

VP44 FALL 2006 NEWSLETTER



I've kind of taken on the position of Personnel Chief and I would like to get a current recall with as many names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses as possible. This information will be for in house only and used to help us find fellow shipmates and their location. We can also use this information for upcoming reunions to get close to as many as possible. I have many names and numbers from both Ralph Cook and Ray Beck that I'm not sure how many are still correct. I also have a data base of over 350 email addresses but not sure who everybody is by name. If you've bought something from the Pelican Shop, I have your address and email, unless you've moved. It would also help to have the years you served with VP44, VPB204, VP204, or VPMS4. If you would reply back to me with the information I hope to get the recall started this winter.

Add this site for P2V's information

http://www.maam.org/neptune/p2_1.html

Pelican Shop update:

We now have new visors for sale at the Pelican Shop, also with winter coming on how about one of our sock hats or T-shirts to keep you warm. We have a number of items that would make excellent, one of a kind Christmas gifts. Check us out at www.vp44goldenpelicans.com

Our webmaster Ray Beck has these pictures on the home page, thanks to Bill Stupka you can email him at: wrstupka@gate.net

The attached is an Adobe Acrobat (pdf) version of a Powerpoint slide show that I have been fooling with for awhile. It is about VP-44, during

my time in the squadron, 1953-56, and it is something that I wanted to share with you all. I hope you enjoy these pictures and the memories that they bring to mind. Please note the instructions at the bottom of the first slide.

The problem with Powerpoint presentation is that the file sizes get really large making it tough distribute. So I tried converting the show in Adobe Acrobat format (pdf) which most everyone can use. This brought the file size down by around 75%, but lost the auto slide change and various bells and whistles, but it still looks good, especially on version 6 and newer Adobe readers. So here it is, "PHOTO MEMORIES OF VP-44, NAS Norfolk, 1953-56."

All of these digital images started as 50+ year old 35mm Kodachrome color slides. Over the years all of those slides gathered dirt, mildew, dust and many were warped. They were cleaned up as much as possible, and then copied with an 8 mp digital camera. Even though I am not totally satisfied with the results I am happy that they look as good as they do. You will see numerous problems with changes in color, dirt/dust, sharpness, etc. All of these slides were tweaked through Adobe Photoshop, and they are as good as I can make them. I am sorry that I couldn't make them better.

This slide set is about VP-44 operations out of NAS Norfolk. I had only 13 slides to use. In the next few weeks or so I plan on putting together the squadron's Wales/Med cruise of 1954 in the same manner. There are more slides of that than there are from around Norfolk. I don't understand why I didn't take more of Breezy Point and squadron operations there, but then I was 22 at that time.

If anyone has any use for the Powerpoint Slideshow version I would be happy to send it to you. The file size is about 3.4 MB. At this point I have not added any music to it, although that might be good if I can think of something appropriate for the period.

Best regards,

Bill Stupka

Reunion update

I have everything in place to start 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 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.

OFFICIAL 2007 INDIANAPOLIS REUNION

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2007

1400 Hotel check-in, hotel lobby.

All Reunion functions will be in suites 160 and 164 unless otherwise 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 safe trip back home and hope you enjoyed your stay.

Gene

Gene R. Toffolo VP44 December 18, 1965-April 22, 1969, Crew Five & Six
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2007 Reunion Chairman, Indianapolis, IN
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Seeking information on Joe Blasie

Rick Carey <rickwcarey@hotmail.com> wrote:

My name is Rick Carey, and I was stationed in Brunswick, ME from 1980-1985 and was TAD from VP-11 to AIMD where I worked with Joe. Been trying to locate him but not having much luck. Not quite sure if the spelling of his last name is correct or not, but I do know that he did the west pac with VP44 and Rota Deployments in the early '80's. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Rick Carey

NAS Keflavik

It last months Navy Times they had a article on the closing of Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland on September 30, 2006. I'm sure many of you did a tour or two there as I did, weather you like it or not it was a very unusual place. It seems a lot of the places I went to during my tour with VP44 are a thing of the pass, Roosevelt Roads, NAS Twin Cities, Azores, NAS Bermuda, just to name a few. In the future I want to use this newsletter as a way of sharing your time in the Navy (as Mr. Bill Stupka did). Ray Beck reports we have plenty of room on the web page, so get into the attic and share your pictures and stories with us. It's all of you out there that will keep this site going for many years to come.

Reunion Committee

I think its about time you meet the people I check with before making and decisions and the ones that have been a great help this past year. I would not even want to try and go this alone and I'm always seeking advice from the following:

2007 REUNION COMMITTEE

Ray Beck, ATC, USN(ret) , 1961-1964; Web Master, Past Chairmen 2005
Val Brynteson, 1961-1964, Past Chairmen 2001
Ralph Cook, 1960-1963, President VP44 Association
Steven Coultas, ADC, USN(ret), 1973-1977
Robert(Al) Hayes, 1960-1964
Leo McGinty, CDR(ret) USNR, 1965-1968
Robert (Sir Bob) Minnerly, 1958-1962
Estes (Doc) Morrow, CMDCM, USN(ret),1997-1980
William Pendleton, 1943-1944
Andy Serrell, Captain, USN(ret), CO 1962-1963
Jeffery Snaveley, 1961-1965 Treasurer, Past Chairmen 2003
Gene Toffolo, CUCM(SCW/NAC), USNR(ret), 1965-1969

If you need information on the Indianapolis area I will be more than happy to send you all kinds of literature on my city. I will not have current events on the Labor Day weekend till sometime next summer, but should be able to give you plenty of information to get you started.

I will get another newsletter out some time this winter, mean while enjoy this fall time of the year, and "Go Colts."

Gene R. Toffolo, so-called editor-in-chief

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