

## VP44 Winter 2007 Newsletter



This is some email traffic about the slides Ray Beck our web master has posted on the home page, bottom left corner. [www.vp44goldenpelicans.com](http://www.vp44goldenpelicans.com)

Mr. Finnigan

Very happy that you liked slides. It enjoyed putting those sets together.

Regarding the USS Guavina. During my time as an aircrewman (53-56) with VP-44 we worked with many of our submarines in various ASW training exercises. As 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Technician during those years and was responsible for operating our ASW equipment. Unfortunately, I don't remember ever knowing the name of the subs that we trained with, except for the USS Nautilus. In the case of the USS Trout I looked up the number on her sail after seeing my slide.

I am aware that there were exercises, after I left the Navy, that involved submarines refueling seaplanes at sea, but I was never directly involved in such operations.

Sorry that I cannot be of more help.

Bill Stupka

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**From:** Finnigan, Stephen CIV SUBASE [mailto:stephen.finnigan@navy.mil]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2006 3:42 PM  
**To:** wrstupka@gate.net  
**Cc:** genejanjay@aol.com  
**Subject:** thanks for photos

Wonderful slides!

I am looking for info on VP44 (and VP56) did work with the USS Guavina SS362 roughly 1948 to 1960 including Springboard, mostly out of the Key West and or Tampa area I believe.

GUAVINA was converted to a submarine oiler and we have some sketchy "All Hands"/"Our Navy" (1956) articles and a few photos of the refueling, esp. CC

#3 VP44 with a CDR C. L. Lambing or Lambirg standing up through the upper pilots hatch. Looks like one of the ac fellows has a camera while some others work on an engine and the Submarine crew has the plane along side some floating fuel cells. There is standard photo on the web showing #2 from VP?? trailing astern with a starboard side profile of Guavina on the open water.

I know Guavina went to the Med as well perhaps in 1954-1958 time frame and apparently the program worked fairly well but was abandoned, most likely with the rise of nuclear powered submarines and the demise of the sea plane in US Navy thinking.

I am gathering info to do a *very small* exhibit on US Submarines and US Naval Aviation co-operation work, esp in the ASW roles as Hunter Killer teams that was developed after WWII (USS K-1 was involved with Blimps as well, and submarines and planes started around 1923 with a bi plane on submarine USS S-1)). Mr Stupka also showed that they did work with the post war *Trout* as well.

Anyone for some memories or motion film or photos I would be interested in hearing the good, the bad, or the ugly about this program.

Many thanks for your time and if you wish to post this to appropriate forum boards, please do.

Again, thanks all.

Cheers

Steve Finnigan

**US MAIL:**

US Navy Submarine Force Museum

ATTN: Supervisory Curator: **S. Finnigan**

NAVSUBASE NLON

Groton, CT 06439

860-694-3558

FX:860-694-4150

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

**Non-US MAIL /Commercial Shipping:**

Submarine Force Museum

Attn: Curator

1 Crystal Lake Rd

Groton, CT 06340

Gene:

Hi. My name is Darlene Williams Sweat. My father was Earl G. Williams. My brother Scott found your pictures on the web and told me about the site. We were so excited to see picture of our Daddy on your trip to Sicily. Thank you so much for posting the pictures. We lost our father in 1998, and miss him greatly. It's terrific to see this pictures!

**Camp Ground information**

I know some of you will be looking for RV/camp ground sites and here is the main web site for Indiana: <http://www.campindiana.com/>

I would suggest these three below since they are all on the East side of Indianapolis and easy access to Interstate 70 from Mount Comfort Road exit (#96), you will get off Interstate 70 at Post Road exit (#91) to get to the hotel, which is on 21<sup>st</sup> Street.

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**KOA** - Open March 15 - Fully operational Memorial Day through Labor Day

[koaindy@yahoo.com](mailto:koaindy@yahoo.com)

Reservation: 1-800-562-0531

Information: 1-317-894-1397

This campground is right at the Mount Comfort exit and about 30th Street in reference to the hotel.

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**Heartland Resort** - Open all year - Fully operational Memorial Day through Labor Day.

[information@heartlandresort.com](mailto:information@heartlandresort.com)

Reservation: 1-317-326-3181

This RV site is off 38<sup>th</sup> Street in reference to the hotel and close to Mount Comfort exit.

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**S&H Campground** - Open all year - Fully operational April 1 through November 1

[info@shcampground.com](mailto:info@shcampground.com)

Reservation: 1-317-326-3208

This RV site is right on 21<sup>st</sup> Street and a straight shot in to the hotel, or close to Mount Comfort exit.

**In memory of Val Brynteson  
By Ray Beck**

**With much sadness, I received word from Ron Brynteson that his Father Val Brynteson passed away this morning, Thursday 4 JAN 2007 at 8AM EST. Val was a great and faithful friend and is the shipmate who initiated the VP-44 Reunions - and that included many sessions of training the Reunion Chairman who served after Val. This information is on the VP-44 Website Home Page at [www.vp44goldenpelicans.com](http://www.vp44goldenpelicans.com)**

**I am creating a special web page in Memory of Val. I am uploading that page, but it will be under construction - hopefully to be complete by this weekend. I will provide space for any of Val's friends and associates to comment on their special friendship with Val. Go to [www.vp44goldenpelicans.com/In\\_Memory\\_of\\_Val.htm](http://www.vp44goldenpelicans.com/In_Memory_of_Val.htm)**

**Here is the schedule of events to transpire:**

**· Viewing at Volusia Memorial Funeral Home, 548 N Nova Road, Ormond Beach, FL on Saturday January 6, 2007 from 6-8 PM and a service on Sunday January 7, 2007 at 2 PM.**

**· Val will be laid to rest with his Mother & Father at the Madonna Cemetery in his home town of Fort Lee, N.J.at 11AM on Wednesday January 10, 2007.**

**For those of you who want to make a donation in Val's memory and for helping the family with funeral and travel costs, you may mail checks to –**

**Ron Brynteson  
6115 State Road 11  
DeLeon Springs Florida 32130**

**Ray Beck**

**Reunion update**

I am ready to receive your reservations and registration for the 2007 reunion here in Indianapolis on September 1, 2, 3. **Hotel check in is Saturday September 1 and check out Tuesday September 4, our banquet is Monday night September 3.** If you want to come early or stay later please check with the hotel manager. Ray has the home page up and running, [www.vp44goldenpelicans.com](http://www.vp44goldenpelicans.com) if you click on the picture of either hotel it will get you info you need. We can book on line for the Marriott (or call 317 322-3716) from their home page and use for the "Group Code" the following letters:"VPSVPSA". You have to call the LaQuinta direct 317 359-1021 and tell them you are with VP44 for the special rate. The registration forms will come to me direct and I will copy Jeff for accounting purposes. I will keep track of those that have registrations made for the reunion and copy Ray so he can post them on the home page.

I want to give a special thanks to Ray Beck our web master, the home page and all its contents our way over my head and we couldn't do it without you, thanks.

## **TENTATIVE POD REUNION 2007**

### **Friday, August 31, 2007**

Setup of Ready Room, Quarter Deck, Pelican Shop, and Memorabilia Spaces in Suites 160 and 164. Early arrivals welcome but check with the hotels.

### **OFFICAL 2007 INDIANAPOLIS REUNION**

#### **Saturday, September 1, 2007**

1400 Hotel check-in, hotel lobby.

All Reunion functions will be in suites 160 and 164 unless other wise noted.

1400 Reunion check-in at the Quarter Deck, get badges and information packets.

Bring in your memorabilia and place on tables provided.

Ready Room open till ????.

Pelican Shop open till 1700

1700 First Grip and Grin, meet new and old shipmates and plan the next day activities (sighting, shopping, etc). I will be available all weekend with maps, directions, and suggestions.

1800 Supper on your own.

#### **Sunday, September 2, 2007**

0900-1000 Second Grip and Grin, form car pools, (possible bus tour) to various sites in the city.

1000-1200 Pelican Shop open.

1200-???? Ready Room open

#### **Monday September 3, 2007**

0900-1100 Business Meeting, all hands and spouses at the Marriott.

1100-1300 Pelican Shop open

1100-1600 Ready Room open, closes at 1600 due to banquet.

1700-1800 Cocktails at the Marriott.

1800-1900 Buffet Dinner, Invocation by Chaplain Dick Nevela.

1930 Drawing for door prizes, 50/50 raffle, and recognitions.

2000 Group photo, Possible Guest Speaker?

2000-2300 Dancing to DJ music (and not the young stuff).

#### **Tuesday September 4, 2007**

Check out see you in 2009 at the next reunion-TBA.

Have a save trip back home and hope you enjoyed your stay.

## 2007 Reunion Committee

Ray Beck, ATC, USN(ret) , 1961-1964; Web Master, Past Chairmen 2005

[chief\\_beck@yahoo.com](mailto:chief_beck@yahoo.com)

Val Brynteson, 1961-1964; Past Chairmen 2001

Past away January 4, 2007, he will always be with us.

Ralph Cook, 1960-1963; President VP44 Association

[blusgtar@ptd.net](mailto:blusgtar@ptd.net)

Steven Coultas, ADC, USN(ret), 1973-1977

[stede@psci.net](mailto:stede@psci.net)

Robert(Al) Hayes, 1960-1964

[rheh@surfbest.net](mailto:rheh@surfbest.net)

Leo McGinty, CDR(ret) USNR, 1965-1968

[flyinleo@bellsouth.net](mailto:flyinleo@bellsouth.net)

Robert (Sir Bob) Minnerly, 1958-1962

[bobmin7309@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bobmin7309@sbcglobal.net)

Estes (Doc) Morrow, CMDCM, USN(ret),1997-1980

[eaglesnest4032@wmconnect.com](mailto:eaglesnest4032@wmconnect.com)

William Pendleton, 1943-1944

[wpendleton@comcast.net](mailto:wpendleton@comcast.net)

Andy Serrell, Captain, USN(ret); VP-44 CO 1962-1963

[eaglesnest4032@wmconnect.com](mailto:eaglesnest4032@wmconnect.com)

Jeffery Snavelly, 1961-1965; Treasurer, Past Chairmen 2003

[snavelyjj@yahoo.com](mailto:snavelyjj@yahoo.com)

Gene Toffolo, CUCM(SCW/NAC), USNR(ret), 1965-1969

[genejanjay@aol.com](mailto:genejanjay@aol.com)

Last but not least the Pelican Shop is standing by for your orders, remember your order today will help the reunions of the future.

So called editor-in-chief,

Gene Toffolo

Visit Your VP-44 Reunion 2007 Website and Pelican Shop:  
<http://www.vp44goldenpelicans.com>

This registration does not include the hotel reservation. Make your hotel reservations by contacting: Marriott Center 317 352-1231, or LaQuinta 317 359-1021 both hotels are side by side in 7200 East 21 Street area. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee: I will be attending and bringing \_\_\_ guests @ \$15.00 ea. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee after June 1, 2007 \_\_\_ guests @ \$20.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet Cost: \$40.00 Each (includes buffet & 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: Chairmen Gene Toffolo  
4334 Downes Drive  
Indianapolis, IN 46235-1144

**Reunion information request**

Your preferred drink in the Ready Room \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like a group bus trip to the Indianapolis 500 or the downtown area  
comments/requests \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Would you like a professional group photo at the reunion? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like music (band or DJ) at the banquet? \_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments for a better reunion: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Gene Toffolo  
VP44 2007 Reunion Chairmen  
Email addresses:  
[Genejanjay@aol.com](mailto:Genejanjay@aol.com) or [VP44Paxmd@aol.com](mailto:VP44Paxmd@aol.com)