

VP44 Spring 2007 Newsletter



This was going to be one of my shorter newsletters, but I keep getting more items to add.



I just want to remind everybody if you're coming to the 2007 reunion you can save by getting your registration in by June 1, 2007. I will have another update or two coming out this summer with hopefully the final (almost) plans for the Labor Day weekend along with a traffic report. If you cannot make the reunion but want to help out the reunion fund for the future just pay us a visit at the Pelican Shop and get those hard to find Pelican or Marlin items. Go to

www.vp44goldenpelicans.com and click on the "Pelican Shop."

I know from past experience that most of you like to make your own plans when you get here so I will have plenty of information on various things to do in the Chief Val Ready room. I do need to know if there is an interest in visiting the American Legion Headquarters in downtown Indianapolis. Mr. Les Dennis has made contact with the Assistant Director to possibly open up on the weekend for a tour but we need to know numbers and set up a time frame. Please email or call me back if you are interested.

PAST REUNIONS:

2008 Mini reunion Pigeon Forge/Gatlinburg, TN (pending)
2007 Indianapolis, IN
2006 Mini reunion Cruise out of Jacksonville, FL
2005 Fredericksburg, TX
2004 Mini reunion Branson, MO
2003 Pax River, MD
2002 Brunswick, ME
2001 Daytona Beach, FL

** There has also been many other smaller mini reunion by various crews and friendship groups from times past. If your group is planning one in the future give me a call with the details and I will include it in the next newsletter.

Wanted Chairperson for 2009 Reunion

If interested please let me or any of the committee members know and we will bring it up at the business meeting in September.

Upcoming PBV Reunion



PBV 5A
Provided by Richard Watson

I found this notice in the Navy Times for those of you interested. PBV Catalina International Association, September 26-30, 2007, Omaha, NE – Clarion Hotel. Contact Don Mortimer 613 298-2685; email pbydon@optonline.net; Jim Thompson 504 392-1227

email glotomcat@msn.com

VA News

Lot of Info about what all the VA is doing for the EX Military Members. Enjoy and pass it on to any Service members you know.

<http://www.vawatchdog.org/index.htm>

Website

I want to thank Jerry Berch for this new web site, it may be another way to find missing Shipmates. Here's the website: <http://navy.togetherweserved.com/usn/index.jsp>

All the BEST!

Jerry Berch, STG2 USN - Retired

suljer@aol.com

Pacific Aviation Museum



PACIFIC AVIATION MUSEUM--PEARL HARBOR CELEBRATES IT'S GRAND OPENING

Former NBC News anchorman Tom Brokaw along with Adm Gray Roughead, Commander Pacific Fleet and Chuck Yeager, the first man to break the sound barrier attend the Pacific Aviation Museum's grand opening.

The Pacific Aviation Museum-Pearl Harbor's grand opening was truly that. Grand! The newest addition to the Pearl Harbor Historic Sites occupies one of the oldest hangars on Ford Island. The original 40,000 square foot WWII hangar has been restored just as the museum's B-25 Mitchell Bomber, F4F-3 Wildcat, Aeronca, A6M2 Zero, and N2S Stearman have been brought back to their former glory.

Dioramas of Midway, decks of the Hornet, Hiryu and Guadalcanal Cactus Air Force bring to life the history of the first year of the war in the Pacific. One of the most significant displays in the museum is the remains of the Niihau Zero that crash landed on one of Hawaii's remote islands during the attack.

What started out 10 years ago by four aviation enthusiasts came to fruition on December 7, 2006, 65 years after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Over the past decade interest in their vision grew bringing leaders from the military, local businesses and Hawaii's political elite onboard to help raise interest and support. Many of those who helped make the opening possible were at the ceremonies.

2007 marks the 65th anniversary for several major events of WWII; Coral Sea-May 1942, Midway-June 1942; and the history changing Doolittle Raid on April 18th, 1942.

The museum is commemorating the day that 16 planes took off from the deck of the carrier USS Hornet to attack the heart of Japan, with a special event starting Wednesday April 18th and culminating Friday April 20th.

The Pacific Aviation Museum's B-25 represents Doolittle Raider, Ted Lawson's plane that he named "The Ruptured Duck". The original plane was decorated with nose art depicting a duck with crutches, a caricature of what the servicemen called the "ruptured duck" pin. The original pin or patch, an eagle inside of a wreath, was worn by service men when they were about to be discharged. Servicemen thought that the eagle looked more like a duck and because it meant that they were going home, the popular saying, "They took off like a Ruptured Duck," came about.



Nose art was a popular distraction to the war and one of the many artists was Hal Olson. Mr. Olson was based on Tinian, in the middle of the Pacific's Marianas Islands. He hoped to paint tropical landscapes but instead was recruited into painting nose art on the many bombers that were flying in and out. Hal Olson's art work became so well known that his work was in the first color issue of the national Geographic Magazine. Since the war, Hal has continued his painting and displaying his historic nose art in museum's and collections all over the country.

Hal Olson will be using his talent to apply the "ruptured duck" nose art to the museum's B-25 during the Doolittle Raid Commemoration April 19th and 20th. Visitors to the Museum on Thursday and Friday will be able to watch Hal perform his magic on the nose of the B-25 as he transforms the plane's olive drab aluminum into a painting representing the hopes and dreams of those who flew for our freedom in WWII.

June 4th-6th will mark the 65th Anniversary of the Battle of Midway. Midway was considered the turning point of the war and it has been said that without Midway there would have been no D-Day at Normandy two years later. In remembrance of this historic date, the museum will be hosting a special after hours event on Wednesday June 6th.

The Museum will extend its normal hours on June 6th for a special behind the scenes tour of the exhibits at 6:00 pm followed by a lecture on Midway by local historian, Alan Lloyd at 7:00pm.

Mr. Lloyd is known for his Battle of Midway lecture that brings to light the history and mysteries that surround what came to be known as the "Miracle of Midway". Lecture and after hours tour are included with admission price.

Volunteer Jay Dunn explains how helicopters fly to museum guests.

COME JOIN OUR OAHANA

Our volunteer program started long before the museum doors opened. Starting a year ago,



volunteers signed up to assemble the airplanes that were to be on display. They filled sandbags for the exhibits, set up equipment, moved furniture, cleaned the floors, painted the walls, installed electronics, answered phones and mailed invitations. What ever was needed there were always volunteers ready, willing and able to help at a moments notice. Without their tireless efforts and endless enthusiasm our grand opening would not have been as grand. Now that the doors are open the volunteers are fulfilling the roles of Tour Docents, enhancing the visitors'

experience. There are many ways to be part of our Museum Ohana (family), we hope that you will join us at our next Volunteer meeting. We meet the third Saturday of every month at 3:00 pm for continuing education as well as new member orientation. Please contact: KT Budde-Jones at: (808) 441-1012 or email: kt@pacificaviationmuseum.org.

Volunteer opportunities are available in the following areas:

- Tour Docents
- Education Program Docents
- Greeters and Theater Operations
- Curatorial and Exhibits
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Oral History documentation
- Membership services
- Special Events and Fund Raising
- Aircraft preparation and maintenance
- Website Management

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Pacific Aviation Museum, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, is supported by admission tickets, vendor fees, and private donations from foundations, corporations and individuals who, along with the Board of Directors and staff of the museum, believe deeply in the mission and objectives of building America's newest aviation museum.

Giving to the Pacific Aviation Museum is a meaningful way to assist in restoring an important part of the national treasure that is Ford Island and honor the patriotism, valor, and sacrifice made by Americans in the defense of freedom in the Pacific. There are three avenues in which to donate to the museum: contributing funds; in-kind gifts of artifacts, materials or services; and volunteer hours.

CONTRIBUTING FUNDS ~ GIFTS OF DOLLARS & CENTS

Gifts can be given in the form of cash, checks, credit cards or stocks & bonds. Programs to donate these funds to are: Membership (see form below), Capital Campaign - Phase 2, Annual Giving Projects, Planned Giving or any of our Special Events scheduled throughout the year. Matching Gifts from Corporations are also welcomed.

IN-KIND GIFTS ~ ARTIFACTS, MATERIALS OR SERVICES

The museum accepts In-Kind gifts as charitable contributions which are donations of property other than cash and marketable securities. To make a donation or for further information, please contact the Development Office. For additional information please contact Lauren Avery at (808) 441-1013 or email: laurena@pacificaviationmuseum.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ~ A GIFT OF TIME

It is known in many non-profit organizations that volunteers are the backbone of any organization; the engine that keeps it running. And, so it is at the Pacific Aviation Museum, as well. From the first call for volunteers last summer to help restore WWII aircraft to the most recent call for help with the special events planned for the year, the volunteer program is a vital component of the museum. Please contact: KT Budde-Jones at: (808) 441-1012 or email: kt@pacificaviationmuseum.org.

Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor
319 Lexington Blvd. - Honolulu, HI 96818
tel: (808) 441-1000 / fax: (808) 441-1019
email: info@pacificaviationmuseum.org

www.pacificaviationmuseum.org

This information was sent to me by Jerry, jmhar@comcast.net He also sent me updated pictures of Subic Bay. I was never deployed there, but if you would like to see the Power Point download let me know and I will forward them on to you.

Missing Shipmates

Harry Steele AXC, USN(ret), is looking for Mr. Ron Hald and LCDR Myers. He is attending the reunion and is checking to see if they plan on attending, at least he wants to get back in contact with them. Chief Steele can be emailed at harste07@aol.com

VP-44 2007 Registration Form

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 and Rate & Rank _____

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 Chief Val 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 or VP44Paxmd@aol.com

Tentative POD Reunion 2007

Friday, August 31, 2007

Setup of Chief Val 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.

0800: Reunion check-in at the Quarter Deck, get badges and information packets. Bring in your memorabilia and place on tables provided in the Chief Val Ready room.

0800 - ????: Chief Val Ready Room Open

0800: Pelican (merchandise) Shop open till 1700 or as requested.

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.

0900-1200: Pelican (merchandise) Shop open. Also opened as needed.

0900-????: Chief Val Ready Room open

1800: Supper on your own

Monday September 3, 2007

0900-1100: Business Meeting, all hands and spouses at the Marriott (room depends on numbers attending)

1100-1300: Pelican (merchandise) Shop open

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

1630-1730: Cocktails at the Marriott.

1730: Group Photo

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

1915: Introductions; Drawing for door prizes, 50/50 raffle, and recognitions.

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 safe trip back home and hope you enjoyed your stay.