

NEWSLETTER**VP 40 Reunion Group**

The 14th bi-annual reunion was held in San Diego, CA on Oct 3-7, 2012. There were 117 attendees, with 64 VP40 members. A very good turnout. Hope to see you all again and others as well at the next one. I have posted some pictures on our web site www.vp40.com.

The 2014 Reunion will be at Pensacola, FL.

Dates: start : Wednesday October 8, 2014

ending : Sunday October 12, 2014.

Place: HOLIDAY INN RESORT Pensacola Beach, FL.

<http://holidayinnresortpensacolabeach.com/>.

YOU are responsible for making your hotel reservations. Use the CODE VP4 when registering for our group rate.

VP 40 ROSTER

Presently I have 300 Active members on the list. Attached is the list of Active members. In addition I have the Dues list and there are some members who have NOT paid their 2012-2014 dues yet (\$20 bi-annually). They are due at this time for the 2012-2014 time period. You will have a notice in your package if this is the case, please send it to me and make the check payable to **VP40 Reunion Committee**. Thank you.

The 2014-2016 dues will be due 10/2014

One of my goals is to increase the active membership and also increase attendance at reunions. We have picked up a few folks and sadly lost a few. I ask for your help. **We all need to participate.**

I am requesting that you review the member roster attached and let me know of any changes, additions, deaths, etc. If you know of anyone who is eligible to join our group, get in touch with them or let me know and I will do it. I got a good response from the last newsletter with some changes to members. Thanks and check this newsletter as well for an changes needed, so we may keep this group active and current .

I have had quite a few requests from the P3 era of VP40 who would like to join our group and come to the reunions. We took a vote at the 2012 reunion and it was decided to NOT include the P3 era members at this time. We will vote on this at each reunion. Sooner or later we will either have to include them or we will being holding our reunions in the back seat of a Chevy. As of 2013, VP30 is training the P3V replacement , the P-8A (a converted 737 aircraft) The 1st P8's are in the fleet, Vp16 based in Okinawa have them, replacing the P3v. So the P3v members will be as obsolete as we seaplane members are.

MEMBER CHANGES I have been notified of since the last newsletter July /2013

New Arrivals

WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS

Kenneth Colson 1965-1967 ATN2

Carl Brooks 1966-1967 ATR3

David Molnar 1960-1961 ATS3

Tom Jessen 1962-1965 AO2

Robert Blechle 1953-1955 AMS3

TAPS

Ralph Buesking 8/19/2013 AM2 1953-1957
Gerald (Jerry) Holmes 8/25/2013 AD3 1956-1959
James Carrigan 6/2011 PN3 1965-1968
William Martin 6/11/2013 AMAN 1950-1954
Terry Durst 5/2013 AMS3 1964-1967
Leon Peachie 9/23/2013 AO1 1952-1954
Marvin Register 12/13/2013 AK3 1950-1953
Archie Bigwood 9/2013 ?? ??
John King 12/27/2013 AO3 1965-1968

Widows & family of deceased members are very welcome to attend our reunions and to join us and continue their friendship with this very special group of people.

I will be sending out another newsletter this summer of 2014., before the reunion. Included with this newsletter is the registration form for the reunion. Please fill it out and return it to me along with the money due for it. If you are not ready to commit yet, please let me know if you are a NO, YES or MAYBE as soon as possible. It makes it a lot easier to plan it. You can make your hotel reservations NOW and remember to use the code **VP4** when doing so.

This newsletter and a history of the ones available and in the future, will be posted on our web site. Anyone that I have an email address for will receive newsletters via that route. (that will include any attachments i.e. Rosters, reunion information)as well. Anyone who I DONOT have an email address for will continue to receive the newsletters etc. via snailmail. This was voted on and approved at the last reunion business meeting. The mailing costs are expensive and we can save some cost using the internet.

I have some responses from members with corrected email addresses, phone #'s, addresses etc. THANK YOU. The database has been corrected.

I recently found a web site. www.vpnavy.org and it had over 80 people who served in VP40 during our seaplane era. I emailed all of them and received about 12 responses back. Most of the people that commented on this site were from 1990-2000 and the emails listed for them were not valid anymore. If anyone can provide me with an update to them please do so.

DO NOT FORGET OUR VP40 WEBSITE

www.vp40.com

I have created a web site for the VP40 seaplane era group. I hope you will visit it. There are a lot of pictures, video, some cruise books (more to come), archive of past newsletters, web links, and some interesting reading. It will be updated every week or sooner if required . I am always looking for pictures, stories, video, etc. to publish in it. If you have anything to contribute do not hesitate send it to me and it will be included ASAP. In this newsletter packet you will find your NAME and your PASSWORD to log into our web site.www.vp40.com, along with procedures to log in.

Once you log in you will have access to pages that are not available to the general public. These pages will contain information like the current active member roster, with address, phone etc. This is for security reasons, only VP40 members will be able to log into the site.

There is also a Ships Store where you can purchase caps, mugs, T Shirts etc. with VP40 markings. WE are having problems with selecting a T-Shirt factory that is priced reasonable so we have a couple of selections. We are running this ourselves and we finally have some stock, so order and enjoy. If you want something different just ask and we will try and obtain it. Contact: **ggfisk@vp40.com OR bobpolk@vp40.com.**

This web site belongs to our group so the more we use it the better it will become. Any comments and suggestions are welcome. You can leave comments for others to enjoy and it is a great way for other members to communicate with you. If you need an email address, I can provide one for you from VP40 (i.e. ggfisk@vp40.com). I hope you will use and enjoy the site. So please if you have a current email address send it to me. If you want to receive a hard copy of the newsletters let me know, otherwise they will be posted on the website (and sent via email to you). In addition if anyone has pictures, video, stories, information, etc. they would like to share please send it to me, either digital or hard copy and I will post them in the web site. I will return your originals if needed.

As of 2/10/2014 we have had 14,479 pages viewed on our web site in the last 30 days. It is now averaging about 1,500 per day and growing. I will keep adding content as often as I receive it.

CONGRATULATIONS, keep using it and I will keep updating it.

AGENT ORANGE

I have been in contact with members of MMA and VP50, VP48, VP47 on the subject of Agent Orange. The VA is rejecting most claims from members of seaplane squadrons. In the last newsletter I included a form to fill out and mail back to me. The other squadrons did also. We as a group did not get very many responses to it so we are at a stand still for now. Please help if you have filed or intend to file a claim with the VA for Agent Orange. There is some information about this and other matters on our web site. Have a look. We will have a retired Veterans Administration service officer attend our reunion as a guest speaker and he will help us with filing claims and agent orange matters with the VA.

CAVITE CITY ORPHAN FUND

We will have a presentation for the creation of a VP40 fund donation committee to provide clothing, shoes, money etc. for orphans in Cavite City, P.I. The poverty there is worse than when we were stationed there if you can imagine that.

ORGANIZATIONS and CONTACTS:

Membership Chairman:

Guy Fisk 107 Springside Road Asheville, NC 28803-3323
home phone- (828) 654-7812 cell phone- (828) 423-2106
email- ggfisk@charter.net or ggfisk@vp40.com

NATIONAL FLIGHT LOG:

Leslie Geiger (800)327-5002

HISTORIAN:

Bruce Barth
(512) 288-9824

bbarth1@austin.rr.com

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

www.vp40.com our web site for this group

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/P5M_Marlin

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PBM_Mariner

www.vpnavy.org

www.navalaviationmuseum.org

www.vpmma.org

<http://bigleytl.com/VP-40/>

<http://marinermarlin.com/>

<http://www.navy.mil/allhands.asp>

<http://www.history.navy.mil/branches/nhcorg5.htm>

Room	Single Rate	Double Rate	Triple Rate	Quad Rate
Run of House	119	154		

All rates are subject to the 14.5% occupancy tax. The Reunion rate will be offered 3 days pre and post reunion dates, based upon availability.

The rooms listed as Double Rate are for the Ocean side /balcony rooms. They do not mean double occupancy rooms.

METHOD OF RESERVATION	CUT-OFF DATE
An advance deposit or credit card guarantee for the 1 st night's room and tax is due by September 8, 2014. Individuals must identify themselves as part of VP40 Reunion by providing the Group Code (VP4) at the time of making reservations in order to be eligible for the special group rate. Please call (800) 662-8899 or (850)932-5331 to make reservations.	The Hotel understands all reservations will be held on an individual basis. The block of rooms will continue to be held until the cutoff date of September 8, 2014. Reservations received after September 8, 2014 will be provided on a space available basis. If the Group Rate is not available after the cutoff date, the prevailing rack rates will apply for reservations confirmed.

CHECK-IN TIME IS 4:00 PM / CHECK-OUT TIME IS 11:00 AM

EVENT AGENDA

Adequate space has been reserved for the following agenda:

Date	Start Time	End Time	Function	Room
Wed. 10/08/14	12:00 PM	11:00 PM	Hospitality	Guadeloupe Room
Wed. 10/08/14	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	Reception	Guadeloupe Room
Thu. 10/09/14	8:00 AM	11:00 PM	Hospitality	Guadeloupe Room
Thu. 10/09/14	5:30 PM	8:00 PM	Dinner Buffet	Poolside Deck
Fri. 10/10/14	8:00 AM	11:00 PM	Hospitality	Guadeloupe Room
Fri. 10/10/14	2:00 PM	3:30 PM	Business Meeting	Guadeloupe Room members only
Sat. 10/11/14	8:00 AM	11:00 PM	Hospitality	Guadeloupe Room
Sat. 10/11/14	5:30 PM	6:30 PM	Social Hour and Group Photos's	NAS Pensacola Naval Air Muesum or Flight Academy
Sat. 10/11/14	6:30 PM	9:00 PM	Dinner	NAS Pensacola Naval Air Muesum or Flight Academy
Sun. 10/12/14	8:00 AM	12:00 PM	Hospitality	Guadeloupe Room

Ready room is the Guadeloupe Room.

There will be an open microphone in the room for anyone who wants to tell a sea story or two..and for anyone that wants to listen and perhaps contribute.

If anyone has **memorabilia** they want to display please bring it and it will be displayed. We will have cruise books, Seaplane Models, and other memorabilia on display also.

There will be VP40 items, coffee cups, T Shirts, Ball Caps etc. for sale in the ready room every day.

The Ready room will be locked up at night. There will be a TV and DVD player for our use. I have some DVD's of seaplanes, and other videos etc. for viewing.

Planned Activities

Thursday Oct 9,2014 4:30pm – 11:00 pm

Buffett Dinner at Poolside Deck

There will be a Steel Drum Band for our enjoyment

Friday Oct 10, 2014

There is not a planned dinner today.

There are numerous places to eat within walking distance.

There will be business meeting from 2:00 3:30 PM in the Ready Room. **This is for members only**

Saturday Oct 11, 2014 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Banquet Dinner @NAS Pensacola Naval Air Museum

We will have a photographer available for the evening. Group photos will be tonight.

There will be a Trolley Car available for transportation to and from our hotel to the museum for our banquet.

For people who cannot / do not want to drive there. The cost is \$12 per person.

As of July 2013 the Naval Air Museum is not having any evening functions, The reason is the sequestration installed by our Federal Government. This is NOT lifted yet as of 2/2014, so we will have our banquet at the National Flight Academy next door to the Museum. LT General Duane Thiessen, director of the Flight Academy will be the guest speaker. The flight simulators will be working and a tour is available.

If the Museum starts accepting banquets by our date we will have it at the Museum in Hanger One around our plane QE10.

I have arranged for VP30 to fly the new P-8A and a P3V from NAS JAX to NAS Pensacola for our reunion. I am not sure of the day yet. But we should be able to view it inside and out. I was hoping that VP40 would be training at VP30 @ (JAX) during this time frame but alas they will not be training on the P-8A until FY15. What a thrill it would be for the New VP40 crew to meet us OLD VP40 crews.

As of now the Blue Angels will not be in the area during our reunion, but their schedule is changing as we speak. If they are home we have a great chance of seeing them from our hotel.

If I can answer any questions or help with reunion problems please contact me

Guy Fisk

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Cell (828)423-2106

SEE YOU ALL in Pensacola in October 2014

LAGING HANDA

