



VP-68 Hawk's Nest

Volume No. 9

VP68 Alumni Association

March 2002

Spring Fling is Booked

Mark your calendars for May 11, 2002, the Spring Fling will be held at the ever-popular Beach House, NAS Patuxent River Maryland, noon - until.

Spring Fling Details

The Spring Fling final details are in the making, it will be held May 11, 2002. Costs are held steady at \$5 for members and their families, and \$7 for non-members and their families. This year if you bring a new member and they sign-up, yours is free!! Mark your Calendars!! The fare includes Hot Dogs, Burgers, Soda etc... BYOB/Cooler "we can't provide the other beverages, only the sodas".

Current ID cards and stickers are required for access to PAX RIVER. No ID card or base sticker? Contact the association at:

blackhawkalumni@hotmail.com and you can be added to the security access list, but you must provide all names of attendees, NOT Mr. & Mrs. etc. You will still need to bring a photo ID like your drivers license.

The VP-68 Alumni Spring Fling is one of the very few social occasions where not only are Sea Stories allowed... they are encouraged!!

Stay tuned... more Spring Fling information will be coming to a web address near you.

President's Corner

I received a flyer a few years ago about volunteering my time. My employer would even let us organize events where teams of employees would be paid (with limitations) for participating in organized group volunteering; like the Home Depot ads where gaggles of orange clad build a playground.

I never participated in the program. Selfish? Lazy? Maybe a little (or a lot) of both, but now that you know my qualifications I am about to solicit you to volunteer your time.

We have a shipmate in need. I received a message from a fellow Condor alum titled '**BLACKHAWK DOWN**'

advising me of the situation and requesting Blackhawk alumni assistance.

Commander Jim Cazier did tours in VP-68 and then VP-64. Jim, a non-smoker, contracted lung cancer and then experienced oxygen deprivation during surgery at Bethesda. Jim came out of surgery totally and fully disabled. Jim still possess all of his mental abilities but physically, his hearing is the only functional sense.

In one day, a young, active, sailor became (for all practical intents and purposes) immobile, incommunicado and blind. If you think that it couldn't be worse, they are; he can still hear and think so he knows just how bad thing just became.

What can we do? Volunteer. Once a week, once a month, once a year volunteer.

Have some "use or lose" vacation to burn? Heading down to the mall just to walk around and window shop? Just have to get out of the house when your brother-in-law visits? Drive over to the VA Hospital and read Jim the paper. Nothing fancy, just read him the paper or if you don't want to spring for a paper read him the jokes that you receive everyday in your e-mail. And don't forget the dirty jokes, he may be disabled but he is still a sailor.

Jim is in the Washington VA Medical Center.
<http://www.washington.med.va.gov/> 202.745.8000. Call for room and access information

Can't get to Washington?
<http://www.va.gov/sta/guide/division.asp?divisionId=1>
There is a VA Medical Center near you. Each and every VA Medical Center has at least one veteran who would also appreciate hearing a few old jokes just waiting for you to drop by.

THE VEEP "SAYS"

I arranged a get together here at Pax for local former 68er's to have lunch. We used to do this on a regular basis and stopped. I am trying to get it moving again. Those attending were myself, Stripling, Russ Plunket, Bernie Conley, Ed May, Jacque LaValle, Kellie Gofus, and CW Furlow.



Had a good lunch, reminiscing and talking current events. A picture is enclosed for the next newsletter. I also passed out Spring Fling flyers for them to take and share. If you are in the Pax River area, give Lew a call and find out when the next lunch is scheduled.

Happenings

A bill (HR-3831) has been introduced by Representative Jim Saxton, (R-NJ) that would reduce the age at which a reserve component member may begin receiving retirement pay from 60 to 55. If enacted into law, the bill will take effect on the first day of the first month after the date of the enactment and would apply to retired pay payable for that month and subsequent months. A press release from Saxton's office can be found at: http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/nj03_saxton/P R020228Reserveage.html Maybe it is time to contact you representative and encourage them to support HR-3831!

Crew News

Pete Richard sends the following recommendations for sites to check. Have you seen these sites? Looks like the Navy is fighting hard to get MMA funding turned on. There is strong talk in congress of joining the Air Force Recce and Navy MPA missions onto a common platform. Have we been there before in our time?

Navy Exploits P-3 In Overland Recce Role
<http://www.aviationnow.com/content/publication/awst/20020304/aw60.htm>

Air Patrols Watch For Fleeing Leaders
<http://www.aviationnow.com/content/publication/awst/20020304/aw62.htm>

P-3's Tactical Value Increases With Age
<http://www.aviationnow.com/content/publication/awst/20020304/aw65.htm>

War Experience Shapes Navy P-3 Follow-on
<http://www.aviationnow.com/content/publication/awst/20020304/aw66.htm>

Official Business

There's No Cold War Medal for Legal Wear on Uniform

The Department of Defense will not be creating a Cold War Service medal, and commemorative medals being sold by private vendors are not authorized for wear on military uniforms, defense officials have said.

"After careful consideration, it was decided not to create a medal," said Brad Loo, deputy director of Officer and Enlisted Management Personnel for the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

It's illegal to wear unauthorized medals on a military uniform. If you are interested in the "official site to apply for a Cold War Recognition Certificate" it is the Army's Web site at <http://coldwar.army.mil> and is the only "official" recognition allowed at this time. Sorry for the error but your editorial staff was caught up in the Internet announcements also.

TAPS

Alumni Association members we lost in the year 2001.

02	JAN	Paul Randolph	Life Member & President elect
01	FEB	Leo J. Brune	Member
20	FEB	Sam Paris	Life Member
15	MAR	Sid Matthews	Life Member
21	AUG	Iven Cole	Life Member

Our thoughts and prayers go to the Davis Family,
 30 JAN 02 Lloyd Davis Member

Reminders

There are still prints, rubber stamps and other squadron items available from your alumni association. I am sure we will have a good stock at the Spring Fling, but if you can't wait or need something just in time for Easter, get in touch with Jim Rozycki for current prices. Jim can be found at rozycki@rozycki.com or the below address. We have the VP-68 Lithograph, "The Planes We Flew" rubber stamps and copies of "The Sky is Reserved" video. Order early and allow two weeks for delivery.

Make checks payable to **VP-68 Alumni Association** and send them to:

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

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.

By popular demand here are some Navy web addresses that might be of some interest: Keep watching here, we will add more information in the next newsletter.

www.vp68.org

is off the air for the time being. Our support ran out and we are exploring a method to get it re-hosted. If any of you are hot shot Internet support folks, contact the President with your ideas to get our domain back in the limelight.

Naval Reserves

<http://www.navres.navy.mil/>

This site is the central gateway for online resources for the Navy Reserve
Navy Reserve Personnel Center

<http://www.nrpcweb.nola.navy.mil/Index.htm>

Have any questions regarding reserve personnel records, retirement point accreditation, commissary cards etc? This is your place.

Armed Forces Vacation Club

<http://www.afvclub.com/>

Military Report

Is the military community's largest Benefits and QOL newsletter. Start your own subscription to **Military Report** today at <http://www.militaryreport.com>

Military News

A great source of what is happening is available at

<http://www.militaryreport.com> you can subscribe for up-to-date information. Check it out.

Newsletter Inputs

Your inputs for the newsletter should be sent to Dick Fickling, p3css1@aol.com for inclusion in the quarterly mailing. The cutoff for the next addition is May 31, 2002. Need items of interest, retirements and other Alumni news.

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