAC CHART - Directions to the Army female barracks.

YANKEE - Any pilot who has to ask New Orleans tower to "Say again".

Navy Humor

Two sailors were discussing popular family trends on sex, marriage, and values. Stu said, "I didn't sleep with my wife before we got married, did you?" Leroy replied, "I'm not sure, what was her maiden name?"

Rex & John

(submitted by Rex Lake)

Jim Rozycki asked us for a recent photo of me and John Carr doing our thing...so I complied. Below are 2 Mai-Tai's at the Hale Koa Hotel (Fort DeRussy) on Waikiki Beach in Honolulu, Hawaii.



That's me on the left!!! What Jim meant was...a recent photo of us in our new Civil Air Patrol outfits...oh well...maybe next time!.....ALOHA!!!

From the Editor:

By Jim Rozycki

We reach an age where our parents pass away and somehow we become the older generation. Then, our friends start to pass away and we realize that time is too short and valuable. We all spent some great and valuable time together in VP-68. Lifetime friendships were made and indelible memories were forged.

The purpose of our VP-68 Alumni Association and this newsletter is to gather us all together to relive those fun moments, create new memories and strengthen our bonds of friendship even more.

For this issue I received some great photos and articles and many thanks to those who contributed. But, there are lots more out there, please submit something for YOUR newsletter.

We are always in need of Navy articles, jokes and Blackhawk People News. I need news about YOU and what you're up to these days...work, retirement, family, hobby etc. Let us know what your children, grandchildren and yes...even great grandchildren are up to. Some of them are in the military...help us to share your pride!

Age, distance and travel may keep us apart but we can still "keep in touch" through this newsletter. Please mail or email me some stories and let me know if you enjoy the newsletters and also what you would like to see in future issues.

Email me at: rozyckijim@aol.com

Call me at: 412-487-5854

Mail to me at: VP-68 Hawk's Nest
2414 Rolling Farms Road
Glenshaw, PA 15116-2564

VP-68 FALL DEPLOYMENT

(by Joe Odenthal)

To all of us, the term "Deployment" meant loading the Cruise Boxes, luggage drills, customs inspections, all-night flights, etc.....NOT THIS TIME!!! The VP-68 Alumni Association will host a fun-filled "Fall Deployment" in October 2008. Under the lead of Joe Odenthal and Cornelius "Strip" Stripling, reservations have been made at the "Club 9" on Navy Recreation Center (NRC) Solomons for a catered dinner on Saturday evening, 04 OCT 08.

NRC Solomons is a beautiful facility located about 65 Southeast of Washington D.C. and about 16 miles North of NAS Pax River near the confluence of the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay. Billeting is walking distance from the party zone....hence, no driving after partying!! "Club 9" is on the waterfront, has a large deck overlooking the Patuxent River, and the available billeting accommodations include:

- Six Classic Cottages
- 7 Contemporary Cottages
- 5 Log Cabin Duplexes
- 4 Cozy Cabins
- 21 Bungalows
- 15 Apartments
- 2 "Yurts"
- 14 group campsites
- 55 primitive campsites
- 146 complete hookup sites
- 158 electric & water only sites

Photos and information are located on the NRC website. Billeting rates are based on rank and since the event is occurring "Off-Season", rates are even more attractive. Make your lodging reservations to NRC at:

www.cnic.navy.mil/solomons/index.htm

Lodging & Reservations – Bldg. 411
 13855 Solomons Island Road
 Solomons, MD 20688
 800-NAVY230
 410-286-7301
 410-326-4280 fax

We are encouraging folks to make lodging reservations at the Rec. Center to eliminate driving. There will be plenty of partying and fun the entire weekend...stay for it! Should you not be able to get lodging there, here are some local motels:

Navy Lodge
 NAS Patuxent River
 Patuxent River, MD 20670
 301-737-2400

Comfort Inn Beacon Marina
 255 Lore Road
 Solomons, MD 20688
 410-326-6303

Holiday Inn Select
 155 Holiday Drive
 Solomons, MD 20688
 410-326-6311

Sleep Inn & Suites
 23428 Three Notch Road
 California, MD 20619
 301-737-0000

Super 8 Motel
 22801 Three Notch Road
 California, MD 20619
 301-862-9822

Hampton Inn
 22211 Three Notch Road
 Lexington Park, MD 20653
 301-863-3200

Days Inn (Old Belvedere)
 21847 Three Notch Road
 Lexington Park, MD 20653
 301-863-6666

Fairfield Inn by Marriott
 22119 Three Notch Road
 Lexington Park, MD 20653
 301-863-0203

Event Schedule

Schedule (except dinner & breakfast) is flexible.

FRIDAY, 03OCT08: CLUB 9

1700-2300 Welcome Reception & Sea Bag Inspection
Crew parties, Putt-Putt Golf, Water Sports & beach activities (weather permitting).

SATURDAY, 04OCT08: CLUB 9

More of the same above....all day.
PRT (retired PRT is 3 hours to complete!!)
Swim Quals, beach fun (weather permitting).
1600-1800 Catered Dinner
1800-2300 Business meeting, fun events.

SUNDAY, 05OCT08: CLUB 9

0800-1000 Continental Breakfast
Check-out & release from Fall Deployment

Reservation Form Instructions:

- 01) Detach Registration Form on Page 11
- 02) Complete the Registration Fee line applicable to you. Paid-members are free, non-members are \$10/person
- 03) Complete the Dinner line
Number of people @ \$25 = \$ _____ total
- 04) Add them up and enter total due on Total line
- 05) Write out check to VP-68 Alumni Association
- 06) Complete personal information section.
- 07) MAKE A COPY OF THE FORM FOR YOUR RECORD.
- 08) Address envelope to: VP-68 Alumni Association
10713 Norman Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22030-2923
- 09) Place both completed form and check into envelope.
- 10) Place postage stamp on envelope & MAIL IT!!!

RESERVATIONS ARE DUE WITH PAYMENT by September 05, 2008.

No late reservations accepted due to catering commitments.

REMINDERS:

- 1) Bring your personal drinks, coolers and ICE! (no machine)
- 2) Bring those photo albums and some VP-68 memorabilia.
- 3) Remember to bring those Military ID cards - base access.
- 4) Dinner is catered and by reservation only, so we cannot permit walk-in attendance for the dinner.

QUESTIONS???

Please visit the VP-68 website at: vp68.org
or contact Joe Odenthal via mail (above) or email at:

odenthal@cox.net

**HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE
 2008 FALL DEPLOYMENT
 03-04-05 OCT 08
 NAVY RECREATION CENTER
 SOLOMON'S, MD**

PATRON 68 DEPLOYMENT RESERVATION FORM

Additional information is available at www.vp68.org and will be in the Hawks Nest Newsletters. Please mail this reservation form along with your payment to:

VP-68 Alumni Association – Fall Deployment
 10713 Norman Ave
 Fairfax, VA 22030-2923
 Make checks payable to: VP-68 Alumni Association

ALL VP-68 ALUMNI are requested to report to:
 NRC Solomons 410-286-7301/02
<https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Solomons/index.htm>
www.ndw.navy.mil/mwr/srcsolomons.html
<https://www.cnic.navy.mil/NDW/Recreation/NavyRecreationCenterSolomons/index.htm>
 Route 2, 4 – Patuxent Beach Road
 Solomons Island, MD 20688

Not later than 1700 hours, Friday, 03 OCT 2008 for deployment readiness check-ins. Activities include: Crew Parties, Putt-Putt Golf, Water Sports (weather permitting), beach activities, and overall good times.

Registration Fee, Members: *(Everyone attending Please Pay)* - FREE-
 Registration Fee, Non-Members: *(Everyone attending Please Pay)* _____ People x \$ 10.00 = \$ _____

Event Welcome Reception and Sea Bag Inspection - FREE – BYO –
(TBD 1700 – 2300 03OCT2008 – Set-ups, chips, dips, etc will be provided.)

Event Catered Dinner, Members *(Club 9 – 1600 Sat 04OCT2008)* _____ People x \$ 25.00 = \$ _____

Event Continental Breakfast *(Club 9 0800 Sunday05OCT2008)* - FREE-

Must Be Paid at the Time of Reservations **TOTAL** = \$ _____

Reminder, make reservations early, in addition to facilities at the Recreation Center there are hotels and motels at Solomons Island and Lexington Park as well as the Navy Lodge at NAS Patuxent River, MD. This event is in lieu of the regular Fall Muster for the Alumni Association. You **DO NOT** have to stay to attend the Saturday dinner.

The Following information is **required** by NRC Solomons for all attendees:

Name of those attending: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone (how best to reach you): _____
 E-Mail Address: _____
 Years In VP-68" _____ to _____
 _____ Yes I am staying at Solomons Recreation Center. Check In Date: _____
 _____ I am attending the Deployment, but *not* staying in the local area.

RESERVATIONS ARE DUE with PAYMENT by September 05, 2008.

No late reservations accepted due to catering commitments.