



VP-68 Hawk's Nest

Volume No. 20

VP68 Alumni Association

Summer 2005

Reunion

The daffodils are up, snow is tapering off and it is time for alumni thoughts to turn toward spring and our gathering in the Beach House at NAS Patuxent River! The date is 30 April, 2005. Come early and enjoy the sun, fun and burgers, the official activities start at 1100. Members eat and drink free, join the association and you too can eat free. For non-members there will be a \$5 charge. Please contact Lou Abbot if you DO NOT have a base sticker and/or ID card for access, if you don't you can't get on the base.

Spring Fling

The weather was great, the turnout impressive, new members and special guest. We were honored to



have two of Bob Gath's daughters, Dana and Debbie attend. They provide a look into Bob's past with a donation of memorabilia that Bob had collected during his long Navy career. It has been added to our collection and will be at the Reunion

in November. Some of you may remember, Debbie was a member of the squadron. Some funny stories about cruising with her dad in Rota, SP.

Since the weather was so nice, we gathered along the banks of the Patuxent River for our group photo.



As you can see, we've hardly changed a bit, the some new faces, lots of the regulars and a few stragglers. We were lucky enough to have Nevins Frankel stop by for a short visit. He was kind enough to volunteer his time to redo our website

and put up lots of new material. If you haven't visited recently, www.vp68.org has many new features, including a link to print a reservation form for the reunion or a form to join the alumni association.

A brief business meeting was held, business as usual, getting ready for the big event this fall. Our thanks to all those who helped make the Spring Fling a success. The food was great, nobody should ever go home hungry from one of these. That evening some of the stay-overs went to dinner and continued the merriment.

Crew News/Alumni News

Calling all members! If you know of former VP-68 members who are not members of the alumni association and not listed on our group email listings please send their contact information to Jim Rozicki or me. We are trying to contact any and all members about the 35th Anniversary Reunion.

VP-68 Fly-in

Jacque LaVelle organized a gathering of flyers in Georgetown, SC, Vic and Doc did the ground arrangements. They ate and went sightseeing around town, as you can see in the background, another kind of wind powered vessel. Our thanks to Jacque, Vic and Doc for all their efforts. Keep watching the



news or web-page for the next gathering. They brought all their toys and had a chance to exchange war stories and talk about their

airplanes, features and new navigation aids.

35 Year Reunion

The dates are set, the guest speaker is booked, this promises to be a top-of-the-line event. Randy Papadopoulos, PhD, is the guest speaker, he is the Historian, Contemporary History Branch, Naval Historical Center, and will grab your attention from the beginning. He has written a book documenting the

events of September 11 and what took place at the Pentagon. You will hear stories the general public doesn't know about and bring all this together with the events of today's world. See the flyer at the end of the newsletter about signing-up and making reservations. This truly promises to be an event you won't want to miss, bring your flight suit and complete swim quals on Saturday morning.

From the Secretary's Corner

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

Official News:

2005 Department of Veterans Affairs Federal Benefits Book is out and here is the link to read that edition: <http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/fedben.pdf>

As always, we are looking for pictures.

The Colony South Hotel & Conference Center



(3 miles South of Andrews AFB on MD 5)
7401 Surratts Road • Clinton, MD 20735
1-301-877-4809 • 1-800-537-1147
www.colonysouth.com

Patrol Squadron Six-Eight (VP-68) 35 Year Reunion • 04 & 05 NOV 2005

ROOMS:

A limited number of rooms have been reserved at a special event rate of \$119.00/Double on a first come-first serve basis. In booking the rooms, call the Colony South at the above phone numbers and please **USE THE GROUP CODE VP68110405**. Reservations must be made by **07 Oct 05**. After that date, block rooms not reserved will go up for general sale and further reservations will be made on a space available basis only.

MEALS:

MEMBERS and guest

\$70.00

\$65.00

\$60.00

\$55.00

NON-MEMBERS and guest

\$80.00

\$75.00

\$70.00

\$65.00

Roast Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus

Chicken Cordon Bleu

Broiled White Fish

Roasted Vegetable & Pasta (Vegetarian)

PAYMENT: Make all checks payable to: **“VP-68 Alumni Association”**

Payments: Must be Paid In Full by **01 Oct 05**.

Cancellations: must be made by **31 Oct 05**. **After 31 Oct 05 NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE.**

Downpayments: A limited number of tables are available. Guarantee your attendance by sending a 50% deposit NOW with the balance paid in full before **01 Oct 05**.

Send all payments to: **VP-68 Alumni Association**
2414 Rolling Farms Road
Glenshaw, PA, 15116-2564

GUEST SPEAKER:

Dr. Randy Papadopoulos, Historian, Contemporary History Branch, Navy Historical Center will present a riveting talk about the events of Sep 11, 2001 and how it changed the history of the entire world.

EVENTS:

Friday, 04 Nov 05, the VP-68 “Ready Room” private lounge will be open from 1800 to ??????
Saturday, 05 Nov 05, VP-68 “Ready Room” + swim quals + General Business Meeting
Happy Hour 1800-1900, Banquet Dinner 1900 followed by dancing till midnight.

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