

# Pelican Poop Sheet

Volume IV

May 4, 2008



In case you need some filler material for a newsletter I saw a couple of Notices on [www.VPNavy.com](http://www.VPNavy.com) One was about recruiting for VP-69 out west, but including opportunities as far east as Indy. Also a call for help on P-2V renovations. Check it out on the first page after you hit the ENTER tab on the home page.

Thanks to CDR Leo McGinty, USNR(ret) VP-44 1965-1968 [flyinleo@bellsouth.net](mailto:flyinleo@bellsouth.net)

## Missing Shipmates

Dear Mr. Toffolo,

My name is Mark Guensch. I was an AW2 with VP-44 from 1984-1986. I read the latest from the 30JAN08 Pelican Poop Sheet. AWAN Chris Morgan was mentioned by Captain Word in his story. I went through Water Survival School, A School, OJT in VP-30 and onto VP-44 with Chris Morgan. Chris and I were very good friends but have lost touch since my EAOS. I was wondering if you may have any contact information for him.

thank you,

Mark Guensch [mguensch@yahoo.com](mailto:mguensch@yahoo.com)

Ok Gene, got a couple of missing shipmates that I would like to know about. I was a flight engineer in VP-44 from Sept. 1970 through June 1973. Would like to locate a guy that I went through FE school with and we were both in 44. He was not in the squadron very long because he made WO. His name was Bob Zabielski. The other one is an inflight tech that was on my crew (CAC-1, PPC was the Skipper, RJW Smith). His name is Roger Boyette. He was an ATC.

Thanks for the help!!

Phil Minor, AMH1 Ret. [p3phil@gmail.com](mailto:p3phil@gmail.com)

**This is to show all that we are finding missing Shipmates!**

Dear Gene,

*My husband Jim Schoenberger was in VP-44 and I think he flew for 14 years. I can't remember the other squadrons he was in.....senior moment AND I haven't thought about them in a long time. I just remember VP-44!!!! He loved P5M's and I know he missed the whole scene after he retired.*

*My Jim died June 18th, 2003. We were married 46 years and I miss him. His good friend Robert Zabielski and I still keep in touch. I plan on a visit to see Bob and Mary Ann soon.*

*Jim would have loved this..I checked out your website and who ever did it ...did a great job!! Good luck with this Grand Roster you're putting together.*

Bruce Greely [alffer@aol.com](mailto:alffer@aol.com) is looking for AOCS Joe Goocher, USN(ret)

Gene

I still have not been able to locate Ronald J. Withrow retired USN Electricians mate from Portage-ville MO. The navy forwarded mail but no answer yet.

Frank Romeo [frankp51f@aol.com](mailto:frankp51f@aol.com)

**Navy Log** Another excellent site to look for missing Shipmates is through the Navy Memorial. Registration is free and can be done on line at [www.navylog.org](http://www.navylog.org)

### **Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962**

Patrol Squadron VP-44- Pax River Maryland, Anti Submarine Warfare Squadron With the New, P-3A. Orin by Lockheed, Was Called out to do the Job it was designed to do for the Navy, And Done it Well!!!!!!!!!!!!!!.

Later: Big Jim. Retired Navy, Many Squadrons,& Ships for my 20 Years.

VT/CVA/VP/VP/VT/VF/CVA/FDT/HT/VF/CVA.

<http://www.historynavy.mil/faqs/faq90-5a.htm>

Thanks to [chiefjimmy01@msn.com](mailto:chiefjimmy01@msn.com)

### **2008 Mini Reunion Information**

The mini reunion will be in Pigeon Forge, TN September 7-12. I have reservations at the Holiday Inn on 3230 Parkway, phone number 865-428-2700, in the center of Pigeon Forge and will be there from September 8-11. The Pelican Shop will be open various times and will post those at a later date.

If anybody else is planning a mini reunion of any type and want to post your information on the newsletter, please let me know and I can add it to the next newsletter. I will also try and get the Pelican Shop to your reunion, or at least mail out some of the items if you would like to sell them for us. Remember, all profit from the Pelican Shop goes back into the association for restocking, newsletter mailings, and upcoming reunions.

### Possible Mini reunion in October

From: jodi@associationservices.us  
Reply-to: Jodi@associationservices.us  
To: FRANKP51F@aol.com  
Sent: 4/2/2008 2:48:07 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
Subj: Re: Reunion

Frank--We are having the AVCAD NAVCAD MARCAD Reunion Oct. 23-25 in P'cola....does VP 44 want to meet as part of that reunion...we can combine the two to help costs for all...Jodi

*FRANKP51F@aol.com* wrote:  
Jodi

Is there still interest in a VP-44 mini reunion at NAS Penscola ? I know several old VP-44 members interested.

Thank You

Frank Romeo

### 2009 Reunion Information

From Chairman Frank Kurkowitz, [fdkusn@yahoo.com](mailto:fdkusn@yahoo.com)

I have met with the people at "The Inn At San Ignacio" (website-[www.innatsanignacio.com](http://www.innatsanignacio.com)). 1-888-450-5444 Toll Free

Tentative dates are April 16-20, 2009

Rates: 40 to 50 rooms set at \$89.00 for luxury room and \$69.00 for regular room.

Check the website for pix of the rooms. There are gas grills outside the casitas for grilling if desired.

They will provide Hospitality Room for NO charge. We can provide our own Liquor in the Hospitality room. I can purchase it at the Class 6 at Davis-Monthan AFB.

I will have to find a location for the banquet. I am leaning toward our local Elks club, which is nearby and a very nice facility with good food (catered on site), a lounge with music on the weekend. I will have to check to see if they will permit our gang in the lounge. NO smoking facility! Another option is the local American Legion Hall. They have a very large banquet room that can be catered on site. They also have a band in the lounge on weekends.

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.

### **Dates are set for 2009 reunion**

Gene,

I have locked in April 16-20 2009 for 40 to 50 rooms at \$89.00 and \$69.00 at the Inn at San Ignacio, in Green Valley, AZ. (It was 92 and sunny here today). I am still working to get a good location for the banquet. I will provide information concerning places to eat and things to do. We have a very nice Elks Lodge here and a very active American Legion post, both relatively nearby. The Legion may well be the site for the banquet.

Frank Kurkowitz (home) 520-495-4875 (cell) 520-780-9255

**You can also see contact information for the 2009 reunion on the home page. Frank and I will have registration information in the next newsletter.**

### **Grand Roster updates**

Ray Beck and I have been working on combining both the protected and grand rosters into one, and we now have one roster for all to view or print out if you wish.

Go to our home page at: [www.vp44goldenpelicans.com](http://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.

As you will see we have over 600 names, but a lot of missing information. The main reason we are maintaining this is for fellow Shipmates to find each other. You can email or call either myself or Ray to have information added or deleted from the roster. The roster will be updated on the web site at the first of the month and I have the date in the upper right hand corner so you will know if you have the current roster.

Special thanks to, Walt Keane VP44 1971-1974, CDR USN (Retired) for the next article.

You can contact him at [wkeane@private.mv.com](mailto:wkeane@private.mv.com)

### **P3 over Bermuda**

On a personal note, as a former PAO, I do have a duplicate transparency of the notable P-3 Bermuda photo, below, (NGS July 1971) photographed by Emory Kristoff, who has since passed away. Unfortunately, the photo has been published without attribution in many service magazines since 1971. Based on the article in that issue and discussion with NGS in July 1971, it turns out, despite many years of VP-8 claiming that it is one of their aircraft, that 1) no clear markings are shown, and 2) VP-44 was the squadron operating out of NAS Bermuda at the time the photo was taken from a civilian airliner. Per the NGS letter to me of 4 AUG 1971, the attribution should be "Photograph by Emory Kristoff, (c) National Geographic Society".



For more pictures go to [www.vp44goldenpelicans.com](http://www.vp44goldenpelicans.com) and click on "Photo" at the top of the page.

## **Pelican Shop**

You know I have to plug the Pelican Shop, I hope you don't mind but this is where our funds come from to run everything. If you go to the web site [www.vp44goldenpelicans.com](http://www.vp44goldenpelicans.com) and click on "Pelican Shop" at the top of the page you will be able to see everything we have to offer. I have plenty of everything

in stock plus all the sizes of shirts at this time. The warmer weather is coming, how about one of our light weight base ball caps? Golfer's, how about hitting the links with one of our golf shirts, either with the pelican or Marlin logo. If you drive around with one of our outside decals on your back window, you just might find a missing Shipmate in your travels? All the items are of good quality and I will be more than happy to send your money back if you are not satisfied or proud to show off our squadron logos. If you do not want to order through PayPal, give me a call or email and I will let you know how you can pay with a check. Those of you without web site access, give me a call and I will send you a print out of the items. I'm here to help in any way I can, standing by.

Gene

Gene R. Toffolo, AX2 December 18, 1965-April 22, 1969, Crew Five & Six  
Sales Coordinator & Administrative Chief  
Past Reunion Chairman 2007  
4334 Downes Drive  
Indianapolis, IN 46235-1144  
(cell) 317 201-4261  
(home) 317 897-4745  
(email) [genejanjay@aol.com](mailto:genejanjay@aol.com) "Primary"  
(email) [vp44paxmd@aol.com](mailto:vp44paxmd@aol.com) "Pelican Shop"  
(email) [toffolo4334@yahoo.com](mailto:toffolo4334@yahoo.com) "Secondary"  
(URL) [www.vp44goldenpelicans.com](http://www.vp44goldenpelicans.com)

PS. I'm always looking for input to the Pelican Poop Sheet's of the future, anything you have to add please forward to me. I will leave your name and contact information off if you wish, but I try to give credit where its due since I'm not a very good editor-in-chief.

I hope to get the next newsletter out in early summer and will include updates on the mini reunion in Pigeon Forge. If you plan on coming, let me know the dates and where you will be staying and I will try and get a list together so Shipmates can get in touch with each other.