

Pelican Poop Sheet

Volume XII

JANUARY 30, 2010



TAPS



Please sign the guest book at
obituaries.uniontrib.com

HOLLOMAN, Jr., FLOYD

WILLIAM "BILL"

Bill was born December 1, 1930, in Norfolk, Virginia. Joined the U.S. Navy at the age of 14, served 32 years, and rose from Seaman to Commander in 28 years. Retired in San Diego in 1978. Bill is survived by his wife, Vera, and children Michael, Floyd, Deborah and Donna. He has two grandchildren, Michael and Jessica, and six great-grandchildren. Buried at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery on July 22, 2008. Bill passed away on July 14, 2008.

Ray Beck has placed an update for Bill on website at:

<http://www.vp44goldenpelicans.com/In%20Memory.htm>

LOST CONTACT; Pam Brooks; Linda Boring; Robert Groat; Warren Reibsom; Richard Selby; Scott Zacharias; Julius Jaskot; Hank Camille, 1954-1956, ATCS, USNR(ret); Dick Jester, AL2 1954; Bill Bradberry, (brothers Bob & Larry) 1950-1963, CWO, USN(ret); Craig Farrell, 1964-1967; Jeff Johnsen, LT 1972-1975

Captain Ronald Stevens (rhstevens4@verizon.net) is looking for information on the following: Steve Burchell (LT 1971-1974); Floyd Carter (CO 1976); Ed Cook (LT 1972-1975); Walt Diem (LT 1972-1976); Captain Bob Duschesne (LCDR 1972-1975); Harold Harvey (LTJG 1972-1976); Bob Hilton (LT 1973-1977); CDR Rick Nelson (LT 1973-1976)

NEW ON THE ROSTER:

Captain Roy Murphy: Material Professional, and spent the rest of my Navy career (senior O5 to retirement) in the aviation RDT&E and Acquisition area - mostly at NAVAIR, with a 3 year hiatus at the NADC in Warminster PA. Had one of the few non-operational O6 flying billets while at NADC. LT 1973-1976; CAPT, USN(ret)

Robert C. Sivertsen,ACMM was in both VP-44 and VPB-44 ,joined VP-44 12/6/41 transferred 5/8/45.Bob shot down a Japanese float plane on the night of 8/28/44 over the Duke of York Island. Richard Watson's crew verified the wreckage the next morning. He was a plane captain/flight engineer/gunner.Bob is 91 now.
Address: 1061 Tropical Way,La Habra,CA 90681,,phone (562) 691-6531.

Harold O.Blair,AOM1c,was air bomber on one our planes at Midway,haven;'t the number yet. He also went south with us, he joined the squadron 3/31/42 and was transferred 9/15/43. He is 89 and is recovering from appendicitis surgery and Richard Watson was not able to get all his background,but will as soon as he is able.
Address: 1463 Sherwin Avenue,Chicago,IL 60626 phone,(773) 262-9064.

Also:

Patrick Fitzpatrick (AMM2c WWII); James öTreyö Thomas, AW1, USN(ret) 1983-1988; Robert Bensus 1985-1988, LCDR, USN(ret); Caryl Buck 1974-1977, CDR, USN(ret); Doug Simpson; Roy Murphy LT 1973-1976, CAPT, USN(ret); Joe Bergeron 1980-1984; Steve Ludington; Brian Smith; Dan Veldstra; Gary Bakken; Ken Flegel; Bill Hall; Tim Kirner; Chuck Phillips.Joe Bergeron 1980-1984; Steve Ludington; Eugene Vario; Barry Corenbliith 1969-1970.

ITEMS OF CONTINUING INTEREST:

P-8A Poseidon begins US Navy flight testing

Boeing's first P-8A Poseidon test aircraft, T1, entered the U.S. Navy flight test program recently when it took off from Boeing Field in Seattle. The three-hour flight was conducted with a joint Navy-Boeing crew and marked the first P-8A flight with a Navy pilot at the controls. T1, the program's airworthiness test aircraft, will complete a series of test flights in Seattle before moving to Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md., in 2010.

LETTERS FROM SHIPMATES

From Ray Beck 10/19/2009 -- The Indian Logo

I went through the history of VP-44 in 2000 when we were getting started. I extracted a lot of history from VP-Navy. If you go to our History Chronology Page - <http://www.vp44goldenpelicans.com/chronology.htm> you will notice that there were two squadrons operating during WW2 that would eventually merge as VP-44.

NOTE: There were many squadrons operating in WW2 that changed names (It's confusing). However, the first VP-44 was operating in WW2 in the Pacific; the second operated out of NAS Coco Solo, Panama (VP204, VPB204, VPMS4). The Panama squadron flew the PBM Marlin and the Indian was their logo.

VPMS4 merged into VP-44 after the war. I got this information from Francis (Red) O'Laughlin during our first reunion - we had several who served on the PBMs out of Coco Solo and we have lost contact them - I believe Francis may have passed away. Francis was a great help in the confusing history - He was our Richard Watson of the Coco Solo squadron.

You may want to place the question about the Indian Logo in the Poop Sheet, along with requesting any who served in PBMs with VP204, VPB204, VPMS4 for information.

I hope this helps.

<http://www.vp44goldenpelicans.com/>

GO NAVY!

Ray Beck

Webmaster ó

Gentleman,

Subject: USS Currituck & VP-44 In Europe - Cruise Book Summer 1954

Thanks to Bill Stupka, I have loaded this cruise book to our P5M Marlin Photo page. It is a small website in itself. Go to the subject photo page and click on the Cruise Book logo - here is a direct link --

<http://www.vp44goldenpelicans.com/photoP5M.htm>

GO NAVY!

Ray Beck

Webmaster -

‰ an imperfect plan implemented immediately and violently will always succeed better than a perfect plan.+

General George S. Patton Jr.

VP-44 BRUNSWICK REUNION FLYER INFORMATION

You are invited to the reunion of former shipmates of VP-44. Spouses and children of former VP-44 sailors are welcome.

- Where: At NAS Brunswick, Maine. Yes, it will still be open although there are no longer any operational squadrons based there.
- When: The weekend of June 3rd through 6th, 2010.
- Lodging: The Navy Gateway Inns and Suites (on BNAS) or in town at either the Econo Lodge in Freeport (207) 865-3777 or the Comfort Inn in Brunswick (207) 729-1129. The Gateway has limited availability so it is suggested to make reservations early. If you wish to arrive earlier or stay later please arrange lodging requests with the Navy Gateway Inns and Suites. We have reserved a block of 25 double occupancy rooms for the VP-44 Reunion for the nights of 3, 4 and 5 June 2010. Guests may request earlier/later arrival and departure dates not to exceed a total of 7 nights when calling to make reservations under this group block. The double occupancy rooms are \$56.00 a night and have 2 twin beds in them. They comfortably accommodate 1 to 2 adults. Attendees who wish to reserve one of these rooms should call 201-921-2386/2394 / DSN 476-2386/2394 (phones manned 24/7) to provide individual details including credit or debit card information. They accept VISA and Master Card. When calling, callers should reference:
Group Name: VP-44 Reunion

Group Reservation #: 30920102146

Group Sponsor: Mr. Ed Avis

There is no RV parking on the base, however, the Wal-Mart about one mile from base allows overnight parking for R/Vs.

Proposed schedule:

➤ **Thursday 3 JUN:**

- Attendees arrive

- Check in at NGIS or local hotel

- Golf, shopping, sightseeing, etc. "on your own"
 - Dinner "on your own" - probably in small groups as people become reacquainted

➤ **Friday 04 JUN (afternoon/evening):**

- "Meet and Greet"

The Meet and Greet will be at the Bowling Alley/Recreation Mall on base (across from the NEX). It will commence at 1600 and will feature pizza and finger food. A full service cash bar will be available as well.

➤ **Saturday 05 JUN:**

- **VP-44 Reunion including:**

Get together at the NAS picnic grounds anytime after noon. We have the area reserved from 1200-1900. There will be sports equipment available and there are restrooms on site.

Lobster/Clam bake at the picnic grounds starts at 1600.

Along with dinner will be remembrances, guest speakers and an opportunity to tell (short) sea stories.

We have signed a contract [no cost] that we will have alcohol and be responsible. They have requested NO GLASS BOTTLES

➤ **Sunday 06 JUN:**

- No formal events planned

- There some excellent options for brunch at local restaurants. We will provide more information at the reunion.

➤ **Registration Fee:** A registration fee of **\$40.00 per person** will cover the food at the Friday ~~Meet~~ and Greet+, the use of the picnic area and equipment, the lobster dinner and the beer on Saturday. Lodging and other items are not included in the registration fee.

➤ **Mail registration fee to Captain Ed Avis,**
252 Upper Pond Road

Litchfield, ME 04350

207-921-2230 / 207-737-8258

ed@avisfamily.com

➤ **Deadline for registration: MAY 1ST! PLEASE SEND IN YOUR REGISTRATION FORM EARLY SO THAT WE CAN PROPERLY PLAN A QUALITY REUNION.** If you find that you can attend after the deadline please send in your money ASAP and we will accommodate you. We certainly would like to keep the last minute crisis management to a minimum.

NOTES

1. We hope to have a slide show at the meet and greet. To do this we need all of you to dig into those old boxes and come up with some photos of your time in VP-44. Please email or send photos to Captain Ed Avis at 252 Upper Pond Road, Litchfield, ME 04350
2. There will be a retrospective of fallen shipmates. If you have any information or materials related to a fallen VP-44 shipmate please send to Ed Avis at the addresses above.
3. There will be a ~~Reunion Central~~+house in Cundy~~s~~ Harbor hosted by Brown and Nancy Word. Everyone is invited and encouraged to use this as a central meeting place for attendees, the address is pending.
4. We would love it if someone had an 8-10 passenger van to transport folks around the base after the drinking events.
5. Point of Contact cell phones are:
 - a. Captain Brown Word: bword@austin.rr.com (512-327-1439)
 - b. Captain Ed Avis: Ed@avisfamily.com (207-921-2230)
 - c. Captain Dewey Harris:harris58@hughes.net (207)522-4877

➤

➤ *"So they've got us surrounded, good! Now we can fire in any direction, those bast*rds won't get away this time!"*

--CHESTY PULLER, USMC



**VP-44 Reunion Registration Form
3-6 JUN 2010
NAS Brunswick, ME**



Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

Email (important for event updates): _____

Years / Jobs in VP-44: _____

During the reunion I / we will be staying at:

Please enclose \$40 registration fee per person (payable to “VP-44 Reunion”), which covers Friday afternoon “Meet and Greet” (cash bar available) and the Saturday afternoon lobster bake (with a keg of beer) and mail to:

**Ed Avis (home) 207-737-8258 (office) 207-751-9446
252 Upper Pond Road
Litchfield, ME 04350-4128**

Got any old photos, crew lists, social rosters, Change of Command programs, etc. from your days in VP-44? If so, you can email scanned copies to ed@avisfamily.com or mail them to the address above. Please don't mail original documents unless you don't want them back. If we can collect enough of these, we'll put together a slide show and/or display for the reunion.

There will be a remembrance for “fallen shipmates”. If you have any information on deceased VP-44 personnel, please send whatever you have to the email or snail mail addresses above. Obituaries, newspaper articles, photos, etc. would be welcomed.

PELICAN SHOP

The Pelican Shop is restocked and ready for the upcoming reunions. I can get items out in the mail the next day unless I'm out of town. If you have any questions or would like to see something added to the Pelican Shop, please give me a call or send me an email. We have two really neat reunions planned for this year and the sales coming from our Pelican Shop help fund these events and those in years to come. Thanks you all for your support and standing by to fill your order.

Gene Toffolo

(home) 219-795-4119

(cell) 317-201-4261

Email genejanjay@aol.com

2010 VP-44 REUNION IN NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

September 9-12, 2010

POC Ralph Cook blusgtar@ptd.net (717-335-0348) or

Frank Romeo frankp51f@comcast.net (443-299-6154)

URL: www.vp44goldenpelicans.com

TOURS BEING OFFERED FOR NORFOLK REUNION

Saturday, September 11, 2010, 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

NORFOLK NAVAL BASE TOUR

ÉBoard the motor coach with your guide to tour the Norfolk Naval Base, which is part of Naval Station Norfolk - the largest naval installation in the world. Home port to 78 ships, ranging in size from aircraft carriers to submarines, 26 aircraft squadrons comprised of 133 aircraft and headquarters of the Atlantic Fleet, this naval complex occupies over 8,000 acres of land and is home to more than 100,000 military personnel. Your tour will take you past the 14 piers and through the Naval Air Station. You will also drive by the historic homes built for the 1907 Jamestown Exposition on ðAdmiralø Rowö which now house the flag officers.

ÉWhile on base, enjoy a stop at the hangar which formerly housed the VP-44 Squadron and the barracks (pending availability and approval).

LUNCH INCLUDED ON BASE

ÉLunch will be included for your group at one of the clubs on base.

RIDING NORFOLK TOUR

ÉNext, learn about Norfolk's colorful 325 year history as you ride through the lovely historic district and restored areas. View the stately homes along the Hague, old St. Paul's Church, the Moses Myers House, the Chrysler Museum of Art, the historic Freemason District, Nauticus: The National Maritime Center, the Battleship Wisconsin, the restored waterfront area, as well as many other points of interest.

ÉDowntown Norfolk has undergone a complete transformation in the last decade and features the beautifully renovated Town Point Park with the Armed Forces memorial, brand new \$34million cruise terminal, waterfront condos and state of the art shopping area.

MACARTHUR MEMORIAL

ÉVisit the MacArthur Memorial for a glimpse into our country's history. During your visit you will

view the outstanding collection of artifacts, documents, photographs and memorabilia housed in Norfolk's historic city hall which trace the life and times of five-star General Douglas MacArthur.

ÉYou will also have the opportunity to view the 25 minute film which chronicles General MacArthur's life. The General and Mrs. MacArthur are entombed in the rotunda of the memorial. Nine separate galleries arranged in two levels circle the rotunda and tell the story of General MacArthur and the millions of American men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces from the Civil War through the Korean War. A gift shop with unique memorabilia is located on the premises.

DOUMAR'S

ÉEnd your day with a stop at Doumar's, home of the world's first ice cream cone machine. Abe Doumar created the first ice cream cone at the World's Fair of 1904 in St. Louis. It was so successful that he designed a four-iron waffle machine that he launched during the Jamestown Exposition of 1907.

ÉToday, the family business still bakes cones on the original cone machine. While at Doumar's, Mr. Doumar will give you an introduction and all passengers will be treated to an ice cream cone before boarding the bus.

Package Price: \$49.00 per person, inclusive. LUNCH INCLUDED.

VP-44 2010 Norfolk VA Reunion Registration Form

Visit Your VP-44 Reunion 2010 Website and Pelican Shop:
<http://www.vp44goldenpelicans.com>

This registration does not include the hotel reservation. Make your hotel reservations by contacting: Quality Suites and Sleep Inn Lake Wright 6280 Northampton Blvd. Norfolk, VA 23502 Phone: (757) 461-6251
There is a choice of accommodations.

You may choose a roomy suite at Quality Suites Lake Wright for \$109/night
Or you may choose a standard hotel room at Sleep Inn Lake Wright for \$89/night

When making reservations mention that you are with the VP-44 Golden Pelicans Group.

Name _____ Spouse/Guest _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

Years with VP44, VPB204, VP204, VPMS4 and Rate & Rank _____

Registration Fee:

I will be attending and bringing __ guests @ \$20.00 each \$ _____

Registration Fee after August 1, 2010

__ guests @ \$25.00 each \$ _____

Banquet Cost:

\$40.00 Each (includes dinner and music) \$ _____

Donation to VP44 Reunion Fund
(funds to stock Pelican Shop & future events) \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Make your registration check payable to: "VP-44 Reunion Fund." Please return this completed Form and your endorsed check to:

Gene Toffolo
7473 Chase Way
Hahira, GA 31632-2246

<u>FALLEN SHIPMATES</u>						
<u>MEMORY LIST</u>						
12/2/2009	<u>SQUADRON</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERVED</u>	<u>DUTIES</u>	<u>LIFE</u>	<u>RANK ACHIEVED</u>
<u>NAME</u>						
Aikins, Roy		AO3				
Bremus, Marty		Commander	1959-	Pilot, Maint		
Baers, Rick			1961	Ofcr	1926-2002	Commander
Bircher, Donald		AM?	1963-			
Bush, Curtis		AT3	1966			
Brynteson, Val		ATC	1962-	Electronics	1935-2007	ATC
Cannon, T J		ADJC	1965	Plane Capt		
Cassel, bill			1959-	LM9		
Chittick, Blair			1963		1935-2008	
Culhane, Bill						
Demers, Leo M						CPO
Dorsett, Ralph		Lieutenant				Commander
Estes, Billy						
Estes, Albert Ray		Lieutenant	1961-			
Grund, Paul W			1964	Tacco	1926-2009	LCDR
					1924-2009	
Gustwick, Paul		ATC	1959-	Electronics		ATC
Hall, Jim			1963			
Hodges, Dan		ADR1	1961-	Plane Captain	????-1979	CPO
Holloman, Floyd			1964			
(BILL)		LT	1961-	TACCO	1930-2008	CDR
			1964			
Kayes, Bob		Commander	1959-	Ops. Officer	1922-2009	Commander
			1961			
Lambert, Larry		AE2	1962-		????- 1960s	
			1966			
Lloyd, Gary		Lieutenant	1959-	TACCO		
			1961			
Marrack, Richard		Lieutenant	1960-	Pilot	????-1987	
			1964			
O'conner, John E.		Lieutenant	1960-	Pilot		
			1961			
Ogara, Gene		AMH3	1977-			
			1980			
O'leary, Patrick		Lieutenant	1958-	Pilot	1938-2004	
Pappas, Peter		Lieutenant	1961	Pilot		
Pierce, Robert		Commander	1961-	C.O.	????-2001	Captain
Pochyla, Gerald			1962		1931-2007	
Poole, Tom						
Pratt, Gene		ADJC	Unknown	Mechanic		

Reeves, David	AO2	1959- 1962	Ordnance		
Sammaripa, Ricardo				1963-2007	
Sebring, Jim				1933-2006	
Shaw, Robert	ADJ	1971- 1974	Flight Eng.	1935-2002	ADJC
Slusser, Richard	LCDR	1959- 1962	Pilot		Commander
Stoddard, Paul	AE3	1959- 1962	AE3		
Swan, Robert A.	Lieutenant	1941- 1943	Pilot	1919-2009	Commander
Theron, James					
Thune, Don	Lieutenant	1958- 1962	Pilot	1934-2004	
Totser, Barry L	AT2	1959- 1963	Radio LM 11		
Vermillion, Danny	CPO	1958- 1963	Line Chief		CPO
Wilson, Chick	Lieutenant	1961- 1963	Pilot		

Editor in Chief of the Poop Sheet

CDR Les Dennis, USNR(ret)

VP-44 LT 1960-1964