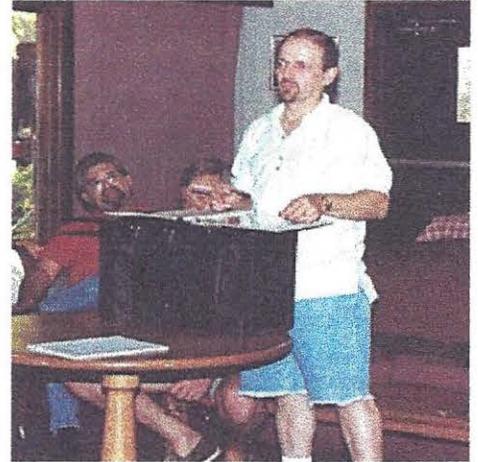


VP-68 HAWK'S NEST



VP68 ALUMNI ASSOC. HOLDS FIRST MEETING

On the 15th of August 1998 the first VP68 Alumni Association meeting and 'gathering' was held at the Coral Sea Room on Andrews Air Force Base. Approximately 30 former Blackhawks attended. A formal meeting was held followed by some 'refreshments' and of course a story or two. An election of Officers and a variety of business was conducted. Following is a list of the Officers: **Dick Fickling**, President; **Paul Randolph**, Vice President; **Jim Rozycki**, Treasurer; and **Kathy Wright**, Secretary. Committee Chairs are as follows: Constitution and By-laws, **Bob Seaver**; Fundraising, **Steve Cawi**; Nominating Elections, **Elaine Schneider**; Audit and Budget, **John LeNard**; Historian, **Ed Standfield**; News Letter, **Carrie Blazek**; Reunion 2000, Co-chairs **Lou Johnson** and **Harry Lee Smith**; Membership, **Dave Foy**; Spring Fling, co-chairs **Lou Abbott** and **Kellie Gofus**.



Above: Jim Rozycki gives the treasurers report. **Below:** Jeannie Odenthal, John LeNard, Joe Odenthal, Lou Abbott, Mark Rammelsbug share a libation, while Jeff Ostroff, Jim Battaglia, Wally Chance, Bruce Blackwelder & Tom Donnelly look on. **Bottom:** Jeff Ostroff, A.P., Jeff Lemmons, his son and fiancée Patty listen to the officers pontificate.



SPENCER'S COLUMN

Spencer is a young aviation enthusiast who would love our guidance and mentoring. His story, in his own words.

Hi, my name is Spencer Gibson and thanks for reading my first column! I'm Terry Gibson's stepson, so that is my association with the squadron. Some of you may know me from the summer grill (the 1st alumni meeting). Those of you who do know me are probably aware that I want my career to be in aviation, preferably commercial, and general aviation as a hobby. I want to go to Embry-Riddle University. Here is a question for anyone in VP-68 to answer: What aircraft would you recommend I start out flying? Here is another one for people who have ever had a career in commercial aviation: What airline should I start out at, what size airplane, and whether or not to fly out of their hub? You can e-mail me your answers at "cadetflyer@juno.com" Or you can send them "snail mail" to Spencer Gibson, 2303 Whitetail Court, Reston, Va, 20191-3017. And thanks again to Rex for the 172 ride! I'll e-mail you telling the next time I'll be in Fairmont! NOTE: Hi, it's Terry Gibson! Just wanted you to know the Spencer will be 11 on April 11 and attends Town and Country School in Vienna, VA. His e-mail provider is going to change sometime in the next couple of months so if your response gets bounced back you can forward it to me terry_gibson@ogden-energy.com .

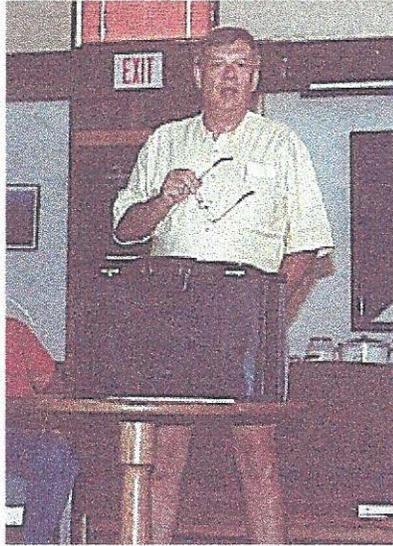
30th REUNION EXTRAVAGANZA

The 30 year Reunion Committee is working hard on ideas for a full weekend event. Ideas on the table, include a cruise on the Potomac with various weekend activities. Stay tuned.

SPRING FLING AT PAX RIVER

22 MAY
Come join us in May. Plans are in the works for an Alumni gathering in Pax River some time in May. **Lou Abbot** and **Kellie Gofus** are the co-chairs for the Spring Fling they promise a fun time.

The Legal Stuff, as a member, you are entitled to a copy of the By-laws. If you want one contact Kathy Wright.



President's Corner

The first alumni gathering of the newly formed and incorporated Alumni Association was held on August 15th. The gathering was necessary for us to comply with the By-laws that we adopted after we incorporated in the State of Maryland, and to elect the officers to serve for the next year. A brief business meeting was held and the remainder of the evening was spent talking with friends. The major order of business was to get the committees formed and active. There were strong feelings that an event in the spring, in the Patuxent River area would be a great idea. Since it is the goal of the Alumni Assoc. to further the ideas of the members, it was agreed that an event in that area was a good idea. Additionally, discussion was started for forming the committees necessary to get the 30th/year 2000 reunion.

Awards, Retirements, Advancements, Commissioning, etc.

AT1 Jeff Franco was selected the Reserve Wing Sailor of the Quarter for 1999. (FYI 1998 Reserve Wing Sailor of the year was **AT1 Rob McQuillen**)

Coming Events

AO1 McAfee, selected for Ensign in the United States Naval Reserve. Commissioning ceremony will take place during the VP66 Change of Command, March 27 1999 at 1pm, Willow Grove PA
AEC Scott Grzybowski, selected for Chief Warrant Officer 2 in the United

States Naval Reserve. Commissioning ceremony is Saturday, March 6, 1999, at 3 p.m., VR53, Andrews AFB, Hanger 13.

Warrant Officer Joe Odenthal will retire after 30 years of service on Saturday 10 April 1999. A short ceremony is scheduled for 3 p.m. at VP64, Joint Reserve Base, Willow Grove, PA. Joe is the last **VP68 PLANK OWNER** to retire!
AVCM Harry Vannoy will retire after 30 years of service on 10 July 1999. A morning retirement is planned at VP62 NAS Jacksonville, Fla. Harry is planning a CPO Dinning-In for that evening.

Past events

AVCM Lou Abbott, retired from VAQ 209 as the Command Master Chief after 30 years of service.

ADCS Howard Fleming, retired from VR53 as the Maintenance Senior Chief after 28 years of service.



Wally Chance and Ed May attend Lou Abbot's retirement.

WHERE TO FIND US ON THE WEB

You can find us at VPNAVY.COM. Click on Shipmates log and select VP-68

THE ADMINISTRATIVE STUFF FROM THE SECRETARY

If any member has an address, email or phone change please forward to: **Kathy Wright**, 2111 S. Jeff Davis Hwy. Apt 1004-N, Arlington, VA 22202 W: 703-917-2953, H: 703-418-0049 Email: wright_kathleen@bah.com

Send us your news!

Tell us what's happening, ask a question, make a comment, send a picture! Carrie Blazek, 108 Denver Rd., Silver Spring, MD. 20910, mcblaze@erols.com.