



# VP-68 Hawk's Nest



## SPRING FLING

### The prodigal son returns!

In 1979 PN2 Rex Wyers, a TAR working in the VP-68 admin department left the squadron for the Coast Guard. According to Rex, "I was a TAR in the Squadron from March 1977 until March 1979, and of course I was a PN2 who tried to keep records and stuff up-to-date for the drilling public. I went on the 1978 trip to Rota for two weeks of consuming wine at the local Bodega along with a bit of typing."

Rex left the squadron to join the Coast Guard. Why do that? It seems the TAR detailer wanted to send Rex north where it was really cold and Rex wanted to head south to Florida. As it turns out his future bride was waiting for him in Florida (more about her later). Rex went back to his original Navy rating of Quartermaster and served on various Coast Guard Cutters in the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean. He rode a hurricane in a 210 ft cutter while rescuing a freighter, and as Rex says, "the perspective of 50 ft seas is definitely different down there on the surface rather than in a comfy P-3 up above!" He also saw large quantities of contraband and refugees. He spent the summer of 1980 off of Cuba in the Mariel Boatlift. When he wasn't underway, he worked Search and Rescue Coordination getting the right resources to the right place in time! After all that fun and excitement he retired in 1994 as a Chief Quartermaster.

After 9-11 the Coast Guard asked Rex to come back from retirement for two years active duty, so on 1 July 2002 he headed to Yorktown, VA. Rex is an instructor at the Coast Guard's Boat-swains Mate "A" School in Yorktown VA, where he teaches basic navigation to aspiring mariners!

Oh yes, Rex is married to Lorraine, for 24 years, two kids: Philip, 23 (ex-Coastie himself), and Jennifer, 17, in high school.

Kathy Wright

Rex found our web site and sent me an email saying, "Do you remember me?" I certainly did and ensured Rex came to the Spring Fling to renew his friendships with former squadron mates. Rex is now one of our newest members of the VP-68 Alumni Association. Once a Blackhawk always a Blackhawk!!

## FLING ATTENDANCE

Many new and long time members attended. Bob Gath, the "senior" attendee has been to almost every event the association has had since before it 'officially' began.



The food was plentiful, and cooking was handled by Wally Fonville. Everyone helped, and the grill was smokin'!

## VP-68 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



The best part of Alumni activities is to renew old friendships, share sea stories and just being with friends. I am sure Dick Perkin's wife Sylvia is learning a lot about the 'good ole days'.



### SPRING FLING DINNER ACTIVITIES

After the alumni association concluded the BBQ at the Beach House some intrepid members gathered a few hours later for dinner. We just could not get enough of each other! For the third year in a row many of us went to the Oakwood Lodge at Piney Point to continue the tall tales and totally "believable" sea stories. This year we had approximately 18 folks join us for a delightful dinner at the Oakwood Lodge. Former Blackhawks and significant others who attended were Dick & Sylvia Perkins, Rex Wyers, Rex Lake and Elsie, Kathy Wright, Terry Gibson, Frank & Celeste Ferney, Vick Kraft and Diane, Don & Corrine Peeling, Jim Rozycki, Joe & Jeanie Odenthal, Wally Chance and Bill Shot. Also present was Dale Grimes.



Needless to say considerable amounts of food and refreshments were consumed during the two plus hours we were there. I hope next year that many of you who were unable to attend will come out and play with us!

Special mention goes to Elsie for just showing up for dinner Saturday! Seems Elsie had an encounter with too much wild times and fun the night before at the Tiki Bar at Solomon's Island.  
Kathy Wright

### Fall Muster

The Fall Muster is just around the corner, be thinking about attending, once again at Andrews AFB. Tentative date is October 18, 2003.

### President's Corner

Well, another great "Spring Fling" is history; On behalf of the Association and all attendees I would like to thank Lou Abbott for another superb job of coordinating, organizing, and choreographing. Even the weather cooperated.

Planning for the Fall Muster Fun Fest has begun. So far the planning is pointing at October 18<sup>th</sup>. on-board AAFB. Inside, with food. We are attempting to reuse an old plan that worked. Naturally, new sea stories will be appreciated.

### Reminders

There are still prints, rubber stamps and other squadron items available from your alumni association. I am sure we will have a good stock at the Spring Fling, but if you can't wait or need something just in time for Easter, get in touch with Jim Rozycki for current prices. Jim can be found at [rozyckijim@aol.com](mailto:rozyckijim@aol.com) or the below address. We have the VP-68 Lithograph, "The Planes We Flew" rubber stamps and copies of "The Sky is Reserved" video. Order early and allow two weeks for delivery.

Make checks payable to **VP-68 Alumni Association** and send them to:

VP-68 Alumni Association  
2414 Rolling Farms Road  
Glenshaw, PA 15116

### From the Secretary's Corner

Please get in touch with me if you move or change email addresses, it is the only way we can keep track of you. Send your information to me by email - [wright\\_kathleen@bah.com](mailto:wright_kathleen@bah.com) or snail mail - 4773 W. Braddock Road, Apt 204, Alexandria, VA 22311.

## VP-68 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

By popular demand here are some Navy web addresses that might be of some interest: Keep watching here, we will add more information in the next newsletter.

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

Is "on the air", if anyone has any suggestions or changes, or new materials, contact any of the Alumni Officers.

### Naval Reserves

<http://www.navres.navy.mil/>

This site is the central gateway for online resources for the Navy Reserve

### Naval Reserve Personnel Center

<http://www.nrpcweb.nola.navy.mil/Index.htm>

Have any questions regarding reserve personnel records, retirement point accreditation, commissary cards etc? This is your place.

### Armed Forces Vacation Club

<http://www.afvclub.com/>

## Official/Other Business

Below are excerpts from a variety of "official" and unofficial sites.

**From Commander, Naval Reserve Force Public Affairs**  
NEW ORLEANS (NNS) -- Commander, Naval Air Force Reserve recently announced the winners of the 2002 Noel Davis trophies, an award which signifies battle efficiency.

"Your outstanding achievements reflect tremendous teamwork and dedication to the Naval Air Reserve team," said Commander, Naval Air Reserve Force Rear Adm. Dan Kloeppe to the winning squadrons.

Naval Reserve VP squadron winner was:

- Patrol Squadron (VP) 92 of Naval Air Station (NAS) Brunswick, Maine. VP-92 is engaged in anti-submarine warfare, flying P-3C Orion aircraft.

### Naval MWR Announces New Discounted Travel Program

By Ingrid Mueller, Navy MWR Communications Group

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) has established a partnership with the Government Armed Forces Travel Cooperative (GAFTC) to provide a wide range of discounted travel opportunities to active-duty and Reserve personnel, military retirees, and Department of Defense employees and their family members.

"This program gives our authorized patrons access to significantly discounted travel opportunities," said Karen Fritz, program manager for Navy MWR's Information, Tickets and Travel (ITT) Section. "Using this program is also beneficial to Navy MWR, because vendors pay a commission for every booking placed by Sailors. That money goes directly back into Navy MWR programs for Sailors and their families at the local base level."

The GAFTC Web site – [www.govarm.com](http://www.govarm.com) - allows users to shop for hotel rooms, airline tickets, car rentals, cruises, golf packages and travel insurance. The Web site features access to more than 50,000 hotels, hundreds of airlines, 24 car rental companies, all major cruise lines, 400 golf vacations and the leading travel insurance companies in the world.

Visitors to govarm.com can also access a "family friendly" travel guide, which identifies source hotels and resorts that specifically cater to families with infants, young children, teens and pets, by offering special vacation packages, accommodations and activities. "In addition, govarm.com features extra vacation packages on a recurring basis that offer outstanding deals," said Fritz.

For additional information, please visit govarm.com or contact your local ITT Office.

For related news, visit the Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation Navy News-Stand page at [www.news.navy.mil/local/navymwr](http://www.news.navy.mil/local/navymwr) .

You can view the original story at

[http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story\\_id=6774](http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=6774)

### Centralized Naval Reserve Web Site Goes "Live"

From COMNAVRESFOR Public Affairs

NEW ORLEANS (NNS) -- The Naval Reserve transition to a new way of doing business on the World Wide Web is on track and nearing completion. The new Web site will replace all existing Naval Reserve Web sites with a two-tiered public and private network.

The public side is accessible to anyone through the Internet and contains basic public information. The private side is only accessible by members of the Naval Reserve via a secure login.

All current Naval Reserve public Web sites were disestablished April 1. The new Web site employs a content management solution (CMS) and is designed to be user friendly. The new URL for all Naval Reserve commands is <http://reserves.navy.mil> Note: "Login" button for the private side is located in the upper right hand corner of the page.

For related news, visit the Naval Reserve Force Navy News-Stand page at [www.news.navy.mil/local/nrf](http://www.news.navy.mil/local/nrf).

In Case You Missed It. First Navy Aircraft Lands at Baghdad International [http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story\\_id=7023](http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=7023) it was a P-3 by-the-way!

## Newsletter Inputs

Your inputs for the newsletter should be sent to Dick Fickling, [p3css1@aol.com](mailto:p3css1@aol.com) for inclusion in the quarterly mailing. The cutoff for the next addition is August 31, 2003. Need items of interest, retirements and other Alumni news.



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