



# VP-68 Hawk's Nest



Volume No. 33

VP-68 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

April 2010

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), it's parent and supporting Navy squadrons, and those interested in preserving the name and history of VP-68.



**P-8A Poseidon (T-1) arrives at NAS PAX River (see page 2)**

## **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 provided free for current paid members and \$5.00 for all guests and non-members.

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

Remember...to get on base, current DOD ID cards are required....men check your wallets and ladies check your purses. Editor's note: (yes I know....AW's check both!!) I put that in there as I know some of you would!!

Every year after the picnic, a bunch of us head out to a great local restaurant for more laughs, fine food, laughs, drinks, laughs and fellowship. **BE THERE!!!**

## **06 NOV 2010 – 40 Year Reunion**

### **NOTE: UPDATED CHANGES!!**

Our 40-Year Reunion will be held on Saturday, 06NOV2010 across from NAS Patuxent River Gate 1 at the:

**J.T Daugherty Event Center  
22111 Three Notch Road  
Lexington Park, MD 20653**

### **\*\*\*NOTE CHANGE OF HOTEL\*\*\***

The Committee has made special rate arrangements with the **Hampton Inn** for attendees at our 40 Year Reunion. We have negotiated a \$102/night rate providing we reserve a minimum of 30 rooms. Here is the address and contact information for the **Hampton Inn**.

**Hampton Inn  
22211 Three Notch Road  
Lexington Park, MD 20653  
301-863-3200  
301-863-7865 fax  
1-800-HAMPTON  
<http://hamptoninn1.hilton.com>**

### **Important: mention VP-68 Reunion - November 6th**

Tentative plans now are to have a VP-68 "Ready Room" hospitality suite at the **Hampton 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.

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 the future of our 12-year old VP-68 Alumni Association that has kept the VP-68 fun and camaraderie alive.

Please contact our President Jacque LaValle at:  
**[jacque.lavalle@verizon.net](mailto:jacque.lavalle@verizon.net)**

More details about the event will be made in future Hawk's Nest newsletters and on our website:

**[vp68.org](http://vp68.org)**

## **P-8 Poseidon's at Pax**

( submitted by Ed Stanfield & Joe Odenthal )

( ref: April Aviation Week & Space Technology )

12APR10: The U.S. Navy's first Boeing 737-based P-8 Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft will begin operational test and evaluation at NAS Patuxent River, MD, following a ferry flight from Boeing Field in Seattle. T-1, the first P-8, will be flown by the Poseidon integrated test team (ITT) comprising of Navy Air Test and Evaluation Squadrons VX-1 and VX-20 as well as Boeing. The T-1 aircraft is assigned to airworthiness testing while T-2, which is expected to arrive from Seattle in the next month, will be used for mission systems tests, and T-3, still undergoing systems installation and checkout at Boeing Field, will be used for weapons testing when it arrives at Patuxent River.

Joe Odenthal sent us these photos showing T-1 as it arrived at NAS Patuxent River. As Joe stated, the P-3 lead the T-1 across the United States.

( Editor's Note: If a 737 needs a P-3 to lead it across the country....how's it gonna find submarines by itself? )

Joe Odenthal wrote:

Dear Esteemed Orion Personnel: A Moment of silence. It comes as moment of great sadness that the following pictures are submitted for you viewing. The Mighty Orion, Patrol Plane extraordinaire, has been relegated to flying trail wing slot for the P-8A Poseidon. After leading the P-8 across country, the Mighty Orion was kicked to the curb as soon as a Photo Op appeared. The P-8 has a long way to go to prove her mettle against the finest aircraft built since WWII



Bruce Blackwelder wrote:

Your post brings back a childhood (age 8) memory of the first P-3 I saw at NAS Moffett Field in early 1963. I remember wondering when the wingtips would be added, as they were so short in comparison to the P2Vs and R7Vs in residence. Back then, I never dreamed I would be a crewmember in one (I was thinking attack aviator in those days, as the ramp and Hanger 2 were dominated by ADs.)



Terry Gibson wrote:

Sad, very sad....but some great shots of Pax!



Ron Garman wrote:

Don't even know how that #\$\$@#\$\$\* got in ta da air!! There's no F/E on board....replaced by a computer. Kinda like a 9v battery replacing a man!!



Editor's Note: Boy, the fond memories looking down at NAS PAX brings back eh? I can see all of the spots my "base bomber" car broke down at!!



## **Blackhawk People News**

### **George Frey**

( photos submitted by John LeNard )

In the December 2009, Volume No. 32, Hawk's Nest we reported the passing of member George Frey. George was interred at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors on 07JAN10 at 1500 hours.

With true Blackhawk tradition, VP-68 was represented by the attendance of several of our members who knew and worked with George.



The caisson carrying George parades through Arlington.

**Editor's Note:** You must absolutely attend this ceremony to appreciate the respect and honor rendered to military members being interred there. All branches of the military have cemetery details performing this beautiful and precision military ceremony. Every detail and action is choreographed perfectly.



Shown above left to right are VP-68 Blackhawks Kathy Wright, Bill Gaffney, Janice Battaglia, Becky Connick, John LeNard, Terry Gibson, Nancy Frey (with photo of George) and Jim Battaglia after the ceremony. Thanks Blackhawks for being there for Nancy.

Nancy, again we offer our most heartfelt and sincere condolences for your loss of George.

*Fair Winds and Following Seas George  
Farewell Blackhawk*

## **Bob Barnes in Afghanistan**

( email from Bob to Jim Rozycki )

Jim , I am about 20 kilometers south of Kabul , Camp Morehead. It is home of Afghan National Army Commando School and training facility. Graduates from here do joint exercises with Special Operations. It is a huge facility including firing ranges, vehicle driving ranges, navigation, has little vegetation, everything is imported, 124 feet in altitude, cool year round, dusty year around!!.. Iceland volcano ash cloud has even affected flights into Afghanistan. So much for supplies, eh?

I am came on with Jan / Feb advance party and staying 12 / 14 months and coming home , and fully retiring !!

I am slotted for 270 days, but on the honest side a year, and will have accrued enough constructive time to retire 6 months early, but will wait and see! Tell the Blackhawks I said hello and to drop me a line if they can at:

Robert Barnes  
SOTF-East  
APO-AE  
09354

[robert.barnes2@us.army.mil](mailto:robert.barnes2@us.army.mil)

## **George "Doc" Durity's Son Kenneth**

( 20Apr10 email from "Doc" )

Kenneth went to be with his Lord and Savior last night (19Apr10) at 21:05 Hours. I will not be attending the Spring Fling, I need a time together with family for healing. Thanks for all of your prayers.

**Editor's Note:** "Doc"...we offer you, your wife and family our most heartfelt and sincere condolences for your loss of your son Kenneth. For those who would like to send "Doc" an email...here is his address.

[gdurity1492@yahoo.com](mailto:gdurity1492@yahoo.com)

## **Chief's Cutlass**

03APR2010 Navy News

The chief of naval operations approved a number of uniform changes as announced in NAVADMIN 118/10 March 31. Included in the announcement is the approval of a Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Ceremonial Cutlass for optional wear by E-6 through E-9s. Chief petty officers are authorized to wear the cutlass in full dress uniforms when acting as a member of an official party during a ceremony. However to ensure uniformity, all members of the official party must wear either the cutlass or the sword. Because this is an optional uniform article, Sailors are responsible for the cost of the item.

Additional details on the final design and manner of wear of the cutlass will be released in a future Navy message.

## **Reminder:**

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

## **Tri-Care • Medicare • Social Security**

( submitted by Kevin Dillon from the below sources )  
*Navy Times; Aviation Week; Military Times, AUSN Navy Magazine, Fleet Reserve Association Today and Military Officers*

Do you understand your TRICARE benefits? Do you know if you are enrolled in the TRICARE coverage plan that best suits your family's needs? Are you completely confused by all the TRICARE coverage options, co-pays, deductibles, and acronyms? If so you are not alone, surveys have found that most service members and their families are confused by TRICARE. The fact is, TRICARE is an enormous and very complex health care system. You owe it to yourself and your family to find out as much as you can about TRICARE before making any decisions!

### **TRICARE Important Telephone Numbers**

For general information about TRICARE, call one of the many toll-free TRICARE information lines below and found at the TRICARE Contact Us web page.:

[www.tricare.mil/contactus/](http://www.tricare.mil/contactus/)

Hearing or speech-impaired beneficiaries may call TTY/TDD at 1-877-535-6778.

DEERS (Eligibility)  
 1-800-538-9552  
 TRICARE Dental Program  
 1-800-866-8499  
 TRICARE for Life / Dual Eligibles  
 1-866-773-0404  
 TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy  
 1-866-363-8667  
 TRICARE Online (TOL)  
 1-800-600-9332  
 TRICARE Retail Pharmacy  
 1-866-363-8779  
 TRICARE Retiree Dental Program  
 1-888-838-8737  
 US Family Health Plan  
 1-800-748-7347  
 Military Medical Support Office  
 1-888-647-6676

### **Action Needed to Fix TRICARE**

Week of April 12, 2010

As of April 1, 2010, Medicare and TRICARE payments to physicians were cut by 21 percent. TRICARE is currently continuing to process claims without applying the reimbursement reduction. When Medicare declares new reimbursement rates, TRICARE will take 30 to 60 days to change business systems to align, as required by law, with the new Medicare rates. The reduced payment rate may result in fewer doctors being willing to accept TRICARE, which could leave millions of seniors and military beneficiaries without a primary care provider.

Organizations like the Military Officers Association of America are urging the Senate to pass H.R. 4851 which would extend the current payment rate until May 1, 2010. The Senate is considering taking action on H.R. 4851 but is being delayed over technical budget details.

### **Association of the United States Navy**

Headquartered, in Alexandria, VA, AUSN actively seeks members from all ranks and rates of Navy personnel: active, reserve, retired, family and civilians. The organization not only serves as a voice for Navy people on Capitol Hill but also provides career and professional development, information on benefits and pay, scholarships for dependents, Navy Magazine, and a website directing members to a variety of benefits.

POC: Capt. Ike Puzon, USN (ret) (former VP-68 C.O.)  
 AUSN Director of Government Relations

[ike.puzon@ausn.org](mailto:ike.puzon@ausn.org);

### **TRICARE Affirmation Act Passes Congress, and sent to the President**

By Ike Puzon

On Monday, April 12, 2010, The US Senate fast-tracked S 3148 introduced by Senator Jim Webb (D-VA), and passed the TRICARE Affirmation Act S 3148 which had been passed 403-0 by the House of Representatives HR 4887 on March 20, 2010. The bill amends the IRS code to explicitly state that TRICARE programs are defined under the law as "minimal essential health care coverage" as required by the new Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, commonly called the health care reform act. This ensures that service members and their families will not need to purchase additional coverage or pay any penalty fees to meet the health insurance requirements under the new law.

**Editors Note: VP-68 has a friend in AUSN with former C.O., Ike Puzon who has written many articles for AUSN.**

### **TRICARE Requires Electronic Payments in 2010**

Starting in 2010 TRICARE Prime beneficiaries who pay enrollment fees will need to pay their premiums by electronic means. Electronic payments will be required of retired service members, family members of retirees, survivors and eligible former spouses who are TRICARE Prime beneficiaries. Contact TRICARE for more clarification.

### **And Then The Fight Started!!**

Ole Boats took his wife to a restaurant and the waiter, for some reason, took Boat's order first. "I'll have the strip steak, rare, please." He said. The waiter asked "Aren't you worried about the mad cow?" to which Boats replied "Nah, she can order for herself!!"  
 ....and then the fight started!!

## No Threat to TRICARE???

A January 2010 column in *The Wall Street Journal* by former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole asserted the Senate-passed national health care reform bill would tax TRICARE for military families when delivered by a private-sector plan. A White House blog strongly refuted this claim, asserting, "There is absolutely nothing in health reform that will affect TRICARE beneficiaries." The article went on to define some of the taxes referenced, but acknowledged the proposed legislation would exempt all government entities from the tax. MOAA contacted the Senate Finance Committee staff to reconfirm their understanding of how the plan would work for health care delivered through TRICARE contractors. They were assured that the non-partisan House/Senate Joint Tax Committee indeed has issued a ruling that this tax would not apply to TRICARE contractors because, under the new contracts, the contractors are not underwriting coverage, only administering the government program. However...no one can guarantee proposed legislation won't be changed or implemented in an unexpected way.

## Part B Inequity Strikes

The Senate failed to act in time on legislation to prevent all Medicare beneficiaries from seeing Part B premium increases this year. As a result, nearly 25% of Medicare beneficiaries are subject to increased Part B premiums (and a net reduction in their Social Security checks) starting in January. In years like 2010, when there is no Social Security COLA, current law protects most Medicare beneficiaries from premium increases. This provision covers nearly 75% of Medicare Part B beneficiaries. The other 25% of Medicare-eligibles will see significant increase to their premiums. Those affected by the Part B premium increase include:

- new eligibles who turn 65 in 2010;
  - Medicare beneficiaries who do not yet receive Social Security benefits and pay Part B premiums directly to Medicare;
  - some Medicare-eligibles who also qualify for Medicaid;
  - beneficiaries with 2008 adjusted gross incomes greater than \$85,000 (\$170,000 for married couples). (\*\*)
- So the basic Part B premium for beneficiaries not protected by the hold-harmless provision will be \$110.50 a month in 2010, a \$14.10 increase. Premiums for higher-income people (see above \*\*) will increase even more to \$154.70-\$353.60 a month depending on their income. MOAA thinks all Medicare-eligibles should have their premiums frozen in years with no Social Security COLA, and the

## Another Reminder:

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

## In Other News...

### 1.4% Pay Raise for 2011???

The Administration will seek a 1.4% military pay raise for 2011 as part of the defense budget request. If approved by Congress, it would be the smallest annual military pay raise since the birth of the all-volunteer force in 1973.

### Service Dress Khaki Uniform

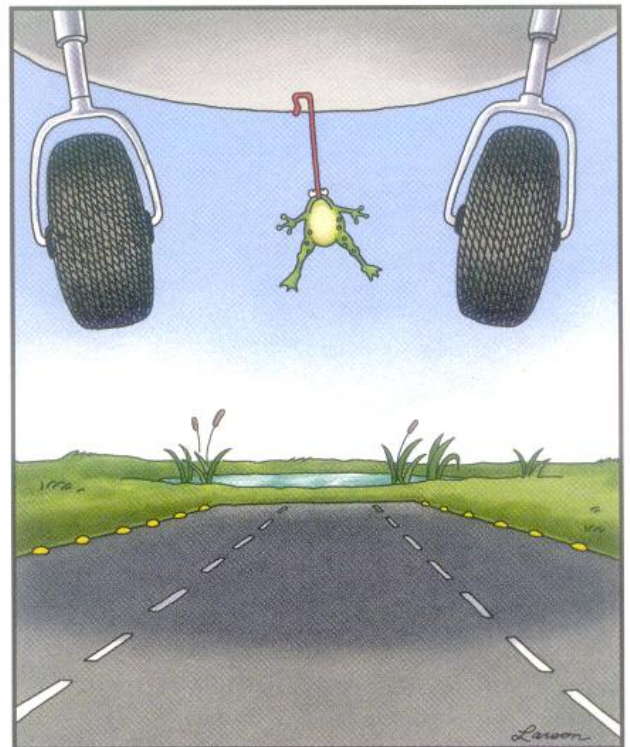
The new Service Dress Khaki (SDK), featuring a contemporary design, was approved by the Chief of Naval Operations for development as an optional uniform for all E-7 and above. NAVADMIN 020/10 contains the complete announcement. After the wear-test issues are identified and addressed, the uniforms should be available for purchase in about 18 months. Once available, the Service Dress Khaki will be approved for optional wear in lieu of summer white and service khaki when wearing a tie in civilian attire is appropriate such as in an office environment. For more information on uniforms and uniform policy, visit the Navy Uniform Matters site: [www.npc.navy.mil/commandsupport/usnavyuniforms/](http://www.npc.navy.mil/commandsupport/usnavyuniforms/)

### Aviation Far Side

( submitted by Jim Rozycki )

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

( look at the frogs eyes!! )



**Happy 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**Navy Reserve 1915-2010**



## **"The Word" Revisited**

The unofficial publication most sought after and read by most Blackhawks (next to Playboy) on their monthly drill weekends from MAR 74 until JUL 90 was "The Word", published by our Association Historian AWCM Ed Stanfield. This month we feature the year 1977.

### **JAN-1977**

1) Fire at the Nowra Naval Air Station virtually wiped out the Australian Navy's force of ASW planes. Five twin-engine S-2 Grumman Trackers were pulled from the hanger before the roof collapsed on seven others but none were salvaged or flyable. Plans are to replace them with surplus S-2E's from Davis-Mothan AFB. The Royal Australian Air Force, however, flies the Lockheed P-2 series land-based patrol aircraft on ASW missions.

2) New occupational standards for Navy ratings have been developed by BuPers, and as a result, a new Personnel Advancement Requirements (PAR) program has been created to replace Practical Factors.

3) Update II, the second phase of the evolutionary improvement program for the P-3C Orion, will include a modular forward-looking infra-red (FLIR) viewing system, an AN/ARS-3 sonobuoy reference system (GRS) and provision for a Harpoon airborne command and launch system (HACLS).

4) The NBC documentary "Sometimes Soldier" about the Reserves showed about 4 minutes of positive and 50 minutes of negative indicating the Naval Air Reserves was in good shape but our "black-shoe" brothers were not...i.e. "how do you train men to be sailors, when they are hundreds of miles from the sea?" Reserve officials have been asking that for years but nobody listened!!

5) Ramblings have it they are about to bring back the old bell-bottom uniform!! BuPers is surveying 6,000 men at the request of CNO ADM Holliday. Early tallies show 86% of the sailors want to return to bells.

5) Crew 2 was the feature crew of the 3-part TV news series "The Sky's The Limit" on Washington's TV Channel 7 rigging the Soviet satellite tracking ship Uri Gagarin with LT Perkins and AO1 Joe Sowers receiving a good bit of footage. Couldn't have been their good looks...probably just in the area when the cameramen showed up!!

6) A "wobbly"(say it wasn't so) VP-68 Chief used a moped to go do some of his laundry. While washing his clothes, base security picked up the bike and stored it for the night. Chief reported it stolen and it showed up the next morning outside the barracks. By the way, my tally shows Mopeds "11" vs VP-68 "0" for the Bermuda Cruise. That's more of an upset than the Azores Cruise where the final score was Bulls "6" vs VP-68 "0".

### **FEB-1977**

1) Change of Command: Thanks to CDR Fitzgerald and CDR Estrin for the long hours and hard work. Best of luck in the future. We welcome CDR Paty as our new skipper and LCDR Hartley as the new X.O.

2) Boot CPO's: This weekend, AWC Pete Gettemy, ADC Ron Garman and AEC John Schneder will be involved in some heart-to-heart discussions on the

responsibilities of their new rank. Because of some past unfortunate occurrences, HM2 George Durity tells us he will be standing ready with a crew outside the CPO Club on Sunday.

3) Final NAVY TIMES uniform poll runs at 87% favoring return to bell bottom uniforms.

4) CNAVRES has an inspection team travelling around the country dropping in unannounced on drilling units!

ADM Charbonnet has passed bad unit reports up to the CNO. Decision: heads will roll!! Leadership problems are easy to fix..equipment problems are more difficult!

5) VR Squadrons: Defense Dept. is cutting funding to individual services airlift groups in favor of using the Air Force Military Airlift Command by the end of fiscal 1977. Loss of airlifts would seriously affect Naval Reserve airlift mission having over 2,000 trained airlift crewman who will have no mission after the MAC takeover and that's nothing to the drilling reservists depending on them. VR squadrons using C-188's are to prepare to decommission by 01Oct77 which includes VR-52 at Andrews.

6) Meanwhile, Rear Admiral Altman (ex NARTU Andrews C.O.) reported that since the end of the draft, there is beginning to develop serious shortages in men for the Reserves to meet mobilization requirements.

7) ??? Work Center 130 advises that all parachutes should be packed before leaving the ground. Attempting to do it in the air and waiting until the last minute is asking for trouble. Say what...???

### **MAR-1977**

1) Control of NAS Los Alamitos, CA will be transferred to the California National Guard effective 01May77.

2) Squadron is emphasizing use of ladders to pull and install engine plugs. There will be one per plane soon.

3) PN1 Gary Miller selected as VP-68 TAR of the year, AZ1 Clarence Fox is VP-68 SAR of the year and AO1 Joe Sowers is VP-68 SAR of the Quarter.

4) SS-3's watch-out: The Navy will select 2 companies for design studies of an ocean surveillance satellite equipped with a high-resolution radar under a program called "Clipper Bow".

### **APR-1977**

1) Hairy Times: 01May77 new beard and moustache guidelines take effect. Rather than give a mess of dimensions, the attached sketches should show you what is allowable. (8 beard/goatee sketches and 10 moustache sketches were included on a one-page sheet.

2) AD1 McComsey is doing a great job with his monthly "Safety Hawk" newsletter. He puts a lot of work into the letter and it's full of good pointers. Good going Harry!!

3) Boot Chief Morton looks naked without his attaché case and anchor!

4) Notice time-in-service between rates getting longer and longer? Why? Because Congress directed the Secretary of Defense to "age" the force. Last thing we Reserves need is to be "aged".

### **MAY-1977**

1)..Congratulations to LT's J.Taylor, C.Smith and A.Crabtree for selection to LCDR.

2) How Squadron readiness figures are derived are such: Ratings are C-1=great to C-4=rotten. Here are the areas standings are figured on...1-Personnel=billets filled etc.; 2-Equipment on Hand=aircraft; 3-Equipment Readiness=operationally ready; 4-Training=Ground & Aircrew; 5-Overall=lowest of the above categories/weak link is the killer!

3) Cruise Lottery: With 15 crews vying for the 5 slots available for ACDUTRA, the Skipper is using a non-partial lottery. Port and Starboard crews were put in separate cans and 2 crews each were picked. Then remaining crews were all put into one can and 1 crew was drawn. As a result, crews 3, 9, 10, 14 and 15 will be going to Rota in September. Remaining crews have option of requesting 5 days of ACDUTRA coupled with an extra drill weekend.

4) In April, LCDR Dick Perkins, LCDR Patterson, LCDR Ellis, AW1 Greg Mitchell, AT1 Lou Johnson, ADC Ron Garman and myself formed the crew for the Commodore's liaison flight to Europe. We hiked up Mt. Vesuvius near Naples to make sure it was OK. Since it pops off about 30 years and last went off in 1944 it was overdue. Wind and snow around us, but it was warm inside the cone near the crevices. We made our contribution to society by relieving ourselves, thereby cooling the volcano enough that it won't blow for several more years. May long live the 2 souvenir stands perched on the rim of the crater.

5) I also went with Crew 8 to Lossiemouth, Scotland and upon landing, some Customs and Scottish Air Force fellows came charging aboard all excited but then were crestfallen. They found out that AW didn't stand for Aviation Women. That was their opinion, as opposed to opinions of other crewman on the plane...but at least we don't wear kilts!! Next day PN3 Rex Wyer met his fiancée who arrived on the east-bound train. The "O's" arrived as the train was pulling out and ran and jumped on the train. Good news-they all made it...Bad news-they wanted the west-bound train!! They blamed the two navigators LCDR Erskine and LCDR Stone. Later the 9 "E's" showed up, saw the train departing in the distance...none of the three groups saw each other again.

#### JUN-1977

1) Grooming Update: You cannot wear earrings with your uniform...hear that you guys from Baltimore?? The reg was really written to apply to Navy women. Darned if one of our guys wasn't nabbed for wearing an earring at the Brunswick WST. He got jumped on!!

2) House Armed Services Committee has recommended adding \$35.5 million to defense budget for education incentives and reenlistment bonuses. We'll see!

3) VP-68 T-shirts mean what they say!! The Soviets have discovered powerful whirl formations the size of hundreds of miles resembling cyclones on land and they go from the surface to depths of several thousand yards.

4) Pine Tree Patrol: in May, Al Watson headed to Maine to help man the Observer station on the mining range. In between exercises Al dug up a couple pine trees to take back home. No problem eh...Maine has millions of

'em eh? Observers in the mining station saw Al being hauled off by a park ranger. Later that night, we noticed a pine tree "walking" across the ramp. The Observer Station, manned by Crew 2, later signed off with a rather ragged rendition of the National Anthem.

#### JUL-1977

1) The Defense Department says that a Navy's legislative proposal to permit women to serve on ships "not engaged in combat missions" doesn't go far enough. It says that women should be assigned to aircraft carriers on a test basis. Army and Air Force figures show annual pregnancy rate of 85 for their women. No figures were given for Navy women.

2) AMSC Oscar Line, a supervisor in the Aircraft Division (100) is transferring to a non-pay unit at Andrews as he now turns 58. He has been with the Navy for 36 years. He has been with VP-68 or our predecessors since 1950. A lawyer with BuPers, Master Chief has been a first hand source of information about latest happenings in the Navy. Good Luck Oscar, we'll miss you.

3) LCDR Dave Craig, TAR Training Coordinator and Crew 1 TACCO, will be receiving his orders this month to go to NAS New Orleans. He'll have to learn to eat okra, fried tomatoes and grits instead of box lunches. Good Luck Mr. Craig, we appreciate all of your efforts.

4) Jack Dewitt was picked VP-68 TAR Sailor of the Quarter and Airman Downing was awarded a two-year NROTC scholarship. Good going fellows.

5) Rumor has it that VR squadrons with the golden oldies, C-118's, will be given another year of life instead of decommission on 01Oct.

#### AUG-1977

1) LCDR "Sky" Sudan and LCDR "Snuffy" Smith have been recalled by the Airlines and are smiling ear-to-ear.

2) This is AW1 Dennis Norris' last month with VP-68. Besides being a top-notch sensor operator with Crew 11, Dennie has also been supervising petty officer for the Operations Department. ADMAT inspectors didn't find a single error on Dennie's watch. Good Luck.

3) NATC PAX will hold it's Air Expo '77 air show featuring the Blue Angels in their A-4F Skyhawks. Ought to prove interesting logistics as VP-68 starts it's Rota cruise that same weekend.

4) Lockheed began building the P-2 for the Navy in 1944 and the Navy began phasing them out in the early 60's. The Memphis VP squadron will begin transitioning from the P-2 to the P-3 at the end of the year. At Rosie Roads, Fleet Composite Squadron 8's two P-2's are used for search and rescue missions and for launching aerial targets. They also claim the first female P-2 plane captain in the Navy.

#### SEP-1977

1) Aviation Wonders: I just came across a picture of a C-124 that crash-landed at Baffin Island in 1954. There was nothing left but the center third of the fuselage and the left wing. One of the engines on that wing continued to run for more than 30 hours after the crash.

2) The bell-bottom uniform will return for E-4 and below.

3) AWC Bill "Cheap" Schott, with Pete Logan aboard, flew into PAX in a Cessna 174 last drill weekend. A plane from any military flying club can be flown to the base without red tape. He flew to Ocean City, MD to visit vacationing family and ended up grounded due to thunderstorms. Sunday morning he circled PAX for 2 hours until the field opened at 0800. Sunday night he didn't fly out until 1930 due to passing thunderstorms but says it beats trying to keep his eyes open (for sleepiness and state police) on Rt. 5 and Rt. 235.

4) The Joint House Senate Appropriations Committee has allowed three endangered Naval Reserve programs to stand: Training and Administration of Reserves (TAR) Officer Program; Naval Reserve Airlift Squadrons; 5 Reserve units in noncombat Reserve specialties.

5) In July, 7,000 homes were swept away in flooding in Johnstown, PA. A Jacksonville, FL Marine Reserve Unit solicited \$60,000 in goods which were flown to the area by VP-62. Well done VP-62 and Marines.

6) Construction of a new Soviet ballistic missile submarine code named "Typhoon" by NATO has been detected in the Soviet Union at Severomorsk.

7) Pine Tree Patrol: Crew 2, under the command of LCDR Max Magee, is the Number 1 crew in the squadron and has 100% readiness. They took their week of special ACDUTRA with the hopes of getting some Pacific operational flights. On the leg from California to Hawaii the inertial system pooped out and the Loran was unreadable. LT Selby and LT Averill honed their navigational abilities with sun shots and dead-reckoning and they weren't far off either. Upon touch down at Hickham AFB, AW1 Chris White observed little unusual-like hunks of metal falling out of the No. 3 engine exhaust pipe. Son-of-a-gun...we threw a turbine blade. A one-day stop became a four-day stop in Hawaii Good times!!

#### **OCT-1977**

1) Beginning in OCT 1978, enlisted Naval Reservists will begin receiving statements of how many retirement points they have earned.

2) A House subcommittee is considering legislation to provide benefits to survivors of Reservists who die after becoming eligible to retire but before reaching age 60 and receiving retired pay.

3) ADC McComsey has published another fine Safety Hawk featuring home safety...get yours.

4) The Cruise: We did great in Rota. We worked well with VP-10, maintenance worked their rear-ends off and even did a few 24-hr stretches to get the planes flying. Most Liberty Hops got off as planned. One detachment of P-3's went to Sicily and in maintenance support was AM1 Joe Cusick. Joe had been there before..34 years ago as a coxswain on a landing craft during the invasion of Sicily in WWII. He was in the second wave that came ashore. Little better circumstances this time eh Joe? The squadron party went well at Benny's. Folks swimming fully clothed with assistance. Volleyball hot and heavy until YN2 Nancy Sanchez sprained her ankle. She was carted away on a lawn chair by her admirers, like Queen Cleopatra. All had a great cruise.

#### **NOV-1977**

1) Congratulations to new CPOs AOC Joe Sowers, PNC Gary Millen and ADC Rex Lake. AW1 Art Sullivan received his commission as an Ensign.

2) The first production model of the P-3C Update II has arrived at Naval Air Test Center for test & evaluation.

#### **DEC-1977**

1) HM1 George Durity and HM3 Mike Gerrad have been doing a commendable job of collecting our annual contribution of blood and urine in exchange for a variety of shots. Other HM help from Andrews will no longer be available so allow more time for your physicals.

### **AWCM Stanfield in Russia - 1976**

( taken from the April 1976 "The Word" issue )

I just returned from a brief one-week trip to Russia. When I would tell my friends that I just got back from the U.S.S.R. the standard response was: "oh, did you go there with the Reserves?" (Heaven forbid the time that I have to go to Russia with the Reserves!!) The following is a short list of my observations:

- 01 The ice cream and subways were outstanding.
- 02 They don't make chewing gum in Russia. You can get a Hammer-&-Sickle Red Army belt buckle for three packs of gum and a whole belt for five packs.
- 03 The KGB wasn't hiding behind every tree (I don't think).
- 04 Nylons cost \$7.50 a pair (complete with seams up the back).
- 05 There's some good looking Russian women.
- 06 There's a lot of stocky, muscular Russian women. (Good for street work!).
- 07 I didn't see a single sober Russian man or woman after 9 P.M. on Friday or Saturday nights.
- 08 I didn't see Dr. Zhivago riding a trolley car.
- 09 People stare at you if you don't wear a hat or if you wear a ski cap.
- 10 You need boots and fur hats in Russia.
- 11 I wasn't impressed by the Aeroflot IL-62 or IL-135 (a couple of broad stewardesses too).
- 12 Lenin's Tomb was closed. They were changing his oil for May Day or something.
- 13 Russians get suspicious when they see you smile a lot.
- 14 Many Russians believe in Socialism. Some Russians don't but they voice their opinions very discretely.
- 15 Scads of military uniforms everywhere. Lots of high ranking officers carrying brief cases. I wonder what they're planning?
- 16 The Russians have suffered some very grievous losses under the Czars, from Stalin's purges to WWII. No wonder they don't smile much.
- 17 You must check your coat in at all theaters, restaurants, museums, and in fact, at all public places.
- 18 There's no tipping.
- 19 I don't trust the hierocracy.
- 20 The dollar will spend anywhere.
- 21 Russians are human too.



## **Reservist retirees live longer!!**

( submitted by Rex Wyers )

( source: 2009 Pensacola News Journal )

Department of Defense actuaries have discovered significantly higher mortality rates among active duty retirees compared to reserve retirees, and the disparity stretches back decades. In any given year, looking at populations of non-disabled military retirees age 60 and older, the death rate for active duty enlisted retirees is 20 percent to 25 percent higher than for reserve enlisted retirees.

Active duty officer retirees age 60 and older die in numbers 10 percent higher than retired reserve peers. All retired officers, and retired enlisted members, still live a few years longer, on average, than the general population. But for active duty enlisted retirees, it's about even with other Americans.

Defense officials haven't done a study to explain death-rate differences among military retirees. Speculation centers on stresses of full-time service including past wars, frequent moves, constant physical activity to stay in shape, and stress-induced habits such as smoking and alcohol consumption.

Another factor, one official acknowledged, is that active-duty retirees rely for decades on military health care as patients and doctors are reassigned frequently and the continuity of care can suffer to what reservists experience.

Attention was also shifted to whether frequent reactivation of Reserve and Guard personnel to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan will result, years from now, in a rising death rates for reserve retirees. It was noted that if mortality rates do climb for reserve retirees, it may tell us something about how we treat them when we bring them back. The government made assurances that they were reaching out to returning veterans to find and treat stress-related conditions.

## **Ole "Boats" and the IRS**

( submitted by Bruce Blackwelder )

The IRS decides to audit Ole Boats, and summons him to the IRS office. The IRS auditor is not surprised when Ole Boats shows up with his attorney. The auditor says, "Well, sir, you have an extravagant lifestyle and no full-time employment, which you explain by saying that you win money gambling. I'm not sure the IRS finds that believable." "I'm a great gambler, and I can prove it," says Ole Boats. "How about a demonstration?" The auditor thinks for a moment and said, "Okay. Go ahead." Ole Boats says, "I'll bet you a thousand dollars that I can bite my own eye." The auditor thinks a moment and says, "No way! It's a bet." Ole Boats removes his glass eye and bites it. The auditor's jaw drops. Ole Boats says, "Now, I'll bet you two thousand dollars that I can bite my other eye" The auditor can tell Ole Boats isn't blind, so he takes the bet. Ole Boats removes his dentures and bites his good eye. The stunned auditor now realizes he has wagered and lost three grand, with Ole Boats'

attorney as a witness. He starts to get nervous. Want to go double or nothing?" Ole Boats asks. "I'll bet you six thousand dollars that I can stand on one side of your desk, and pee into that wastebasket on the other side, and never get a drop anywhere in between." The auditor, twice burned, is cautious now, but he looks carefully and decides there's no way this guy can manage that stunt, so he agrees again. Ole Boats stands beside the desk and unzips his pants, but although he strains mightily, he can't make the stream reach the wastebasket on the other side, so he pretty much urinates all over the desk. The auditor leaps with joy, realizing that he has just turned a major loss into a huge win. But Ole Boats' attorney moans and puts his head in his hands. "Are you okay?" the auditor asks. "Not really," says the attorney. "This morning, when Old Boats told me he'd been summoned for an audit, he bet me twenty thousand dollars that he could come in here and pee all over your desk and that you'd be happy about it."

## **President's Corner**

By Jacque LaValle

I have to confess that I am writing this message while basking at Sun-N-Fun in Lakeland, FL, where the weather is perfect, the planes are plentiful and contacts/opportunities abound. This has been an eventful week indeed. The first P-8A was delivered to the Navy at Pax River on the 10th of April, landing minutes before I departed from St. Mary's airport for my trip to Sun-N-Fun. But as many have called this a sad day, know that the P-3 is still doing fine and well as we expect to get many more years out of the airframe. I had the opportunity to meet Bill Walsh, one of the P-3 pilots from the Customs Service. This P-3B variant was equipped with the E-2C APS-145 radar system and the cockpit is all glass, including the FE stack. Bill was stationed at Pax River and we shared many a sea story while sitting in the cockpit. I was also able to meet other VP sailors at the vendor hangars where we discussed VP Navy, deployments and of course, more sea stories. The air show itself was terrific. A Piper twin demonstrated an alternative bio fuel; Patty Wagstaff continued to awe the crowd with her aerobatic skills and the Thunderbirds produced a wonderful display of freedom's strength. It is just a shame I have to leave this paradise and head out to San Diego next week for another T-56 conference.

Coming up fast is both the Spring Fling (thanks, Wally, for getting the reminder out) and our 40th Reunion in November. Thirty hotel rooms have been blocked for the reunion at the Hampton Inn and I encourage everyone to utilize them so we can maintain the great deal we are getting on both the rates and the hospitality room. We hope to get more information later in the month as things and events occur.

I'd like to close with a request for Doc Durity and his family who needs our prayers and support. . Their son Kenneth passed away from an aggressive cancer. So please join me in prayer and support Doc in any way you can.

**From the Editor:**

Jim Rozycki

As always, I would like to thank all of the VP-68 Blackhawks who called, mailed and emailed me contributions for this issue of the Hawk's Nest newsletter. Our members are spread all over the USA and this is one venue to keep in touch with fellow Blackhawks. This newsletter is YOUR newsletter, so please send me information about yourself and what you are doing these days. Photos....please send me photos, especially if you have ones from the "early" years of the squadron.

Email me at: [rozyckijim@aol.com](mailto: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

**From the Secretary**

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](mailto:wright_kathleen@bah.com)

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

**From the Treasurer**

2009 memberships (M-09) have expired and they have been dropped from our official membership.

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](mailto:johnlenard01@comcast.net)

**2009 MEMBERSHIPS  
ARE NOW EXPIRED !**

When you calling or sending emails to your Blackhawk friends, ask them if they are current members and received this April 2010 Hawk's Nest...if not...their membership has expired!!

**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](http://www.vp68.org)

**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](mailto:vp68co@yahoo.com)

Membership applications may be downloaded from our website: [www.vp68.org](http://www.vp68.org)

**Missing Blackhawks**

We have a few "lost" Life Members who haven't 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

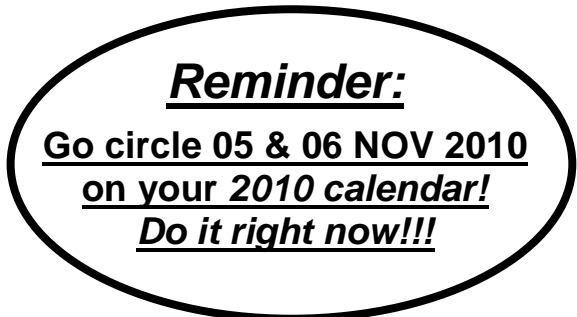
**2009-2010 Association Officers**

- President **Jacque LaValle**  
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- Vice-President **Wyman Bailey**  
[baileymod@msn.com](mailto:baileymod@msn.com)
- Secretary **Kathy Wright**  
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- Treasurer **John LeNard**  
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- Historian **Ed Stanfield**  
[edwin.stanfield@gmail.com](mailto:edwin.stanfield@gmail.com)

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**SEE YOU AT THE  
2010 SPRING FLING  
08 MAY 10 • 1100  
NAS PATUXENT RIVER  
BEACH HOUSE**

\*\*\*\*\*



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