

Pelican Poop Sheet

Volume VI

September 30, 2008



Missing Shipmates

If anyone knows the whereabouts of 1972 Crew 10:

LT E. R. Anderson

LT L. W. Bostic

LT C. L. Brown

LT D. L. Craig (have his email)

AW2 D. N. Nadeau (hides long hair under a watch cap)

AW2 R. J. Balko (sensor station)

ADJC R. L. Corcoran (Flight Engineer)

AMH2 K. V. Minor (Second Mech)

AW3 G. W. Cassidy (Sensor station 3)

AT1 G. E. Eastman (In Flight Tech)

And we must never forget our LAVA operatio . Ashby

Contact Ted Rogers TedRogers@advcs.com

Greetings VP-44er Ray:

I have been trying to track down a Squadron Mate and the Best Man & My wedding. His Name is Karl Sontag but all searches have turned up fruitless. Anyone serving during my attachment to the Avionics Div will probably recognize the "Guordo File", An index file meant to train newbees who could not locate the part in the MAF Books. Just try and find an ICS Foot Switch It is in the Airframes Manual, along with the Frangible Switch. Who would have thought, LOL. If You need assistance with maintenance of this site, please contact me. I am a Webmaster for various sites, however the only site I can devulge to You due to the terms of confidentiality is <http://www.maineions.org> I hope this search for fellow squadron mate Karl will be a success.

Gordon Parent email address is statrng@metrocast.net

Al Hayes is looking for Bill Edwards, last known from Erie, PA. You can contact Al at 301-475-2790.

Blair Snyder is looking for LCDR Pappas, you can contact Blair at 912-367-9506

Ray Beck is looking for AO2 Donald Day (1961-1964) and AT2 Junior Manes (1962-1964 Rigel Crew 1. Ray's email address is chief_beck@yahoo.com

***Just to let you know for the search from the last newsletter. Les Dennis's search for Bob Prehn was a success, but we had bad news for Bo Lynn's search for Lt. Richard Stubben as he passed away a number of years ago.

Change to Flag Code

§ 9. Conduct during hoisting, lowering or passing of flag

During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, those present in uniform should render the military salute. **Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute.** All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart.

Correction to picture in last newsletter

The picture of Crew 6 has a small mistake. Person identified as Life is Jim Lipe. Thank to Bill Flavell (VP-44 1964-68)

Taps

Don Finney writes:

My wife passed away at about 6:45 this morning on 09/10/2008 from Bladder Cancer. She was a resident at the Good Samaritan Hospice in Battle Creek, MI when she passed. She lost a 6 year battle with cancer. We plan to have her funeral and burial in Athens, AL. We will have a small memorial service for her locally in about two weeks. I will let you know more later. If you have any plans of a tribute to her I would ask that you remember the "Good Samaritan Hospice" in Battle Creek, MI. in lieu of flowers.

Don Finney (LT 1963-1966) email address srfinney1@hotmail.com

Ray

This is a rather strange situation. Please bear with me while I explain it.

Recently, Bill LeMaster (another VP-44 alumni from the early 1950s) came up with a crew list for Crew 10 (about 1955) from memory. I was part of that crew too, and Bill sent it to me to help fill in some of the blanks. One of the blanks was the 2nd Radioman for that crew. Neither of us was sure of who that was. We knew that the 1st Radioman was Jim Sebring. We figured that the 1st Radioman would remember who the 2nd Radioman was so I sent Jim Sebring an email. The email bounced, and was marked "Not one of our customers." I asked Bill LeMaster if he had a new email address for Jim. He said "No."

It occurred to me that I had not heard from Jim in awhile, actually, not since September 2006. Something made me check the Social Security Death Index. There were quite a few Sebrings listed.

Sadly there was a James R. Sebring, born 1933, died December 2006. Place of death Sparks Glencoe, MD. That seemed to fit Jim perfectly. However, we could not be sure. Bill LeMaster checked further and found an obituary on a Bendix website <http://www.thebluebanana.org/> .

After his Navy days Jim worked for Bendix for a long time. Of course, that confirmed that Jim Sebring had died, and that we had lost a shipmate.. He died on December 22, 2006. It is a shame that we didn't find out until almost 2 years later in September 2008.

So, I am sending you a 2 year old obituary for Jim Sebring , VP-44 alumni. Please use any or all of it as you see fit. I am also sending you the picture that I sent Jim some years ago that he liked so much. Jim is in the middle, Bill LeMaster on the left and our Plane Captain Gant is on the right. They are standing in front of CC-10, our plane. It was taken in 1955 at NAS Norfolk, Breezy Point seaplane base on the VP-44 ramp.

When I saw him last (abt.1956) Jim Sebring , was an AT2, and 1st Radioman of CC-10 (P5M-2) with VP-44 at NAS Norfolk. He was with VP-44 during approximately the same period as I was, 1953-1956.

FYI Jim did attend at least one of the VP-44 reunions, and I remember seeing him in one of the pictures from that reunion. However, I could not find it on the squadron website.

That is about all that I can tell you about Jim. The obit has more detail, such as where he lived, etc. Bill LeMaster tried to call Jim's home number in Sparks Glencoe, MD but it was disconnected.

If I can help with any other information please contact me.

Regards

Bill Stupka, AT2, VP-44, 1953-1956 wrstupka@gate.net

Request

I am finishing writing a book on the history of aviation in Bermuda. VP-44 were there a few times with P-3s. Do you know anyone who has pictures of P-3s in Bermuda that I could use in the book?

Many thanks for your help

Tom Singfield tom@singfield.freereserve.co.uk

Aviation Author

Horsham

UK

Website

My website the "Ships and Aircraft" is online. It is the re-design of my ex-website "Air-Navy" that was online 2001-2004.

The website contains the following sections:

- * Aircraft and Ships' Histories and data,
- * Memories
- * Message Board for those who has been seeking old shipmates
- * Reunion announcements

* Links

I would gladly accept your contributions; photos and memories to keep the website growing.

This is an one time message. Please submit the subscription form on the front page if you wish to receive the "Ships and Aircraft Newsletter".

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely yours,

Sait Yorukel
The Ships and Aircraft

<http://www.shipsandaircraft.com>

2008 Pigeon Forge Reunion Muster

We had a great time in Pigeon Forge and ended up with three times the Shipmates we normally get for a mini reunion so from now on we will just call them reunions. You can view pictures that are being sent in from those who attended on the home page www.vp44goldenpelicans.com, click on the photo link at the top of the page. Here is the final roster of those that attended:

Averill, Jeff (CDR) Harriet	1971-1975
Barns, Mike (AX2) Brenda	1961-1964
Bleyнат, Ed (CDR) Meredith	1971-1973
Cartier, Dave (CDR) Priscilla	1972-1975
Craig, Dave (CDR) Ellie	1971-1974
Dennis, Les (CDR)	1960-1964
Duling, Marty (LCDR) Leah	1960-1963
Filyaw, Alan (AX3) Joyce	1967-1969
Hayes, Al (AO2) Betty	1960-1964
Jones, Jim (AMS2) Vickie	1961-1963
Lynn, Bill (ATN2)	1959-1962
Malvin, Fred (CDR) Donna	1961-1964
Nevala, Dick (AX1) Susan	1962-1966
Newell, Rich (LT)	1971-1973
Olson, Earl (LT)	1972-1976
Patton, Jerry (AE)	1961-1964
Roberts, James (CDR) Linda	1971-1974
Rogers, Lynn (ADR2) Patricia	1960-1961
Rogers, Ted (CAPT) Wanda	1971-1974
Schmitt, Paul (LT) Connie	1971-1974
Smith, P D (RADM) Mary	CO 1973
Snavely, Jeff (AO2) Mary	1960-1964
Snyder, Blair (ATN2) Jennifer	1961-1964
Sullivan, Ken (CAPT) Annie	1974-1976
Toffolo, Gene (MCPO) Janet	1965-1969

Vannatta, John (CAPT) Carolyn 1972-1975
Veach, Roy (AO3) Roxie 1961-1964
Word, Brown (CAPT) Nancy 1974-1977 & 1985-1988

Together we Served Web Site

I have placed the TWS Banner at the bottom of our home page. This is an item of information for the next Pelican "POOP" Sheet. I think the skipper of VP-8 would understand that title.

This may be of interest to some of you in reference to the loss of the first P3A on 30 JAN 63 (LT John Oconner of VP-44 was onboard that A/C). My brother-in-law, David E. Wells was a member of the crew that was lost and had been grounded by the flight surgeon during that time. As a result he was not on board that flight. On the recent trip to Alabama to celebrate David and Carolyn's (Marilyn's sister) 50th wedding anniversary, I was showing David the tribute to the VP-8 Crew that is on our website and he informed me that was his flight crew. David is a retired AME SCPO and was very much involved in the investigation and identification on the recovered A/C parts after the crash.

Thanks to our web master Ray Beck chief_beck@yahoo.com

PBY Museum

<http://www.murrayriver.com.au/attractions/flyingboatmuseum/>

Thanks to Jim Downer, AMM1 1942-1943, Enlisted CAC Roll of Honor.

PELICAN SHOP PRICE LIST

Hats: Plain \$10.00; Others \$15.00; Watch Caps \$13.00; Visors \$12.00

T-Shirts: Marlin(3X/2X) \$16.00 Others \$13.00

Pelican(3X/2X) \$15.00 Others \$12.00

Golf Shirts: Marlin(3X/2X) \$35.00 Others \$30.00

Pelican(3X) \$30.00; (2X) \$27.00; Others \$25.00

Patches: \$9.00 Decals: \$2.00 Coins: \$10.00 Mouse Pads: \$10.00

Coffee Mugs \$10.00

**"Never tell people how to do things.
Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity."
- General George Patton Jr**

U.S. 4th Fleet Officially Re-established

Story Number: NNS080712-18

Release Date: 7/12/2008 11:00:00 AM

By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Alan Gragg, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command Public Affairs

MAYPORT, Fla. (NNS) -- Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead officially re-established U.S. 4th Fleet and named Rear Adm. Joseph D. Kernan as its commander during a ceremony at Naval Station Mayport July 12.

The ceremony followed the U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (NAVSO) change of command, during which Kernan relieved Rear Adm. James W. Stevenson Jr.

Kernan, the dual-hatted NAVSO and 4th Fleet commander, is responsible for U.S. Navy ships, aircraft and submarines assigned from east and west coast fleets to operate in the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) area of focus, which encompasses the Caribbean, Central and South America and surrounding waters.

"Re-establishing the Fourth Fleet affirms our support for, and our desire to, enhance cooperative relationships with the navies and maritime services in the Caribbean and Central and South America. It recognizes the immense importance of maritime security in the region," said Roughead.

"Our maritime strategy raises the importance of forming global maritime partnerships by working with international partners as the basis for global maritime security. Re-establishing Fourth Fleet allows us to more effectively employ naval forces to build confidence and trust among nations through collective maritime security efforts that focus on mutual interests."

Fourth Fleet was first established in 1943 as one of the original numbered fleets. During World War II, the United States needed a command in charge of protecting against raiders, blockade runners and enemy submarines in the South Atlantic.

Fourth Fleet fulfilled that mission until it was disestablished in 1950, and U.S. 2nd Fleet took over its responsibilities.

The new 4th Fleet will be headquartered in Mayport and co-located with NAVSO, taking advantage of the existing infrastructure, communications support and personnel already in place. Fourth Fleet's re-establishment will not involve an increase in forces assigned in Mayport, or result in any permanently assigned ships or aircraft.

With a focus on strengthening friendships and partnerships, 4th Fleet will directly support the U.S. Maritime Strategy by conducting five ongoing missions: support for peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, traditional maritime exercises and counterdrug support operations.

"It is an honor to assume command of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and to be granted the privilege of reestablishing U.S. 4th Fleet," Kernan said. "I look forward to continuing the great work Rear Adm. Stevenson has accomplished in demonstrating the United States' commitment to our regional partners in this immensely important part of the world."

The re-establishment and change of command ceremony concluded with Stevenson's retirement after 32 years of naval service.

During Stevenson's tour as NAVSO commander, U.S. Navy's operational focus in the region was greatly increased resulting in enhanced partner nation cooperation and improved collective capabilities. Recent missions championed under Stevenson, such as USNS Comfort's (T-AH 20) 2007 humanitarian medical assistance deployment and the first Global Fleet Station deployment in 2007 with HSV Swift highlight this increased focus.

In 2008, Stevenson oversaw planning and execution of the third-annual Partnership of the Americas deployment, which included the George Washington Carrier Strike Group; as well as Continuing Promise humanitarian civil assistance deployments aboard USS Boxer (LHD 4) and USS Kearsarge (LHD 3). Currently, Military Sealift Command rescue and salvage ship USNS Grasp (T-ARS-51) is conducting Navy Diver – Global Fleet Station with Caribbean Island partner nations.

As the Navy component command of SOUTHCOM, NAVSO's mission is to direct U.S. Naval forces operating in the Caribbean, Central and South American regions and interact with partner nation navies within the maritime environment. Various operations include counter-illicit trafficking, theater security cooperation, military-to-military interaction and bilateral and multinational training.

Fourth Fleet is the numbered fleet assigned to NAVSO, exercising operational control of assigned forces. Fourth Fleet conducts the full spectrum of Maritime Security Operations in support of U.S. objectives and security cooperation activities that promote coalition building and deter aggression.

Reunion Green Valley, Arizona

April 16-20, 2009

The Inn At San Ignacio" (website-www.innatsanignacio.com). 1-888-450-5444 Toll Free for room reservation priced from \$69.00-\$89.00, tell them you are with the VP-44 Reunion for discount rates.

This is a beautiful facility with mountain views and great desert scenery. Many great restaurants, golfing and other attractions are nearby. This is approximately 20 miles from the airport and close to Davis-Monthan AFB. The desert grave site for many military aircraft, you might even be able to find one of your old planes.

Frank Kurkowitz Chairman 2009 Reunion (cell) 520-780-9255; You can also contact Gene Toffolo

You can also see contact information and registration form for the 2009 reunion on the home page. www.vp44goldenpelicans.com A registration form is also attached to the end of the newsletter.

Future Reunions

There is talk going around about having a reunion in Brunswick before the base closes and going back to Pax River (not during hurricane seasons) in 2010. Here is where we need feedback from all of you if you would be interested in going to either or both places. We could do something crazy like have back to back weekends in Maine and Maryland. "Please" give me a call or email what you would like to do and I will start a tally sheet. We will then bring it up at the business meeting in April at the 2009 reunion. This is your association, we don't charge dues of any kind, just looking for input so we have successful reunions. VP-44 Squadron Shipmates are one of a kind regardless of rate, rank, time frame, and type of aircraft. Those that attended past reunions will tell you they found instant friendships from all present.

About Gene Toffolo

I get asked all the time how I went from Air crewman in VP-44 to a Dirt Sailor during my Naval Career. I have my updated biography from my days at the Senior Enlisted Academy if you care to look it over. I will also asked if you would like to tell us about yourself, I can put it in a upcoming newsletter or maybe post it on the home page.

Gene R. Toffolo, AX2 December 18, 1965-April 22, 1969, Crew Five & Seven
Sales Coordinator & Administrative Chief
Past Reunion Chairman 2007

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(URL) www.vp44goldenpelicans.com

BIOGRAPHY
CUCM (SCW/NAC) GENE R. TOFFOLO
UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE RETIRED

Master Chief Constructman Gene R. Toffolo enlisted in the United States Navy after graduation from high school on June 29, 1964. Entering the aviation field and graduating from boot camp in Great Lakes IL, his first duty station was NAAS Saufley Field, Pensacola, FL.

Master Chief Toffolo then proceeded to Millington, TN to start schooling as an Antisubmarine Warfare Technician. After attending Aircraft Fundamental School, Aviation Electronics School in Millington and Aircrew School and Antisubmarine Warfare Technician aircrew school for P3A type aircraft in Norfolk, VA, he was assigned to Patrol Squadron Forty-Four (VP-44) in Patuxent River, MD qualifying as a Sonar, Radar, and Radioman Operator logging over 2,000 flight hours in the P3A aircraft. He earned his Naval Aircrew Wings in August of 1967. He left active duty after almost five years of service as an Antisubmarine Warfare Technician Second Class Petty Officer, (AX2) in May 1969.

Master Chief Toffolo entered the United States Naval Reserves under the APG program as a Builder Second Class in March 1981 and was assigned to Reserve Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (RNMCB-26), Detachment 0326 where he spent his first nine years in the Reserve Naval Construction Force (RNCF). He has held all positions at the Detachment level including Administration, Operations, Training Departments, and Assistant Petty Officer in Charge. He made Chief Petty Officer in September 1988 and served a two-year tour as Chief Petty Officer in Charge of Det 0326. Volunteering for Operation Desert Shield/Storm, he deployed with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Twenty-Three (NMCB-23), Main Body to Camp Covington, Guam as Charlie Company Chief. He then returned for another tour as Chief Petty Officer in Charge Detachment 0326. Master Chief Toffolo moved on to the Operations department with; 8th Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) (one year), 7th NCR (two years), 2nd Naval Construction Brigade (NCB) (six months); and as Maintenance Supervisor with Naval Inshore Undersea Warfare Group TWO (one year). His previous assignment was a two-year tour as Command Master Chief with NMCB-26 in Detroit, MI. One highlight of his Reserve career includes being frocked as a Master Chief while attending and graduating from the Senior Enlisted Academy, Newport RI, in May of 1996, Class 71, Blue Group. He completed his three year tour on staff with the Naval Reserve Professional Development Center in New Orleans as a Facilitator/Senior Instructor for the new USNR Senior Enlisted Academy Non Resident course. Master Chief Toffolo retired from the Naval service on 01 November 2003. He was honored by the USS Indianapolis (CA-35) Survivors Organization in 1997 by being named a Honorary Survivor for his service to the Survivors since 1985.

His personal decorations include the Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal with three Gold Stars, Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal with three Gold Stars, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy Good Conduct Medal, Naval Reserve Meritorious Medal with Silver Star, National Defense Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, Humanitarian Service Medal, Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal with one Bronze Star, Sea Service Deployment, Naval Reserve Sea Service, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, with Silver Hour Glass and device, Navy Rifle Marksmanship, Navy Pistol Expert. He also has been awarded the Seabee Combat Warfare Designator.

In civilian life, he is a Journeyman in the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen as a Tile, Terrazzo, and Marble Setter with over 39 years at Santarossa Mosaic and Tile Company, Inc, retiring in February 2009. He has over 125 college credits with two Associate Degrees: General Studies from Indiana University and Supervision from Purdue University.

Master Chief and his wife, Janet, have been married over 37 years and reside in Indianapolis, Indiana. Their son Jason works for Continental Teves in Auburn Hills, MI, and resides with their daughter-in-law Tricia and grandsons Joseph Raymond, Jack Andrew, Matthew Alexander in Lake Orion, MI.

Visit Your VP-44 Reunion 2009 Website and Pelican Shop:
<http://www.vp44goldenpelicans.com>

This registration does not include the hotel reservation. Make your hotel reservations by contacting: The Inn At San Ignacio (www.innatsanignacio.com) toll free 1-888-450-5444. When making reservations mention that you are with the VP-44 Golden Pelicans Group.

Name _____ Spouse/Guest _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

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

Registration Fee: I will be attending and bringing ___ guests @ \$15.00 each \$ _____

Registration Fee after February 1, 2009 ___ guests @ \$20.00 each \$ _____

Banquet Cost: \$40.00 Each (includes buffet, music & door prize tickets) \$ _____

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

Total \$ _____

The enclosed check is to be payable to: "*VP-44 Reunion Fund.*" Please return this completed Form and check to:

Gene Toffolo
4334 Downes Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46235-1144

Reunion information request

Your preferred drink in the Ready Room _____

Whatever you wish to request, trips, site seeing, golf outings..etc

A professional group photo at the reunion will be payable at check in.

Additional comments for a better reunion: _____

Frank Kurkowitz
Chairman 2009 Reunion, Green Valley AZ
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Administrative Chief
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