



VP-68 Hawk's Nest

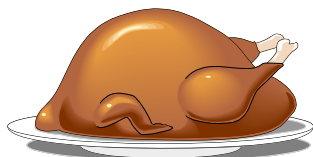


Volume No. 32

VP-68 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

December 2009

The Hawk's Nest is the official newsletter of the VP-68 Alumni Association, chartered in 1998 in the state of Maryland for the sole purpose of uniting in a central organization all former "Blackhawks" of Navy Patrol Squadron 68 (VP-68), its parent and supporting Navy squadrons, and those interested in preserving the name and history of VP-68.



Happy Holidays



2009 Fall Muster

The annual VP-68 Alumni Association "Fall Muster" event was held at Navy Recreation Center (NRC) Solomons Island, MD on Friday and Saturday, 02 & 03 OCT 09. NRC Solomons is a beautiful facility located about 65 miles 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!! The Large Pavilion and "Club 9" and are on the waterfront overlooking the Patuxent River, and it is a fantastic setting for our events.

A special thanks goes out to Committee Chairs Tim Humphries and Lew Abbott and their great staff for a fun and successful event.

Activities started Friday evening with a "No-Host Social" at the "Club 9" and then an all-day picnic on Saturday, at the Large Pavilion (next to Club 9). Folks are still raving about the great steaks that Tim cooked up. MMMMM-mmmm!!!!

The weather was Pax-Perfect! As you can see by the sunshine..smiles..food..in the photos, everybody had a great time and as always, the time went by way too fast. We are starting to get more "new" Blackhawks attend and we notice that once they do...they come back for future events. So, if you have not made any of our events, mark your calendars and plan on having a great time with the Blackhawks.

(continued on page 2 & 3)

2010 Spring Fling

The annual VP-68 Alumni Association "Spring Fling" picnic is scheduled for Saturday, 08 MAY 2010 at the NAS Patuxent River Beach House. Activities start at 1100. Food and sodas are FREE for current paid members and \$5.00 for all guests and non-members.

This is the longest tenured event for our Association and there is hardly a better place to have a picnic. We have a beautiful view of the Chesapeake Bay, a great facility with both indoor and outdoor areas on the base we spent some great years drilling with VP-68.

More detailed info will be in future issues of the Hawk's Nest so.....MARK YOUR 2010 CALENDARS NOW!!!!

2010 Dues

If your address label has an "M-09" after your name, your 2009 membership is about to expire. Don't miss out on the coming fun next year.....send in your dues now.

See "Treasurer" on last page for more details.

06 NOV 2010 – 40 Year Reunion

Yes, you read it correctly....next year will be 40 years since the establishment of Patrol Squadron Six-Eight (VP-68) in November 1970. The Reunion Committee has been working hard getting the reservations made and now are working on the details.

Our 40-Year Reunion will be held at the J.T Daugherty Event Center located across from NAS Patuxent River in Lexington Park, MD on Saturday, 06 NOV 2010. The Event Center is a beautiful facility sharing the parking lot with the Fairfield Inn where our lodging arrangements will be.

Tentative plans now are to have a VP-68 "Ready Room" hospitality suite at the Fairfield Inn starting Friday evening and operational throughout the weekend, closing only for the main event on Saturday evening. Many Blackhawks bring tons of VP-68 paraphernalia for display and you will be amazed at what we have left from the Squadron. A lot of folks went to a lot of trouble to preserve our legacy..it is a must-see!!!

Saturday's event will include cocktail hour, dinner, special guest speaker, DJ and dancing.

Schedule and details are still in the very early planning stage, but our President Jacque LaValle is pursuing a very special added feature Saturday during the day that hopefully includes the P-3 replacement...the P-8 Poseidon...since four (4) are scheduled to be at NAS PAX during that time-frame.

Sooooo, come on down, park your car for the weekend and party Blackhawk-style!!

The Alumni Association is still in the initial stages of planning and forming a committee. We need some folks to help on the committee as we are always looking for new ideas and suggestions. While we will look back at the Squadron, we also want to focus on our 12-year old Alumni Association that has kept the VP-68 fun and camaraderie alive.

Please contact our President Jacque LaValle at:

jacque.lavalle@verizon.net

More details about the event, special room rates etc. will be made in future Hawk's Nest newsletters and on our website:

vp68.org

Reminder:

Go circle 05 & 06 NOV 2010 on your 2010 calendar! Do it right now!!!





P-3 Orion Tribute via You Tube

(submitted by Nick Shauss)

There are many of them out there but this is a neat tribute to our beloved P-3 on You Tube.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55JXNDgCtLc>

Airbus A380 Cockpit Tour

(submitted by Jim Rozycki)

Enter the below link and get a 360 degree virtual tour of the A380 Airbus cockpit. When you look aft, I couldn't help notice the laptop computer...where these NorthWest pilots????

<http://www.gillesvidal.com/blogpano/cockpit1.htm>

Tennessee Bar

(submitted by Nick Shauss)

A guy walks into a bar in Tennessee and orders a white wine. All of the hillbillies sitting around the bar look up, expecting to see some pitiful Yankee from the north.

The bartender, Ole Harry Lee, says "y'all ain't from around here, are ya?" The guy says "No, I'm from Canada." Harry Lee says, "What do you do in Canada?" to which the guy replies "I'm a taxidermist." Harry Lee says, "A taxidermist? What in tarnation is a taxidermist? Do you drive a taxi?"

"No, a taxidermist doesn't drive a taxi...I mount animals." the man replied. Harry Lee, the bartender grins and then he hollers...."It's OK boys.....he's one of us!!"

**Did you circle 05 & 06 NOV 2010
on your calendar yet???**

Blackhawk People News

Taps

We are saddened to report the passing of another Blackhawk, George Frey, age 67. George passed away on Friday, 23OCT09 and was the husband of Blackhawk Nancy (Sanchez) Frey. George and Nancy and their plane a T-34 were featured in the Volume No. 25, July 2007 Hawk's Nest..."30 Year Project".

George will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors on 07JAN10 at 1500 hours.

We extend our most heartfelt condolences to Nancy who, with George, are members of our VP-68 Alumni Association

Harry Lee Smith



In going through the archives searching for material for this issue...look what I came across!! A lot of us think we are old and have worn many hats but few can top this!!

Harry Lee enlisted in the Navy in 1958, became a CPO in 1969, was commissioned a LT in 1970 and retired as Captain in 1999 with the distinguished Navy title of "Old Salty".

.....

When Harry Lee retired he had a total Navy service of 41yr07mo17day14hr28min37sec..but who's counting!

Back to Afghanistan!

We have all heard the news about the deployment of more troops to Afghanistan....one of our Blackhawks who has been there before (14 months) is going back!! Bob Barnes will deploy in JAN or FEB 2010 for about 14 months. Bob, age 58, says when he gets back he will finally retire with 15 years active and 25 years reserves. (see volume #24, APR2007 and volume #26, NOV2007 for previous stories from Bob)

Bob is a Master Sergeant (MSG/E-8) with the Army and will probably be stationed in the North supporting Afghan Border Patrols...but won't know for sure till he gets there. Without getting into specifics, Bob said he was in ordinance in the Navy and is doing the same job over there. He worked with lots of Navy folks doing support roles there. As you might imagine, things are crude..PX, post office, showers, toilets, etc!!

Bob will send us emails after he gets over there and would love to hear from the Blackhawks who can email him at:

robert.barnes2@us.army.mil

LT.(J.G.) Deploys

(submitted by Jim Rozycki)

In the Vol. #25, JUL2007 Hawk's Nest I did a feature "First Salute" about David Antico, a former Boy Scout from my Troop who received his commission and asked me to render his first salute at his commissioning ceremony. Well, time does fly eh

as it has been two and a half years now. David is now a LT(J.G.) and has received orders to report to Kuwait. David is in the Nurse Corps and has been stationed at Bethesda National Naval Medical Center. He ships out right after Christmas for San Diego for some training and then over to Kuwait.

Sticker Shock!

Our Association Secretary, Kathy Wright, has crossed over into the ranks of "homeowner". She said to tell her friends that, YES, she really is a first-time homeowner. She is only a few blocks from her previous apartment..but as she so eloquently put it....."IT'S MINE!!!!". She and friends have been patching and changing things and she moves in on 01JAN10.

Sooooooooooooo....please note the address change for Kathy on the last page under "Secretary". Her email address and phone numbers remain the same.

Fear of Heights??

(submitted by Ed Stanfield)

Washington Post article 29OCT09: Imagine floating in a basket 1,400 feet in the air with nothing keeping you inside but your desire not to fall. Sure, it might sound scary, but riding in a hot-air balloon with an experienced pilot is a serene way to view the world. The weather this evening-low humidity, clear skies, temps in the 70s-is ideal for flying. Veteran balloon pilot Mike "Doc" Gerred (former VP-68 corpsman HNC) hops into the basket with four passengers, instructs his staff members who are holding the 90-foot-tall balloon earthbound to let go, and the adventure begins.

The 360-degree views are spectacular. To the southeast, the Susquehanna River flows into the Chesapeake Bay. To the southwest the Baltimore skyline is visible in the distance. And directly under the basket is a thick canopy of greens, reds, oranges and golds occasionally broken up by farms.

The sensation is similar to that of being in a boat. The ride is smooth, even when the people move around in the basket. Since the balloon is flying with the wind, it doesn't feel windy at all. Mike Gerred has flown so long that he understands that winds change direction and speed at different altitudes. With that knowledge he can make the balloon go left or right or wherever else he wants, including into the trees. "Leaves are always the freshest right off the top of trees," Gerred says as he grabs a branch for a memento of the trip.

Landing is just as smooth as flying. But the best part of the adventure comes at the very end, when Gerred pops open a bottle of champagne – ballooners' tradition! – and toasts, with the passengers, another safe ride.

Gerred has about 36 launch sites, all of them north of Baltimore near the Pennsylvania border. Locations are determined the day of the flight. He flies year-round but the most popular time is in the fall. Flights are either around sunrise or sunset. An hour-long flight costs \$220 per passenger, and a ½ hour flight is \$150 per passenger.

The name of Gerred's company is Lite Flight Balloons and can be contacted by phone at 410-836-1116 or email at:

www.fun-flying.com

And then the fight started...

Old Master Chief's wife was hinting about what she wanted for their upcoming anniversary. She said, 'I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 150 in about 3 seconds.' So he bought her a scale!!!

...AND THEN THE FIGHT STARTED!!!

First Navy test pilot flies P-8A Poseidon on 07 DEC 2009

When a new Navy aircraft takes to the skies, it is always a proud moment for any aircraft program. For the actual pilot behind the controls, it is an even greater feeling.

Lt. Roger Stanton had the privilege of being the first Navy test pilot to fly the P-8A Poseidon in October.

"It felt awesome," Stanton said. "The first time you fly a new airplane it's just a great experience. This is what test pilots are trained to do, so getting this rare opportunity was really amazing."

Stanton, along with Boeing pilot Doug Benjamin, flew the first Poseidon, designated T1, over the Puget Sound in Washington, kicking off the formal Navy flight test program.

"It was a good day - a really good day," Stanton said. "All the training I received was great. We rehearsed the flight profile many times so we came into the flight very well prepared, but it was still fun."

Stanton began T1 flight preparation in 2008 with Boeing 737 training in Seattle, consisting of classroom courses, computer-based training and a mixture of commercial 737 simulators as well as time in an actual 737 aircraft. He also spent approximately 250 hours in the Weapon System Integration Lab, located in Kent, Wash.

The WSIL is a non-motion based simulator designed to help the test team integrate aircraft and mission systems, as well as, test aircraft components.

"For the baseline P-8, it certainly flies like a 737," he said. "They did a nice job of building the airplane. The interesting flying for the P-8 really will come when we have to emulate the P-3 mission - high bank angle, low altitude, autopilot integrated into our mission with missiles on the wings. It will get interesting."

That type of flying will come later in the test program. T1 actually made three flights in October, prior to undergoing more instrumentation installation in the factory. The first flight was to check the airworthiness or how well the modified 737 aircraft flies with all the test instrumentation.

The second two flights practiced instrument approaches with a visual restrictive device. Stanton said one of the things the Navy closely monitors is whether or not the pilots are capable of safely flying the plane if they can't look out the window for visual reference.

Initial testing of T1 is being conducted in Seattle. It will transfer to NAS Patuxent River in early 2010, where flight and operational testing will be completed by the integrated test team (ITT).

The Poseidon ITT, composed of Navy test squadrons Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 20 and Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 1 and Boeing, will spend the next 36 months flying and evaluating three aircraft, designated T1, T2 and T3. The evaluation will include extensive mission systems testing, operational effectiveness and ability to carry out the anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations in accordance with Naval Air Systems Command requirements.

Stanton said the maritime patrol and reconnaissance (MPRA) community needs a new aircraft and needs it badly. He said the Fleet needs an airframe that's capable of meeting the requirements set forth by the Navy and that support the maritime strategy.

"Our job here is to test that capability on the Poseidon," he said. "As an operational P-3 pilot, I am fully aware of the challenges facing the [MPRA] community as they try and execute their high-demand mission with a dwindling number of

aging assets. Testing the P-8 and getting it to the [MPRA] community as soon as possible will help alleviate some of those challenges."

Tri-Care • Medicare • Social Security

(submitted by Kevin Dillon)

(Sources: Navy Times; Aviation Week; Military Times and Fleet Reserve Association Today)

FY 2010 Defense Bill Has Pluses and Minuses:

08OCT09 Full report may be found at:

www.moaa.org/lac/lac_issues/lac_issues_update/lac_issues_update_091008.htm#issue2

First the good news: the legislation will....

- authorize a 3.4% pay raise for active duty, Guard and Reserve members effective 01JAN2010.
- bar the Pentagon from implementing any TRICARE inpatient care copay increases for FY2010.
- authorize an extra 30,000 troops for the Army (15,000 above budget request) and an additional 30,000 in FY2011 and FY2012, providing the Pentagon budgets for the increase.
- authorize premium-based TRICARE coverage for "gray area" reserve retirees who haven't yet attained age 60.

Then there is some disappointing news...

- dropped the House plan to phase out the disability offset to retired pay for medically retired (chapter 61) members. This is a particularly devastating setback because for the first time, the President's budget had included this measure.
- dropped the Senate initiative to repeal the deduction of VA survivor benefits from military SBF annuities, again for lack of funding offsets.
- reduced the Senate-approved Army manpower level by 15,000 for FY2010.
- dropped a Senate-approved provision to authorize retroactive Reserve retirement age credit for active duty service since 11SEP2001, again for the lack of funding.

Gray-Area Reserve TRICARE: Reserve and Guard "gray-area" retirees (not age 60 yet) will be able to buy into TRICARE Standard coverage at full premium costs for themselves and their families. Given that this is an older population, premiums are expected to be higher than those set for TRICARE Reserve Select, for 2009 was \$47.51/month for member-only coverage and \$180.17 for family coverage. Only a guess estimate but monthly premiums could range from \$150 to \$200 for member and \$650 to \$750 for family.

No Retiree COLA for 2010: Since retiree COLA is connected to the Consumer Price Index, which dropped 2.1%, some forecasts predict that a no-COLA situation could last until 2013.

Sources: AUSN, Association of the United States Navy at

www.ausn.org

Let me get this straight...

(submitted by "Packy" Jones)

We're going to pass a health care plan....

- written by a committee whose chairman says he doesn't understand it...
- passed by a Congress that hasn't read it, but exempts themselves from it...
- to be signed by a president that also hasn't read it and who smokes...
- with funding administered by a treasury chief who didn't pay his taxes...
- all to be overseen by a surgeon general who is obese...
- and financed by a country that's nearly broke...

What could possibly go wrong?

Rose's to be torn down!

(submitted by Ed Stanfield)

Wednesday, 11NOV09: St. Mary's County government bought former Rose's Place II building in Lexington Park, MD to connect South Shangri-La Drive to Great Mills Road via a new section of FDR Boulevard. The 27,947 square-foot property was purchased for \$450,000 in order to demolish the building and connect the Bay District firehouse, Lexington Park library and Lexington Park Elementary School more directly to Great Mills Road. Mary Rose Turner, who held the last liquor license in St. Mary's County that still allowed topless dancers, died in February (see volume #30, MAR2009) and her survivors turned the license in. The Rose's Place II building was first permitted as a temporary use in 1954 "for ice cream and dairy products", with the understanding that the road was intended to come through the property. That roadway has been in the county's transportation plan since 1985. County government has been moving infrastructure in Lexington Park along South Shangri-La Drive for some time now to keep it out from under airspace of the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. Willows Road now has more than 1,000 new homes along it and it's becoming a choke point at Willows Road and Great Mills Road.

Last chance to see the Rose's Place II building sailors!

VP-68 Lithograph Sale



This beautiful limited-edition lithograph reproduction of renowned military artist Morgan Wilbur's original painting (done exclusively for the VP-68 Alumni Association) features the planes we flew in VP-68 and our parent squadrons.

Shown flying in formation left to right is the PBY Marlin, PV-2 Harpoon, P-2V Neptune and the P-3 Orion.

Each litho is numbered and signed by Morgan and is a true collector's piece.

Originally priced at \$35/each to cover our production costs, this litho will now be sold for \$20/each. Yes, just \$20.00.

Make checks payable to **"VP-68 Alumni Association"** (mark them LITHO in the memo) and send them to:

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

Navy Humor

Four Catholic Chaplains and a female Catholic Yoeman were having coffee after mass. The first Catholic Chaplain tells his friends, "My son is a priest, when he walks into a room, everyone calls him 'Father'."

The second Catholic Chaplain chirps, "My son is a Bishop. When he walks into a room people call him 'Your Grace'."

The third Catholic Chaplain says, "My son is a Cardinal. When he enters a room everyone says 'Your Eminence'."

The fourth Catholic Chaplain says, "My son is the Pope. When he walks into a room people call him 'Your Holiness'."

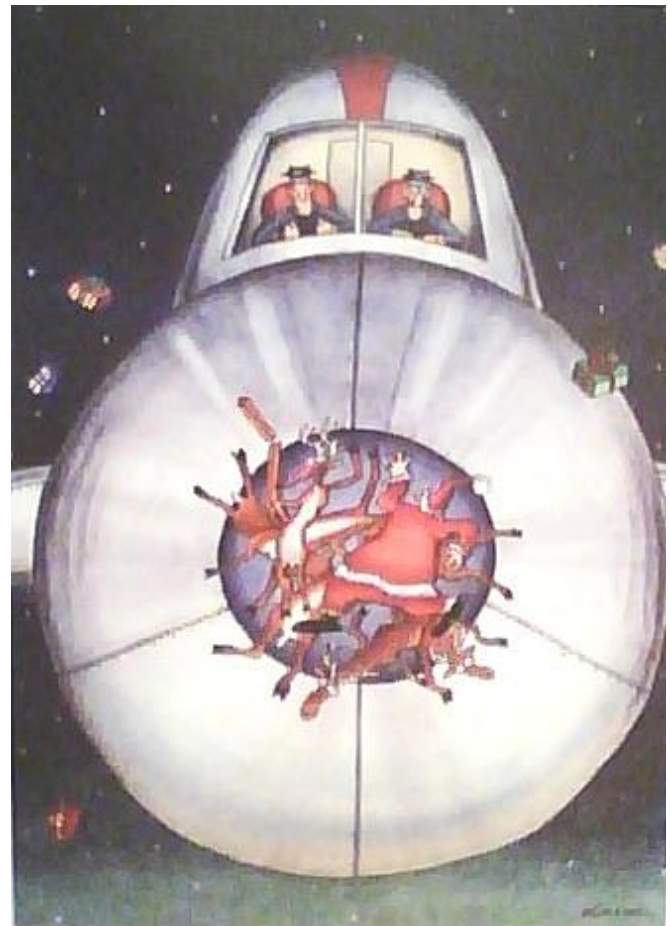
Since the lone Catholic Yoeman was sipping her coffee in silence, the four Chaplains gave her a look and said, "Well....?"

She proudly replies, "I have a daughter, tall, blonde, slim, 38 Double D breasts, 24" waist, and 34" hips. When she walks into a room, people say, "My God."

Aviation Far Side

(by Jim Rozycki)

Here is another aviation-related The Far Side by Gary Larsen.....my "favoritist" cartoonist.....enjoy!!



What was THAT??



The US Military supports Santa too!!!

IT IS THE SOLDIER

by Charles M. Mrovince

- IT IS THE SOLDIER, NOT THE MINISTER WHO HAS GIVEN US FREEDOM OF RELIGION...
- IT IS THE SOLDIER NOT THE REPORTER WHO HAS GIVEN US FREEDOM OF SPEECH...
- IT IS THE SOLDIER NOT THE POET THAT HAS GIVEN US FREEDOM OF SPEECH...
- IT IS THE SOLDIER NOT THE CAMPUS ORGANIZER THAT HAS GIVEN US FREEDOM TO PROTEST...
- IT IS THE SOLDIER NOT THE LAWYER THAT HAS GIVEN US THE RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL...
- IT IS THE SOLDIER NOT THE POLITICIAN THAT HAS GIVEN US THE RIGHT TO VOTE...
- IT IS THE SOLDIER WHO SALUTES THE FLAG WHO SERVES BENEATH THE FLAG...
- AND WHOSE COFFIN IS DRAPED WITH THE FLAG WHO ALLOWS THE PROTESTER TO BURN THE FLAG...

MAY GOD BLESS...
THE SOLDIERS
THE VETERANS
THE PATRIOTS

Video salute to all who have served

(submitted by Wally Chance)

This powerful and moving video of Lt. Col. Oliver North testimonial to our young military and all American veterans.

**All that have served to protect this great country.
Thank You!**

<http://www.nragive.com/ringofffreedom/index.html>

Standing Watch

(submitted by Nick Schaus)

This "Different Kind of Christmas Poem" poem was written by Lcdr Jeff Giles, SC, USN from Iraq.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_P6yU_ymFM

Navy Humor - Ole "Boats"

Ole Boats and his wife were travelling by car from Florida to Great Lakes. After almost eleven hours on the road, they were too tired to continue, and decided to find a room. But, they only planned to sleep for four hours and then get back on the road. When they checked out four hours later, the desk clerk hands Ole Boats a bill for \$350.00.

He exploded and demanded to know why the charge was so high. He tells the clerk although it's a nice hotel; the rooms certainly aren't worth \$350.00. Then the clerk tells him that \$350.00 is the 'standard rate' at which Ole Boats insisted on speaking to the Manager.

The Manager appears, listens to him, and then explains that the hotel has an Olympic-sized pool and a huge conference centre that were available for them to use. 'But we didn't use them.' 'Well, they are here, and you could have,' explains the Manager.

He goes on to explain that they could also have taken in one of the shows for which the hotel is famous. 'We have the best entertainers from New York, Hollywood, and Las Vegas perform here,' the Manager says. 'But we didn't go to any of those shows,'. 'Well, we have them, and you could have,' the Manager replies.

No matter what amenity the Manager mentions, Ole Boats replies...'But we didn't use it!' The Manager is unmoved, and eventually Ole Boats gives up and agrees to pay, writes a check and hands it to the Manager.

The Manager is surprised when he looks at the check saying 'But sir,' 'this check is only made out for \$50.00.

"Damn straight", Ole Boats barks. "I charged you \$300.00 for sleeping with my wife." 'But I didn't!' exclaims the Manager. 'Well, too bad, she was here, and you could have!!'

Reminder:

**Circle 05 & 06 NOV 2010
on your calendar yet???**

"The Word" Revisited

Here are more Blackhawk memories from the unofficial publication "The Word", most sought after and read by most Blackhawks (next to Playboy) on their monthly drill weekends from MAR 74 until JUL 90, published by our VP-68 Association Historian AWC Ed Stanfield.

This issue we feature the year 1976:

JAN-1976

1) In December a group of us went to the high altitude chamber at MCAS Cherry Point, SC which is a lovely place populated with scrub pines and Marines. The Physiological Center Corpsman gave us some good lectures on night vision, vertigo, hypoxia, effects of smoking and alcohol, survival equipment and the high altitude chamber. It was emphasized that the prophylactics are supposed to be used to keep a wound clean...didn't mention the location of the wound...I assume on the finger!! Then we went into the chamber which is an interesting thing in itself. AO1 Mike Domineck had a tooth cavity which didn't equalize too well and made itself known at 8,000 feet (ouch!). At 25,000 feet AT2 Packy Jones took his oxygen mask off and got a very funny grin on his face...and he wouldn't answer anybody either. Now the crowning experience of the whole trip...the Corpsman warned us not to eat the boiled eggs from the box lunches before going "up" in the chamber. He said the "END" result could cause dismay among all when the oxygen masks were taken off at 25,000 feet. The chamber 25,000 ft went OK, we came down, got out and then ate our box lunches. The flight back to PAX.....WHEW!!

2) Among the stringent haircut regs for the Marines..eyebrows are acceptable facial hair, but must be trimmed so that the longest hair, when fully extended downward, will not intertwine with the longest eyelash when the eye is fully opened!! WOW!

FEB-1976

1) Wings on a Dolphin for Aircrewmembers?? A submersible seaplane, designed to carry two Polaris A-3 ballistic missiles, has been proposed as a means of supplementing more-conventional strategic weapons to provide greatly increased survivability. Using the ocean as a loiter area, it would submerge only to avoid detection or destruction in the event of war.

2) Boot Chiefs: If you noticed some growling and snarling from the older Chiefs, the new Chief's got them riled up! It seems that AWC Bill Schott was accused of saying that AWC Torres was so dumb that he thought that Bupers Manual was the President of Mexico!! Surviving the "welcoming" party are new Chiefs, AWC Pete Knowles, AWC John Webster, AOC Bob Gleason, AWC Bill Schott, AEC Ray Diamond and ADJC Bill Hutt. Congratulations Chiefs!!

3) ADJ3 John Albert finally decided to get a haircut after much deliberation...got 18 inches cut off. The Skipper had a personnel inspection and Al was tapped on the shoulder...his hair was still 3 inches too long!

4) Panama Express: I went to Panama with Crew 17 and noted a few things: LCDR Perkins kept the crew on their toes with a bailout and ditching drill. One passenger couldn't find his chute (foot locker under the rack). MORAL: Some folks don't listen carefully because they assume it won't happen. One passenger was strapping himself in for ditching during a bailout drill. MORAL: Sometimes what you think you heard isn't what was said. One passenger had to empty the crapper. MORAL: Some people don't get the word.

5) ADJ1 Ron Garmen is back from FE School to provide reinforcements to Crew 4. Welcome back Ron!

MAR-1976

1) This month will be last month for AW2 Tony Salizar to drill with the squadron before heading for Pensacola to continue his training as an AOC in pursuit of Navy wings of gold. Crew 13 had a ceremony for Tony with LCDR. Able presenting him with a set of Ensign shoulder boards and wings. Good Luck Tony!!

2) Notoriety: VP-68 had a good write-up in the February 1976 issue of NARTOPIX. The feature photo had LCDR. Dave Graham in the P-3 cockpit on approach to Lajes.

3) Last month at Evans' AW1 Dick Kraft was sucking up his oysters on the half shell which were squirming under squirts of Tobasco sauce. PN2 Don White, big eyed, yelled out "Oh MY God" at the black screw worm hiking around the oyster shell on Dick's plate. Apparently Don doesn't like screw worms around oysters any more than oysters like bathing in Tobasco sauce.

4) Airlifts: No more VP "training flights" for airlifts and the Pittsburgh and Kentucky areas to be only areas from which VP-68 is to recruit for VR airlift purposes. Apparently the Navy and the Air Force are duking it out for airlift rights along with a lot of criss-cross flight paths from various squadrons gathering up their folks for drills. We have to wait and see!!

5) Smaller Squadrons?: Rumor is VP Reserve squadrons to be reduced from 18 to 15 crews this fall because under mobilization fleet squadrons can only realistically increase from nine to 15 crews.

APR-1976

1) Nostalgia: The P5 Marlin from the PAX seaplane ramp left here for Norfolk and then on to Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, FL. I have 1,200 hrs of flight time logged in those hogs and getting the living \$#@#% scared out of me a lot.

2) ADJ1 Rex Lake has been selected the squadron SAR of the year and is nominated to the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association to be Reservist of the Year. He performs so many extra drills each year that many are non-pay. Kicker is that he drives 6 hours each way from Fairmont, WV., 1,500 miles/year driving to and from reserve drills with VP-68.

3) AWC Fred Torres is retiring end of this month. The Chief has been with the squadron and VP at Andrews for 6 years.

4) The National Taxpayers Union is upset because of projects which they feel the U.S. Government spends money unwisely. One example they gave was \$6,000 spent on a study of bisexual Polish frogs! Really!!!

5) SNAKE!! On a recent Crew 12 flight, one crewmember came up to the cockpit with only three feet of vacuum cleaner hose (normally 25 feet long) in his hands. Seems the hose got sucked out of the top of the plane and the crewman had a tug-of-war with it...and lost. He used his knife and cut bait. Swore he had the adapter in place. Meanwhile, down in a field in North Carolina farmer Will and Zeb heard this SWISH,SWISH,THUD! "Whatcha think it is Will?" "Biggest flying albino black snake I've ever seen, Zeb!"

MAY-1976

1) Lucky Goldburg Award: AW3 Grossman gets it this month! Word has it he drove his car off the side of a grease rack and messed it up. Then, he was climbing out of a P-3, tripped on the top step and fell head first down the ladder, catching his arm on a step half-way down and auto-rotated safely to the ground. He now wears a cast on his arm. Why? He leaned out of bed to turn the light off, fell out and broke his arm!! Wow!

2) The Marine Corps' manpower chief says no more bellowing at recruits..no obscenities, no descriptive nouns ("maggots") at Parris Island & San Diego. First they take the brigs away from the Marines and now won't let a DI call a recruit a maggot. Will the Corps survive??

JUN-1976

- 1) VP-68 OinC LCDR Glen Rouze will be departing for his new assignment, Naval Reserve Headquarters in New Orleans. He has done a great job, first in Training then as OinC. He is a real people oriented man and will be missed. Good Luck Sir!
- 2) Our new OinC will be LCDR Coble from Willow Grove as Training Officer with VP-66. Welcome to VP-68 Sir.
- 3) Tired of box lunches. The planes now have ovens capable of heating TV dinners, available at the coffee mess for 55 to 75 cents each.
- 4) Congratulations to Senior Chief Dellapena for being selected to Master Chief.
- 5) A new award, the Liberty Bell Trophy, has been created by Commander Naval Reserve Forces to recognize excellence in the Reserve antisubmarine warfare community. The Trophy will be awarded annually. I'm happy to report that VP-68 Crew 2 won the Trophy and will be at Willow Grove for the initial presentation in July.

JUL-1976

- 1) Did you notice? VP-68 made "Naval Reservist News". That's Crew 2 bringing home the first Liberty Bell Trophy from NAS Willow Grove on 13July.
- 2) After 43 years, the Navy is now switching from butter to margarine in their messes. Butter will still be available at your table..just not used for cooking anymore!

AUG-1976

- 1) ADJC Schilling will be going NAS to Glen View end of month. He's the last of the TAR's that werevhere when we arrived in 1970..six years ago. Farewell & Good Luck!
- 2) Fiscal Year ACDUTRA for '78 is scheduled for Rota.
- 3) The Camp Lejeune exchange reported they couldn't keep stocked with flea collars. Seems the Marines are wearing them around their ankles when they go into the field!!

SEP-1976

- 1) The U.S. Army in Germany earned no merit badges for attacking a Boy Scout campsite in the dark, thinking the scouts were a wargame aggressor force. The scouts were camped in yellow tents with civilian autos nearby when the Army roared in with tanks and helos, all firing blanks.

OCT-1976

- 1) A NUGGUT: I recently flew with AOAA Bill Cain. An airman apprentice in a reserve squadron is a rare creature like an Ensign or LTJG! How refreshing to see new blood in the squadron. Welcome Bill, keep up the enthusiasm.
- 2) PAYDAY: President Ford has decreed that you shall have a 4.83% pay raise for the fine work you are doing.

NOV-1976

- 1) Patrol Squadron 93 was officially established at NAF Detroit recently, being first patrol squadron to enter the Navy since 1970 they will fly the P-3A Orion.
- 2) Monsoon, notwithstanding, beer, good food and fellowship were in abundance at the VP-6 fired up his 8 Squadron Party. Crew 15 led by LCDR Perkins did some great BBQ chicken, hot dogs & burgers. The Skipper, LCDR Dave Graham and LCDR "Bunky" Mauer (with his one-string bass-on-a-tub) led the folks in a sing-a-long. I saw Calvin Henly trying to pry open the Johnny-on-the-spot with Wally Chance inside on the seat hollerin' a lot. Didn't ask for an explanation with that group!

DEC-1976

- 1) MECHS: Forthcoming BuPers Notice details consolidation of current ADR & ADJ ratings into a single AD designation.
- 2) Air Force has assigned some B-52 bombers to help the Navy with sea-control missions by flying high altitude surveillance missions while the P-3 Orion will handle the low altitude.
- 3) AW1 Richard Sullivan is off to Iran in service of the Shah. He will go first to Lockheed Camel Riding School in Burbank

then join former Blackhawks AWCS Altdorfer, ADJ1 Studebaker and LT Cooper who are flying the Iranian P-3F's.

4) NAS Bermuda had a beautiful Thanksgiving table set up and a strange thing happened...the turkey disappeared just as Crew 11 happened to be in the area. Mmmm. All sort of things disappear in the Bermuda Triangle.

IN NEXT ISSUE - ED'S APR76 TRIP TO RUSSIA!

We just didn't have room but will feature it next issue.

The President's Corner:

by Jacque LaValle

By the time you receive this newsletter, you no doubt are preparing for the holiday festivities, mailing out last minute Christmas cards, running to the mall because you refused to get up at oh' dark hundred on Black Friday, stocking up on all the eggnog fixings, turkeys, hams, apple pies, etc.. As we prepare for this year's holidays, we reflect on the past year and give thanks to God and country that we continue to enjoy the freedoms our great nation offers. Please take the time to give a special thanks to those who are still serving, especially those who are on deployment and unable to be with their families over the holidays.

I can't believe that the end of 2009 is here already. Yet as an association, many milestones were accomplished. We introduced the Officer's Appreciation Day at the Pax River Spring Fling which drew in a record crowd both at the beach house event and the dinner event located at the Solomons Island Catamarans Restaurant. The Fall Muster was again a resounding success thanks in great part to Tim Humphreys who bought some of the best steaks I've had in years. The crowd this year at Solomons Island was just as great as it was in 2008. Many thanks to our contributing authors for the articles in the newsletters and a huge thanks to Jim Rozycki for being our editor in chief. Please continue to forward your ideas and thoughts on future events that would bring many of our alumni together and as always, continue to wear the tail feathers which helps to identify you as a Blackhawk.

2010 is proving to be another terrific year ahead. The Pax River Spring Fling will be held in May next year so the weather promises to be just as cooperative. The 40th reunion committee is on the fast track to bring you the best reunion yet. Stay tuned to our website for all of the latest information about the reunion plans and please pass the word so that we can get maximum participation at this event.

I'm also looking forward to hearing about other gatherings and fly-ins. I know you folks in Charleston like to meet periodically so let's plan on a southern gathering sometime during the year. Remember, our association is only as strong as our membership, so please place at least one day a month to contact an old shipmate.

Happy holidays to everyone and your families. I pray that all of you have a safe, joyous and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year. God bless!

In Remembrance

Please take a silent moment to honor the memory of the Blackhawks who we lost this past year...

Dave Borggren

George Frey

Until we meet again our friends.....

.....fair winds and following seas!

From the Editor:

Jim Rozycki

As always, I would like to thank all of the Blackhawks who called, mailed and emailed me contributions for this issue of the Hawk's Nest newsletter. I am always looking for articles and input from the Blackhawks.

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

Color Copies of Hawk's Nest

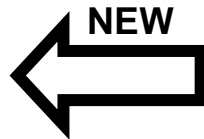
Color copies of current and past Hawk's Nest newsletters may be downloaded and printed in pdf format from our website: www.vp68.org

From the Secretary**(please note the new address)**

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: VP-68 Alumni Association
4924 25th Street S
Arlington, VA 22206

**From the Treasurer**

The end of 2009 is upon us and those of you who are Regular yearly members (M-09) should note that your 2009 dues will soon expire.

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 is \$10, Life Membership is \$100 unless you are over 75 and then it is only \$25.

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

contact John LeNard at 301-445-2261
or email at johnlenard01@comcast.net

2010 MEMBERSHIPS
ARE NOW DUE !

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee, headed up by Dick Perkins, 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 Dick via e-mail at vp68co@yahoo.com

Membership applications may be downloaded from our website: www.vp68.org

Missing Blackhawks

We are still missing a few "lost" Life Members who have not told us of their move! If you know them or where they are, please help us get their newsletter to them....have them contact Kathy Wright.

Alfredo Arroyo, L-98

Nancy Yohn, L-04

2009-2010 Association Officers

President	Jacque LaValle jacque.lavalle@verizon.net
Vice-President	Wyman Bailey Baileymod@msn.com
Secretary	Kathy Wright wright_kathleen@bah.com
Treasurer	John LeNard johnlenard01@comcast.net
Historian	Ed Stanfield edstanfield@mrisc.com

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

***The Officers and Committees of the
VP-68 Alumni Association wish you
and your families a most blessed,
safe and happy holiday season.***

***Please remember and say a special
prayer for our troops!***

**SEE YOU AT THE
2010 SPRING FLING
08 MAY 2010 • 1100
NAS PATUXENT RIVER
BEACH HOUSE**