

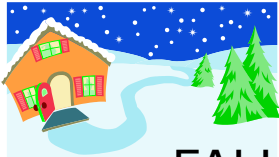


VP-68 Hawk's Nest

Volume No. 11

VP68 Alumni Association

Fall/Winter 2002



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FALL MUSTER

The turnout was great, more than 40 alumni were present to attend the muster, sign the 3500 and perform their civic duties and vote for the new officers of your alumni association. As always there was time for renewing friendships and talking over past events.



Jim Rozycki, the Association Treasurer campaigns for another two years here with Don Caldwell. Not only is he serious about the association, here he makes his

point about the quantity of pizza and beverages.



The association's newest Chief Petty Officer, Landen Donahey receives well-deserved congratulations from many well-wishers and some that served as his mentor in the 'good ole days'. There are VP-68 folks out there still doing great things and Landen is just one example of that fine tradition.

AVCM Blazek took time to sign the log, as did many of the fellow CPOs present at the Fall Muster.



During the required business meeting, an election of officers was held, as the by-laws requires. Joe Odenthal was elected to another two-year term as was Lou Abbott, Jim Rozycki and Kathy Wright.



President Joe Odenthal explains the rules for the upcoming elections before yielding the floor for additional nominations and the vote.



The newly elected slate of officers stands ready to serve their two-year term. These are the folks that need our help planning the Spring Fling, Fall Muster and the Reunion that will be coming up in just three short years.

President's Corner

3A day that you learn something is a good day or whenever I get an answer someone changes the question.

The major contributing factor to me accepting the nomination for another term, as Association President, is the support and assistance that I receive from the other officers, committee chairs and members. As we enter a New Year and a new term for the association officers, I would like to THANK the officers and committee chairs for the time and energy that they contribute to support us.

Scheduling the Spring Fling and Fall Muster has always presented a challenge. Mother's Day, Columbus Day, Drill weekend schedules (yes, we do still have members drilling) and scheduling conflicts for the Fling location are our reoccurring challenges.

The Fall Muster of 2002 provided us with a new learning experience. All of the above issues were addressed, the checklist was verified. Ready, fire, aim; the Muster was scheduled and the schedule was published. The schedule was electronically transmitted around the world, to our members abroad and to the ships at sea. The Muster was now set in concrete, there was no turning back, whew what a relief.

The Blackhawk Alumni mailbox was filling up with RSVPs (not a requirement), anxious acknowledgements, as calendars were marked and sad regrets from those on deployment. And then... the bomb dropped.

“Naval Academy Homecoming “was the subject line of “the message”. Why did you guys schedule the Fall Muster on the same day AND at the same time as the Naval Academy Homecoming football game read the one sentence message.

My first thought was to justify the scheduling decision, it was an honest oversight there was nothing to justify.

My second thought was to blame someone else. After all, I live in Northern Virginia and one can't get to Annapolis from here, Annapolis never crossed my mind. Should I blame the superintendent of the Naval Academy for the schedule conflict?

My third thought was to just apologize. I've been mistaken before. What can happen, I'll be “counseled”?

I chose option three, apologize. I was never “counseled” about the issue. As a matter of fact, I don't think it has been mentioned again. But, the Muster committee chairs and Association Officers did have a learning experience. A new line has been added to the Association event-scheduling checklist, Naval Academy events.

Official Business

It is that time of the year again to be thinking about renewing your membership, *if you are not a life member*, or perhaps it is time to upgrade your membership to Life status. Before you know it, it will be time to put that check in the mail, *renew early*, save us the postage and anguish of having to remind you that if you don't *renew early*, this could be the next to last newsletter you will receive. Mail your dues to Jim Rozycki, a \$10 check made out to the VP-68 Alumni Association. Jim's address is in the Reminders section below. Or send that \$100 check and never be bothered by reminders again. Also, if you are over 70 years of age, you can be a life member for \$25.

For the web surfers among us, some ‘official’ stuff.

Naval Reserve Force Aligned To Better Serve Reservists and Fleet --

http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=2735

TRICARE For Life Eligibility Deadline Extended --

http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=2856

Navy Lodge Debuts New Website --

http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=2852

Cyber-LAND Café Connects Sailors to World --

http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=2773

Naval Reservist Honored for Saving Life --

http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=2719

The Spring Fling will be here before you know it. Be thinking about that weekend in May to gather the Blackhawks at NAS Patuxent River. Remember, if you don't have a base sticker and ID card, you will need to let Lou Abbott know in time to get your name on the access list. With today's security procedures, take time to get a sticker on you car and save a lot of delay at the gates.

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 rozyckijim@aol.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 "on the air", we continue working to find a more permanent home for the URL. If anyone has any suggestions, contact any of the Alumni Officers.

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>

Other Business

Your newsletter editor apologizes for the delays, missed deadlines and the combined Fall/Winter Newsletter. As with so many of us, work has kept me away for the things I like to do most. On behalf of the Association, I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season, a promise to try to get newsletters out more regularly next year, and a wish that everyone think about our shipmates during these long deployments and tough times. There are alumni that have been recalled and are serving their country once again.

The Spring Fling will be here before you know it, start making plans to join your alumnus for another fine event this Spring. The next newsletter should have all the details. Please think about renewing those long held friendships and taking some time for the Alumni Association events.

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 February 28, 2003. Need items of interest, retirements and other Alumni news.



P-3 Orion Aircraft Desktop Model with stand. Handcrafted by skilled craftsman from solid wood (Mahogany), finished with several coats of clear lacquer.

Dimensions: L: 19 1/2" and wingspan: 20". The wings and stand are removable for shipment.

Price is \$59.95 plus tax and shipping. Orders can be placed to Patuxent River Trading Company by phone 301-863-7834 or by e-mail ferneyf@starpower.net please deal directly with Frank Ferney if you are interested in obtaining one of these unique wooden models.



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