

VP-68 Hawk's Nest



Volume No. 34

VP-68 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

September 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.



2010 Spring Fling – NAS PAX River

2010 Spring Fling

The annual VP-68 Alumni Association "Spring Fling" picnic was held on Saturday, 08 MAY 2010 at the NAS Patuxent River Beach House. This is the longest tenured event of our Association and there is hardly a better place to have a picnic. Once again...the weather was Pax-Perfect and activities started at 1100 and went to about 1800.

We had over 50 Blackhawks attend and they, and their guests, were treated to a fine picnic with all the fixin's. Paul Toutant manned the grill and kept the troops fed. Several of the attendees brought extra side dishes and deserts, much to the delight of the group.

As required in the by-laws, a business meeting was conducted and reports given from the officers and committees.

The main topic of discussion was the upcoming 40-Year Reunion on 06 Nov2010. VP Wyman Bailey will be heading up the reunion committee and asked for volunteers to help.

This year, after the picnic, a large group of us went out to a great local restaurant, The Ruddy Duck located in Hollywood, MD for a seafood feast and more laughs, fine food, laughs, drinks, laughs and fellowship.

(see Fling photos on page 2 and 3)

And Then The Fight Started!!

(submitted by Ron Stevens)

Master Chief's wife asked...., "How many women have you slept with?" to which Master Chief proudly replies, "Only you, Darling...with all the others, I was awake."

....and then the fight started!!!!

<u>06 NOV 2010 – 40 Year Reunion</u>

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

The Committee has made special rate arrangements with the <u>Hampton Inn</u> for attendees at our 40 Year Reunion. We have negotiated a \$102/night rate providing we reserve a minimum of 40 rooms...deadline of **06 OCT** for discount.

Hampton Inn 22211 Three Notch Road Lexington Park, MD 20653 301-863-3200 301-863-7865 fax 1-800-HILTONS

http://hilton.com/GroupPage

Important: mention Group Code "VP6"

ROOM RATE DEADLINE: 06 OCT 2010

MEAL RESERVATION DEADLINE: 15 OCT 2010

(more details on page 07)





2010 Spring Fling photos courtesy of "Doc" Durity and Dick & Jo Ann Fickling

Blackhawk People News

Bob Barnes in Afghanistan

(2Jun & Aug emails from Bob Barnes)

02Jun10: Jim , June started another month, but also started my downhill slope to retirement (ret date June 30 2011), hope to start terminal leave after 1st of year, and enjoy a vacation or 2 ... been long haul from early 1970's on board USS JFK CVA 67 to present,

13Aug10: Today marks my 40th year in uniform, closer to ending than beginning....amen. Robert

Barnes, Robert O Jr MSG RES USAR

Bob would love to hear from the Blackhawks at:

Robert Barnes SOTF-East APO-AE 09354

robert.barnes2@us.army.mil

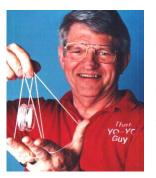
Bill Eaton's Grandson

(submitted by Vic Kraft)

Blackhawk Bill Eaton's grandson, Zack reported to the U.S.Naval Academy this past July1st along with 1,500 other new plebes. Zack, from Harper's Ferry, WV., played in his school band, is an Eagle Scout, a great kid...and we need more like him.

The Joe Foss Institute

(submitted by Dick Stohr)



Dick flew as TACCO with VP-68 and retired as a Captain from the Navy Reserves. His Navy career also included serving as Officer of the Deck for the Apollo 16 and 17 astronaut recoveries and also the first SKYLAB recovery.

He has also received his 500 hour award for volunteering at the Washington DC Vet-

erans Administration Medical Center. I drive the DAV (Disabled American Veterans) Van to get needy patients from/to their home and the Medical Center for their Doctors appointments.

Blackhawk Dick Stohr has made a reputation for himself in two very distinct ways.

The first, as many of us know, is in his business known as "That Yo-Yo Guy." Since 1989, Dick has entertained and even competed in the World Yo-Yo Contest. He even served on the Board of Directors of the American Yo-Yo Association from 1998 to 2009. Since 1997 he has taught thousands of elementary school

students the principles of science and safety using yoyos and spin tops.

What a lot of folks do not know is the name and reputation he has made as a public speaker for a very worth-while cause..

As Dick tells it: A few years ago I came across an opportunity to make presentations about being a veteran to elementary and middle school students. It has been a lot of fun and very rewarding. It is really no big thing, but the students get a great deal from it that they would not get from any other source. My first one was in June 2006. I have done 30 presentations to over 5,600 students. It really is a kick.

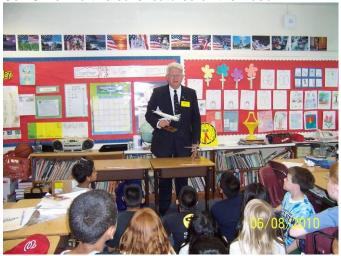
What I would like to share with the Blackhawks is The Joe Foss Institute.

http://www.joefoss.com/

The Institute (recognized by the IRS as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization) was founded in 2001 by Medal of Honor Recipient, General Joe Foss, together with his wife, Didi. Though Joe passed away in 2003, the Institute—under the guidance of Didi and its Distinguished Board—is working hard to teach patriotism, democracy, public service, integrity, and an appreciation for America's freedoms to children in schools & classrooms throughout the country.

The Joe Foss Institute was created to work with youth in schools and youth groups across America—with those who will defend our freedoms in the future—to encourage patriotism, integrity, and public service. We help our audiences understand—and stand up for—the ideals upon which this country was founded, as reflected in our Founding Documents: the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Declaration of Independence.

Open up the Joe Foss website and click on the picture of John Elway. Here he does a video introduction of the Joe Foss Institute. There is a small segment where I speak and also shows me doing a presentation to youth while holding a model of our beloved P-3 as a display. Col. Oliver North also is featured on the video.



Dick Stohr in a recent presentation
I feel it is a very good program and something that is very easy to do. If you have some time they will give

you any training you need and set you up with schools in your area.

They are very good about using you for only the time you have available. The presentation starts with a video and there are two versions, one for lower grades in cartoon format and one for the older grades that uses actors.

They cover Joe Foss, patriotism, the founding documents of the US, and military service. Then you talk about your service and then answer questions. Many of the questions are very well thought out and show that they are really interested.

If you have some time, there is a need. I would be happy to answer any questions you have;

Feel free to contact me at:

thatyoyoguy@verizon.net

In Other News...

Navy Subs: Women In, Smoking Out

(ref: AOL News, Navy Times, Stars & Stripes)
One of the most significant changes for the U.S. Navy this decade -- the introduction of women on submarines -- may be overshadowed by a new policy that would ban all smoking aboard subs. "We're going to stop smoking on submarines," Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead said, according to the Navy Times. Roughead reportedly discussed the reasons behind the ban at a recent gathering at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga.

The smoking ban follows closely the Pentagon's decision to lift the long-standing ban on women serving on submarines, where limited space had been used as arguments in the past for maintaining an all-male crew. Those same close quarters are now feeding into the

thinking behind the smoking ban. The proposed ban appears to be in part a reaction to a not-yet-released study on the health effects of second-hand smoke on submarines.

The smoking ban is hardly a complete surprise. Smoking bans have already been extended in many states to restaurants, workplaces and public buildings. The Defense Department has also considered limiting tobacco use.

A 2009 report on smoking among members of the military advocated for the Defense Department to set a timeline for being tobacco-free. Currently, about a third of active-duty military members smoke.

"That will be a real testy sub when it gets underway," military newspaper Stars & Stripes quoted one submariner about the prospects of a ban. "As a non-smoker, I think it's good, but a ban will just push smokers to use a different form of tobacco."

Remember...you only have until
06 OCT 10 to reserve discount rooms
15 OCT 10 to reserve your meals

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 (FRA) Today and
Military Officer

TRICARE Fee Clarification

Fleet Reserve Association has been assured that no TRICARE fee increase will be proposed this year. Shipmates are encouraged to use the FRA Action Center (www.fra.org) and urge support for H.R. 816, a measure that would require congressional approval to increase TRICARE premiums.

New DFAS Website

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) recently launched a new and improved Web site for retired military and annuitant customers.

www.dfas.mil

This update site offers easier navigation and more relevant content and is organized into 4 topical sections:

- Retirement Pay Annuities
- Disability Benefits Planning for Retirement

TRICARE Affirmation Act

The TRICARE Affirmation Act, H.R. 4887, became law in late April 2010. The law clarifies the intent of the recently passed health care legislation by explicitly stating that the TRICARE health plan meets all standards for individual health insurance required by the new law.

New ID Cards

FRA has been notified by military retirees about delays in receiving the new Department of Defense (DoD) ID cards that do not show the sponsor's Social Security Number. Apparently, only military family members are receiving them and it is unclear when they will be available to service members and retirees. To find the nearest ID card center, go to the RAPIDS site that provides a directory of over 1,500 locations around the world. The directory also provides phone numbers.

http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home

Dept. of the Navy and Marine Corps.

The House approved legislation (H.R. 24) and (H.R.5136) that renames the Department of the Navy as the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps.

FRA believes the Corps has filled a unique niche in the Nation's history, not duplicated by any other Armed Service. Recognizing the Corps as an equal partner in a new Department of the Navy and Marine Corps would give the Marines the distinction and esteem they truly deserve. The bill now moves to the Senate for further consideration.

Service Flag Bill

The House passed the "Blue Star/Gold Star Act" (H.R. 2546) that prohibits a residential association from adopting any policy that restricts or prevents a member

from displaying a service flag on their residential property. Service Flags are those showing a blue star for a loved one's wartime service or a gold star to show a family member died during military wartime service.

50-Year Low 1.4% Pay Raise

In July, the House passed its version of the FY 2011 Defense Authorization Bill (H.R. 5136) and the Senate Armed Services Committee approved its draft of the Senate version of the defense bill (S. 3406).

The biggest surprise was the Senate-endorsed the Pentagon-proposed 1.4% military pay raise rather than the 1.9% raise in the House-passed defense bill.

With the country asking the troops and their families for the greatest sacrifices in more than 50 years, this 1.4% pay raise sends the wrong message.

6-Month Doc Fix

Congress still struggles to resolve pending cuts to Medicare and TRICARE reimbursement rates. Although the Senate failed to pass the so-called Tax Extenders Bill (H.R. 4213) that includes language delaying the 21% cuts in Medicare and TRICARE payments, the chamber did pass a separate "doc fix" measure in June. This legislation extends current reimbursement rates for another six months. FRA remains concerned that many doctors will choose not to serve Medicare and TRICARE patients if these cuts take effect.

Fleet Reserve Association members are urged to use the FRA Action Center below to ask lawmakers to resolve their ongoing threat to doctor reimbursement rates and support concurrent receipt improvements.

www.fra.org

"Gray-Area" TRICARE

The FY2010 Defense Authorization Act established the TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR) program to provide TRICARE coverage for "Gray-Area" retirees (retired guardmembers and reservists who haven't yet attained age 60). The program is the final step in providing the guardmembers and reservists continuous TRICARE coverage throughout and after their military careers.

Expected to begin 01 OCT 10 on schedule, the process of placing the program in the federal register could be a potential snag.

TRR coverage will be exactly the same as TRICARE Standard (which covers 75% of allowable charges after a deductable of \$150 for an individual and \$300 for a family), except eligible beneficiaries will be required to pay a premium.

Unlike the existing TRICARE Reserve Select program, in which premiums are 72% subsidized by the government, retirees will be responsible for paying premiums equal to the full cost of coverage.

<u>Editors Note:</u> Thanks Kevin for the information. It is most imperative that we all remain alert and informed to what the House and Senate have planned for our earned retirement benefits.

"What Is A Sailor"

(submitted by Lou Johnson)

(Author Unknown...reprinted from the Summer 2010 issue of U.S. Navy Cruiser Sailors Association)

Between the innocence of babyhood and the dignity of manhood, we find the delightful creature called a... Sailors come in an assortment of sizes, shapes, weights and colors. A very important requirement is that they have at least one arm and two fingers to pick up a coffee cup, beer bottle or liberty card. All sailors have the same creed: to spend as much time every hour of the day trying to discover new ways of... getting out of working-parties, standing watch, or harassing the chief, looking for out-of-the-way places in which to nap where the chance of being caught is slim, and dreaming up good reasons why he should have Special Liberty on Friday or Monday. They protest to loud noises after Taps when they are not members of the liberty party, but when they are...they can't understand why everything is so quiet at midnight and, try to do something about it.

Sailors are found everywhere; on and in the water, in dark streets and alleyways, in fast-moving cars, night-clubs, popping in and out of portholes and swinging from ropes and ladders. Many times they aren't aware they've been in these places until informed by someone of higher authority.

Girls love them, soldiers and Marines hate them, cooks ignore them, the Legal Officer and St. Christopher protects them.

All sailors are truth with their fingers crossed, wisdom with cigarettes in their socks, beauty and pride in uniform (which quite often is owned jointly between him and a buddy, from his skivvies on out). He is the hero of the past and promise of the future, with a girl on each arm.

A sailor is a composite. He has the energy of a small sized atomic bomb, the speed of a jet when necessary, the curiosity of a cat, the superstition of a gypsy, the lungs of an auctioneer, the imagination of Walt Disney, the appetite of a lumberjack, the digestion of a whale, the slyness of a fox and the shyness of a ______. I guess he's not too shy after all!

A sailor likes girls, strong drinks, girls, nightclubs, girls, pictures of girls, movies, girls, mail-call, girls, payday, girls, poker and dice games, and water in its natural source. He's not much on standing watches, beans for breakfast, shining shoes, haircuts, shaving, shots, or Boatswain's Mates who have a never-ending supply of paint, brushes, swabs, brooms and chipping hammers. His favorite songs are "Dixie", "Yankee Doodle", "The Eyes of Texas", "Anchors Aweigh" and "Roll Me Over in the Clover".

A sailor is a sentimental creature. He is enchanted by sunrise and the playing of Taps. He will always salute the flag, but will shift whatever he is carrying to his right hand or duck down a passageway to avoid saluting an officer. He will give his dollar toward a party for an orphanage, or try to sneak a stray animal aboard a ship and defy anyone to report it.

If you are the part-time processor of one of those astounding, magical creatures, no matter if it's your husband, son, brother or sweatheart, you will live for the moment you look out the window and see a figure clad min the familiar attire of the men-of-the-sea come bounding down the sidewalk with his boyish grin spanning his face from ear to ear. You may get him off the ship once in a while, but you know he can't stay long. Then comes the interminable wait for the mailman and the piece of paper which turns your mind to butter when you open it and read "Hi Darling." You can lock him out of your house, but not out of your heart.

You might as well give up. He's your thoughts, hopes, plans and dreams. He's your captor and your jailor....Yes, he's your SAILOR!!

Navy Medicine

(submitted by Wally Chance)



Read the bombs.....Love 'em Red Shirts!!

Battleship Texas 1900 - CPO Mess

(submitted by Joe Odenthal)



Look at all them old crusty CPO's...Is the "Boats" on the right (6 hash marks) a selectee? Bet he had a memorable initiation!! Had to take another look....thought it was another old photo of the infamous Crew 4!!

06 NOV 2010 - 40 Year Reunion

Your VP-68 Alumni Association is pleased to announce that we are having our 40th Year Reunion on 05-06 NOV 2010.

The event will be held at the **J.T.Daugherty Event Center** in Lexington Park, Md (across from Gate 2, Pax River Naval Air Station).

Arrangements have been made with the **Hampton** Inn Lexington Park at the special rate of \$102.00 per room not including taxes and fees. Forty (40) rooms at this guaranteed price will remain available only until 06 OCT 2010. use three digit Group code VP6

You can contact the hotel one of three ways: Direct: 301-863-3200 & 1-800-HILTONS OR

http://www.hilton.com/GroupPage

The VP-68 Ready Room / Hospitality Suite will be in the Thomas/Thompson room starting Friday evening, 05 Nov 10 through early Sunday morning, 07 Nov 10. Start your fun Friday evening after checking into the hotel or for you locals drop in and spend the weekend with your squadron friends. Bring all your sea-stories and prepare to laugh all weekend long.

Dinner will be on Saturday evening followed by music and dancing until midnight.

Our guest speaker is Captain Leon R. Bacon, P-8A Poseidon deputy program manager who will present an exciting update on the latest ASW platform which will be replacing our loveable P-3 Orion.

Please indicate on the **Registration Form** if you and your guest plan to attend the tour of the P-8A Poseidon.

The nationality of your guest is also required if he/she will be going on the P-8A tour.

On <u>15 OCT 10</u> we must give the Daugherty Event Center a dinner head count, so please fill out the reservation form and send it in with your payment as early as possible to:

Wyman Bailey 10326 Pine Ridge Drive Ellicott City, Md. 21042 410-465-8884 Home 410-960-2008 Cell

baileymod@msn.com

If you are not current on your membership, please send in your dues and receive future newsletters, attend events and rejoin the Blackhawk family. Members also pay \$10 less for their meals at this reunion.

Please feel free to contact me at any time. Thank you for your prompt response. Please pass this on to a Blackhawk who may not be on our mailing list.

Sincerely, Wyman Bailey 40-Year Reunion Committee Chairman

Find more details about the 40-Year Reunion on our website:

vp68.org

President's Corner

By Jacque LaValle

What a summer this has been. For those on the east coast and even in the mid west, the number of 90+° days were the highest on record. And now we enter the hurricane season where more uncertainty will prevail. Igor is steaming across the Atlantic and Julia is not far behind.

But there is one thing that is certain, and that is the successful execution of the VP-68 Alumni Association's 40 Year Reunion on the 5th & 6th of November.

This event will be the best one yet as we introduce the new P-8A aircraft at Patuxent River, Md. But for this event to be even better, I need each of you to commit by sending in your registration forms and booking your hotel room on line. I ask that you help support our association by staying at the Hampton Inn in Lexington Park, where we've arranged for a reasonable rate and your support will help offset the cost of the hospitality room.

I am proud of all the work that the reunion committee has accomplished to date and look forward to seeing the end result in November.

And don't forget to bring your sea stories, pictures and videos to share. It's been a long time and we look forward to the memories.

Remember these dates:

06 Oct 10 deadline for booking discounted hotel room 15 Oct 10 deadline for meal registrations 05 Nov 10 arrive alive and have a great time See you on the 5th of November!

Questions / Comments: contact me at: iacque.lavalle@verizon.net

Ole Boats

(submitted by Bruce Blackwelder)

Ole Boats was telling his shipmate about going to church. "I lost the trivia contest at the church social last night by one point" he said. "The last question was, "Where do most women have curly hair?

Apparently the correct answer is Africa!! I've been asked to find another place to worship."

"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 will again be seen in the next issue of the Hawk's Nest.....featuring the year 1978.

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

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

or mail to: VP-68 Alumni Association

4924 25th Street S Arlington, VA 22206

From the Treasurer

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

MEMBERSHIP

When you are calling or sending emails to your Blackhawk friends, ask them if they are members in the VP-68 Alumni Association and received this Hawk's Nest. If not...please ask them to join!

There are many former Blackhawks out there who still do not know of our Association. Give them our website or bring them to the next function.

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

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 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 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 edwin.stanfield@gmail.com

SEE YOU AT THE
40-YEAR REUNION
05 & 06 NOV 2010
J.T.DOUGHERTY EVENT CENTER
LEXINGTON PARK, MD

Reminder:

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Did you make reservations for 05 & 06 NOV 2010 DO IT TODAY!

VP-68 Alumni Association • 40-Year Reunion • 5-6-7 NOV 2010 REGISTRATION FORM

Name:			
Address:			
City, State, Zip:			
Phone:			PATRON SIX-EUIT IS
E-mail:			www.vp68.org
ATTENDANCE: (Nationality	of guest required for P-8A tour)		
I WILL attend the 20	10 Reunion • No. in party	Name of Guest	
(For special \$102.00	the Hampton Inn : Number of nights room rate use three digits Group coonumber: 1-301-863-3200)		: 06 Oct 2010)
I WILL attend the P-	BA Poseidon tour • Number in party		
MEALS (Deadline for meal sele	ection is 15 Oct 2010)		
B Almond Crusted SalmonC Lemon Pepper Marinate	b of Beef w/ Red Wine Shallot Demi on w/ Honey Butter and Chicken Breast w/ Tomato-Basil Sation: Vegetarian or Food allergies con	alsa	
Members & Guest Non-member & Guest	\$60.00 each \$70.00 each		
MEAL CHOICE: (select one for	or each member in your party)		
A) Beef B) Salmon	C) Chicken	D) Other	Total\$
MEMBERSHIP			
	ould like to join the VP-68 Alumni As Hawks Nest newsletter, and 3) exerc the above total.		
\$10.00 Regular Meml	pership (paid yearly)		
\$100.00 Life Member	ship (one-time fee)		
\$25.00 Over Age 70 L	ife Membership (one-time fee)		
Make all checks payable to:	VP-68 Alumni Association	TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$
Mail this completed form to:	Wyman Bailey VP-68 Alumni Association 10326 Pine Ridge Drive Ellicott City, Md. 21042		
Signad		Data	
Signed:		Date _	