

Pelican Poop Sheet

Volume VII

November 11, 2008

Patch dates	
	Indian - 1943-1950
	Black Cat - 1944-1945
	Marlin - 1951-1961
	King Neptune - 1961-1963
	Pelican - 1963-1984
	Golden Pelican - 1984-1988
	Pelican - 1988-1991

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Taps

Gene,

Just a note to let you know that my husband James Theron (Jim) Hall died last month on August 30. We had a memorial service here in Dallas for him on September 6th. His years in the service were 1957-1961. His dob was 5-3-1939.

Nina Hall email address jhall32@prodigy.net

Brown Shoe Navy

"Courtesy of Wings of Gold magazine," Spring 2001 by Estes, William L. Special thanks to Captain Ronald Stevens, USN(ret) for getting permission to print this article, LTJG 1972-1975.

Six surface officers were selected as the first student Naval Aviators not long after Naval Aviation officially began in 1911. They trained at North Island, California and coming from the fleet, their uniform shoes were black, low-quarter, square-toed, rough surface leather shoes. These functioned well and looked OK on coal burning ships where black soot often descended on personnel and their shoes. At North Island the students found themselves in a new environment characterized by brown dust from the soft surface airfield, which settled unattractively on their black shoes. In order to maintain proper appearance, they had to constantly remove dust from their black shoes the surfaces of which seemed to attract it.

After considerable discussion they decided that brown high-top shoes with brown leggings would work better for them. The brown dust wouldn't look so bad on brown shoes and might be easier to clean. On a Saturday morning they located a cobbler shop on 32nd Street in San Diego and commissioned the manager to produce the shoes at a price they could live with. They were soon wearing their new brown shoes and within a few days the practicality of the "Shoes of Brown," (as they would eventually be officially described) proved acceptable. The next step was to bring about a change of the uniform regulation to include the brown shoes and high top leggings as distinctive elements of the aviator's permanent uniform. They wrote a petition to this effect and

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submitted it to their immediate chain of command. It was approved and endorsed by their seniors and forwarded to Navy headquarters for consideration.

On 13 November 1913, the Navy approved the brown shoes with high top leggings as part of the permanent uniform for Naval Aviators. This lasted through WWII although in 1944 the manufacture of brown shoes stopped due to wartime priorities. After the war, production recommenced and lasted until 1976 when CNO instructed the Naval Uniform Department to terminate the use of brown shoes, thus ending a tradition cherished by Naval Aviators.

Three years later, I was an instructor in VT-10 flying T-2B/C Buckeyes and possessed of a keen interest in history. I decided to emulate those early Student Naval Aviators. I made several cross country flights to Washington, D.C. and visited the archives at the Naval Military Personnel Command (NMPC), seeking the original petition that brought about brown shoes. I managed to find only bits and pieces of the original but they helped. Subsequently, I drafted a petition that read:

RESURRECTION OF THE BROWN SHOES WHEREAS, In the course of the history of Naval Aviation, the SHOES OF BROWN, first adopted in November 1913, have held a position of revered, cherished esteem in the hearts of all those associated with Naval Air, second only to the WINGS OF GOLD, and WHEREAS, in the course of human events it becomes necessary to recognize an overwhelming desire to return the esprit of heritage amongst the cadre of AIRDALES, now THEREFORE, let the feelings be known that we the undersigned, all duly designated NAVAL AVIATORS, NAVAL FLIGHT OFFICERS, FLIGHT SURGEONS, and FLIGHT PHYSIOLOGISTS do hereby affix our signatures and designators to this petition calling for an immediate change to the Naval Uniform Regulations which would allow the SHOES OF BROWN to once again take their rightful position below the WINGS OF GOLD.

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The first and most fitting to sign was CAPT Jude J. Lahr, the Commodore of TRAWINGSIX at Pensacola. He was followed by seniors in area commands including CAPT Robert L. Rasmussen (now head of the National Museum of Naval Aviation), COs of various area units and officers in all pay grades. Word of the effort got around and numerous requests for the petition from commands throughout the U.S., at sea and overseas, followed. These were submitted accordingly. Subsequently, I was assigned to USS Midway where I continued the push for the return to brown shoes after receiving emphatic approval from Midway's CO, CAPT Charles R. McGrail, Jr. He signed out a petition in red ink with the phrase, "Forwarded Most Strongly Recommending Approval," to CNO and the NMPC.

After my Midway tour I returned to flight instructor duty in VT-10 On the morning of 12 Sep 1985, while airborne in a Buckeye on a training hop with a student, I received a UHF radio call from the SDO to "BUSTER," which meant return to base right away. I did so and was rapidly escorted by the CO himself to his office. Moments later, to my immense surprise, I received a telephone call from Secretary of Navy John F. Lehman, Jr. He congratulated me for spearheading the effort to resurrect the brown shoes for Naval Aviation. SECNAV said he was going to announce the return of the brown shoes at the 1985 Tailhook Association Convention. He also said he would personally authorize me to be the first to wear the brown shoes. Which I was very pleased and honored to do.

Copyright Association of Naval Aviation Spring

Mariner/Marlin Membership

Hi Ray,

My name is Frank M. Jones. My wife and I attended the 2001 reunion at Daytona Beach, FL and also the reunion at Fredericksburg, TX in 2005. As the Membership Chairman for the MMA, I am inviting you and any other shipmates you know to join the Association. I've attached a few things that may be of interest.

Thanks,

Frank M. Jones, Mariner/Marlin Membership Chairman, 760.439.9988

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MARINER/MARLIN ASSOCIATION HISTORY

The **PBM Mariners Group** was founded in 1982 by three former WW-II pilots, Robert M. (Bob) Smith, Richard H. (Dick) Gingrich, and R. B. (Red) Stephens. They had served together in VPB-216 in the Marianas campaign, Palau campaign and the Philippine campaign in 1944. Their purpose was to formulate a first ever “anyone, pilots and aircrewmembers, who flew PBM’s anywhere” reunion. However, the membership was not restricted to only those associated with the *Mariner*, but was open for all to join who flew, crewed, or supported Martin seaplanes of any type.

Since many of those associated with Martin seaplanes had never participated in any kind of a reunion, the founders chose to organize a reunion in conjunction with the newly formed (1976) Association of Naval Aviation, Inc. In 1983, the first ever PBM Mariner reunion was held in Norfolk, Virginia with an attendance of 90 members. The first membership roster was published that same year listing 100 members. By 1986, membership had grown to 700 and reunion attendance had reached 300.

In 1990 the name of the organization was changed to the **Mariner/Marlin Association** to include the post-war generation of Martin’s venerable twin-engine flying boat, the P5M *Marlin*.

Today a 501(C)(3) non-profit with over 3,000 members, the Mariner/Marlin Association is the largest organization of its kind dedicated to preserving the history of Martin seaplanes and the people associated with them from 1937 to 1968. The strength and commitment of the membership is further evident in the following list of accomplishments.

- As a group, accepted the challenge to write and publish a book on the history of the Mariner/ Marlin and underwrote part of the cost (1993)
- Fund-raised \$2M in in-kind donations to raise a PBM-5 from Lake Washington, Seattle (1996)
- Funded a \$35K exterior restoration of the NASM PBM-5A at Pima Air & Space Museum (2000)

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<u>Book Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>
PBM Mariner In Action	Bob Smith	1986	PBM, P5M, P6M, an overview
Mariner/Marlin Anywhere Anytime	MMA	1993	PBM, P5M, P6M, Mars, an overview
The Martin P5M Marlin	Bruce Barth	1994	P5M, Development/His tory
Patrol Bombing Squadron 208	Walter Schurman	1995	VPB-208, Squadron History
Florida Roots Navy Wings	Samuel A. Davis	1996	VH-3, Biography
Sailor Aviators	Don Sweet	1996	VPB-21
From Then 'Til Now	Floyd A. Johnson	1998	VH-5, History
I Was No Hero	Bob Jackson	1999	Life in VH-5
Seaplanes At War	Don Sweet	1999	PBMs in Pacific, History/Action Reports
Forgotten Heroes	Don Sweet	2000	VH-3, History/Action Reports
A Call To Active Duty	Link Kaiser	2000	VP-892, Korean Service Activation
The Night Hawks	Arthur Chew	2001	VPB-25, Novel
Martin P6M SeaMaster	Stan Piet/Al Raithel	2001	P6M, Development/His tory
Black Cats, Nightmares and a	Don Sweet	2002	PBYs, PBMs and

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- Funded a \$20K exterior restoration of the Navy SP-5B at the Naval Aviation Museum (2007)
- Members have written and published over fifteen books to date on Martin aircraft and are credited with numerous articles, manuscripts and publications on related subjects worldwide.

THE MARINER/MARLIN ASSOCIATION

Membership Information and Enrollment Form

Since 1982 the Mariner/Marlin Association has been instrumental in preserving the history of Martin seaplanes by uniting those associated with the aircraft through annual reunions and publications. Membership is open for all to join regardless of affiliation or interest including flight crews, support units, and civilian personnel who flew, crewed or supported Martin seaplanes. Annual reunions are typically held in April or May and include hospitality room, banquet dinner and local activities. Attendance is limited to members and guests only. Location and dates vary annually.

In addition, annual membership in the Mariner/Marlin Association entitles members to receive four issues of the Newsletter and a copy of the Association Roster, listing over 3,000 members to date. The Newsletter contains articles, pictures, news and other information about Martin seaplanes and related subjects, written primarily by contributing members and organizations affiliated with the aircraft. The first Newsletter for the fiscal year is published in September and contains the following year's reunion and hotel information. The second issue is published in December and the third in February, which contains annual dues renewal information. The last issue for the fiscal year is published in June following the annual reunion. The Annual Membership Roster is typically published in November.

NEW MEMBERS: Initial enrollment dues are \$35.00. Members receive the current year's roster and newsletters, plus those for the following year. Please complete the below Membership Enrollment Form and return along with payment to:

- **Mariner/Marlin Association**, P.O. Box 4548, Oceanside, CA 92052-4548

RENEWAL MEMBERS: The annual membership period runs from reunion to reunion and typically ends in May. Annual renewal dues for current members are \$25.00. A

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dues renewal notice and pre-addressed return payment envelope is included with the February newsletter. *No other bill will be sent.* Please renew promptly to avoid missed issues.

PAYMENT: Make checks payable to: "MARINER/MARLIN ASSOCIATION"

QUESTIONS: Please direct inquiries or questions about the Association to:

• **Frank M. Jones, Membership Chairman**, Oceanside, CA frank.jones@cox.net Phone 760 439-9988

See The Restored PBM-5A Mariner at www.pimaair.org

MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

(please print) Date:

Name: Spouse:

Address:

e-mail:

Phone: () Crew Position: (pilot/aircrew/other)

Squadron(s) or Other Affiliation: (include dates)

Comments:

**(please detach and return completed enrollment form with payment to)
Mariner/Marlin Association, P.O. Box 4548, Oceanside, CA 92052-4548**

This form may be photocopied Rev 3/08

VP Navy Video

Gene, Ray:

I'm a retired AWCM, and I was briefly attached to VP-44 during the third leg of a back-to-back sea duty tour from 87-89. What a great squadron! My Navy Together We Served (NTWS) profile contains other tours.

A friend gave me a pictorial, video, and musical history disc of USN ASW and Patrol aircraft/aircrews of the 40's through today. I believe it was compiled by AWCS (Ret) Scott Ehlers for the retirement of AWC (Ret) Randy Stark; and it was given to me by AWCS Joel Broadbent.

This may be something that you already have. If not, I thought this would be something that you might consider posting on the VP-44 site, however, I can't tell if any of the pics are from VP-44 aircraft.

I look forward to hearing from you. My contact info provided below

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Respectfully,
Benjamin W. Teague
138 Mango Ct.
Middleburg, FL 32068-4063
Email: BWTeague@bellsouth.net
Tel: 904-272-1492

“Ray has the video posted on the home page, but you will need a high speed modem to watch it. ”

A veteran ~ whether active duty, retired, national guard or reserve is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check payable to: *"The United States of America,"* for an amount of *"up to and including my life."* That is a Honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.

Author Unknown

Happy Veterans Day to All

2009 Reunion Green Valley, Arizona

April 16-20, 2009

Three Tucson-area attractions will delight those interested in aerospace history. The Titan Missile Museum has the only remaining Titan of the 54 constructed in the U.S. during the Cold War (the rest were destroyed under the terms of the SALT II treaty). The Pima Air & Space Museum, just south of town, is the largest privately funded air museum in the world. Among the more than 180 aircraft are U.S. President John F. Kennedy's plane, Air Force One, and an SR-71 Blackbird. Nearby is the "airplane graveyard" of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. This is the Air Force's repository for old and obsolete aircraft. Hundreds of airplanes (including B-52s and many old commercial airliners) are parked wingtip to wingtip in the desert, awaiting sale or demolition.

Pima Air & Space Museum

Go there to view almost 300 painstakingly restored aircraft, ranging from a Wright Brothers plane to the high-tech flyer, the SR-71 Blackbird. Don't miss the chance to tour the nearby Davis-Monthan Air Force Base "Aircraft Graveyard," which has more than 5,000 aircraft, including World War II vintage and U.S. presidential planes. Tours are led by museum personnel and depart from the gift shop. In winter, reservations for

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these tours sometimes fill up months in advance. The museum is open daily 9 am-5 pm (last admission 4 pm). Advance reservations required for "Graveyard" tours. Museum admission US\$11.75 summer; US\$13.50 winter. "Graveyard" admission US\$6 adults. 6000 E. Valencia Road (northeast of Tucson International Airport), Tucson. Phone 520-574-0462. For "Graveyard" tour reservations, call 520-618-4800. <http://www.pimaair.org>.

Titan Missile Museum

Don hard hats every half-hour for this tour through a ballistic missile museum that gives you a close-up look at the Titan missile program and the part it played in the Cold War. At one time, the liquid-fuel rocket held a nuclear payload 214 times more powerful than the atomic bomb that destroyed Hiroshima. Daily 9 am-4 pm (last tour). US\$8.50 adults. 1580 W. Duval Mine Road (about 20 minutes south of Tucson), Sahuarita. Phone 520-625-7736. <http://www.titanmissilemuseum.org>.

Check out "Things to do in Tucson:"

<http://www.professionaltravelguide.com/see-and-do/tucson/destinations-132050/>

Pax River versus Brunswick Reunion

In the last newsletter I was looking for some kind of feedback for a possible reunion in late 2009 or 2010 at either Pax River or Brunswick. I only got three replies two for Brunswick and one for Pax River, if you can't make the business meeting at the Tucson reunion your voice can be heard by letting me know your choice. The committee has a lot of planning to do for one of these reunions and it really helps to know how many may show and where you would like to go.

Christmas and the Pelican Shop

Sales have been good in this slow economy and we thank you. Now would be a good time to buy yourself the VP-44 gift you've always wanted, check us out at: http://www.vp44goldenpelicans.com/pelican_shop2.htm

Remember all profits go right back into the association for restocking and reunion start up funds.

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"I am not afraid of an army of lions led by a sheep; I am afraid of an army of sheep led by a lion."

Alexander The Great

2009 Reunion Flyer

By Ralph Cook



Personals

Navy veterans (pictured above) seeking contact with friends of similar experience. Object; re-kindling memories with pals they knew when both were serving their country.

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VP-44 2009 Reunion

Place: Tucson, AZ

Date: April 16-20, 2009

Accommodations:

**The Inn at San Ignacio
Green Valley's Condo Hotel
1861 West Demetrie Loop
Green Valley, Arizona 85614**

Phone: (520) 393-5700 · Fax: (520) 393-1915 For Reservations call toll free at 1-888-450-5444

**Website: <http://www.innatsanignacio.com> For Information Contact Frank Kurkowitz
520-780-9255 or Gene Toffolo 317-897-4745**

New Law Authorizes Veterans' Salutes during National Anthem

WASHINGTON (Oct. 30, 2008) -- Veterans and active-duty military not in uniform can now render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect this month.

"The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation's armed forces," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation's flag."

The new provision improves upon a little known change in federal law last year that authorized veterans to render the military-style hand salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, but it did not address salutes during the national anthem. Last year's provision also applied to members of the armed forces while not in uniform.

Traditionally, members of the nation's veterans service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag while wearing their organization's official head-gear.

The most recent change, authorizing hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel, was sponsored by Sen. Jim Inhofe of

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Oklahoma, an Army veteran. It was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed on Oct. 14.

The earlier provision authorizing hand-salutes for veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, was contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, which took effect Jan. 28, 2008.

Grand Roster

Go to our home page at: www.vp44goldenpelicans.com

Right at the top of the page, click on *"Members Please Sign-up For The protected Roster."* You will get the Roster Page, scroll all the way to the bottom to the *"Enter Password Protected Area."*

The User name is: pete

Password is: pelican

Please note both words are "lower" case.

You will get the VP44 Personnel Roster with two choices to download either in Adobe file or Microsoft Word file. I'm always looking to update the roster, please let me know of any changes.

Data Base & Newsletter

I have almost 500 email addresses in the data base that I use to mail out the newsletter and another 40 that I send via snail mail, please keep me updated as to any changes to this important information. For those that are new to the newsletter I have my addresses broke into groups ie..LM1, LM2, LM3 etc. This pleases the AOL Spam gods and it helps me track the email's that kick back. If you would rather not receive the newsletter please let me know and I will remove you from the mailing list.

VP-44 2009 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM
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Visit Your ~~VP44~~ 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 1888-450-5444. When making reservations mention that you are with the ~~VAC~~ 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 @ ~~\$50.00~~ each \$ _____

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

Banquet Cost: ~~\$0.00~~ 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 ~~VP44 Reunion Fund.~~ Please return this completed form and check to:

Gene Toffolo
4334 Downes Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46235144

Reunion information request

Your preferred drink in the Ready Room _____

Whatever you wish to request: trips, site seeing, golf outing 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
Email fdkusn@yahoo.com
Cell 520-780-9255

Gene Toffolo
Administrative Chief
Email genejanjay@aol.com
Home 317-897-4745
Cell 317-201-4261

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New Shipmates on the Roster

Benjamin Teague, AWCM(ret) 1987-1989; Grant Miller, LCDR(ret) VP-204; Nick Sullivan; Lawrence Bredeman, AX3 1970-1973; Tracy Doryland, LCDR(ret) AX2 1961-1963; Paul Wirth AWC(ret) AX2 1982-1986; Stan Wetmore, LT 1963-1966; John Siembieda CAPT(ret) XO/CO 1974-1976

Hope all of you have a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The wife and I will be retiring at the end of 2008 and will be heading south on New Years eve. Our plans are to visit her folks in Florida and then do some roaming in the State of Georgia as we are still looking for a retirement area. I will be on line but unable to ship out anything from the Pelican Shop till we get back. The next newsletter will be some time near the end of February and always looking for input.

Thanks,

Gene

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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Indianapolis, IN 46235-1144

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(URL) www.vp44goldenpelicans.com

"I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted at their best; men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped of their humanity. I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military to me. But I know them all. I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious to me than my life. They have and would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain and pact we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for

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one another. As long as I have my memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my dear comrades. Ahh Such good men they are and were."

-- Author Unknown --