

NEWSLETTER**VP 40 Reunion Group**

The 15th bi-annual VP40 Seaplane Era Reunion is FAST approaching.

The 2014 Reunion will be at Pensacola, FL.

Dates: start : Wednesday October 8, 2014

end : 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 305 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 email /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 become due 10/2014 also.**

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. Some of us are getting a little ? older !!! So we need to keep this group alive and kicking.

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 the upcoming reunion. Sooner or later we will either have to include them or we will be 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 FEB /2014

New Arrivals***WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS***

Edward Williams 1961-1964 AM1

Richard Strimel 1961-1963 AT1

Harry Bound 1961-1963 AT2

John Honaker 1965-1966 ADR2

Bryce Billings 1964-1967 LT

Don Yancey 1963-1966 AE3

Ronnie Bozeman 1965-1967 AX3

TAPS

Richard Romano 11/2013 ATN2 1962-1963

Ralph VanderNailen 2/14/2014 LTJG 1953-1955

George O'Bryan 8/24/2013 CDR 1957-1958

Walter Smith 3/14/2014 AD3 1957-1959

Dan Hoff 4/24/2014 AT1 1965-1967

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 after our next reunion in Oct 2014.

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 have already sent in your reunion registration form to me, thank you and I will see you there. 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. Currently I have 229 valid email addresses from our members. Anyone who I DO NOT 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. IF

you cannot access the MEMBERS ONLY pages on our web site, please let me know and I will fix it. DO NOT CHANGE YOUR USER NAME or PASSWORD. 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 have selected a new T Shirt manufacturer and they are available NOW and cheaper as well. We still have a few old T Shirts left and will have them as well as the new ones at the reunion for sale. 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 7/10/2014 we have had 49,893 pages viewed on our web site since it began 2 years ago. It is now averaging about 1,500 per week 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, as it is hard to prove "boots on the ground". 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, DAV, attend our reunion as a guest speaker and he will help us with filing claims and agent orange matters with the VA. I am also hoping to have Senator Rubio from Florida or one of his staff attend our reunion and listen to our problem and perhaps help our cause.

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. We currently have a member over there to assist with this project. (Mike Kane)

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>
<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>
<http://www.va.gov/>
[http://www.health.mil/News_And_Multimedia/News/detail/10-08-31/VA Officials Publish Final Regulation to Aid Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange.aspx](http://www.health.mil/News_And_Multimedia/News/detail/10-08-31/VA_Officials_Publish_Final_Regulation_to_Aid_Veterans_Exposed_to_Agent_Orange.aspx)
<http://www.navytimes.com/>
[http://www.dhc-2.com/Aird Aviation Archives.html](http://www.dhc-2.com/Aird_Aviation_Archives.html)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qaF35VhMNoo&list=PL67EDF55D76D0FD6A>
<http://www.decklog.com/homeport.asp>
<http://www.hullnumber.com/VP-40>
<http://www.fra.org/>
<http://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/charts/historical-military-pay-rates.html>
<http://www.vpnavy.com/>
<http://navy.togetherweserved.com/>
<http://www.vp40.navy.mil/>
<http://www.maritimepatrolassociation.org>
<http://www.vva.org/>
<http://www.koreanwar.org/html/units/navy/vp40.htm>
<http://www.vp48.org/>

Here is the information about the upcoming reunion 10/8-10/12/2014

webcam for Pensacola Beach outside our hotel

<http://www.visitpensacola.com/content/webcam>

Here is the website for the hotel. You can make your reservations starting 8/1/2013. Be sure and mention you are with the VP40 reunion group to ensure you get the discounted rate. Our group code is **VP4**

<http://holidayinnresortpensacolabeach.com/>

HOLIDAY INN RESORT

14 Via DeLuna Drive

Pensacola Beach, Florida 32561

Phone: 850-932-5331 **Fax:** 850-932-3011

GROUP INFORMATION

POST AS: **VP40 Reunion**
CONTACT: **Guy Fisk** TITLE: **2014 Reunion Organizer**
ADDRESS: **107 Springside Road Asheville, NC 28803**
TELEPHONE: **828-654-7812**

EMAIL: ggfisk@charter.net

DATES REQUESTED

Arrival: **October 8, 2014**
 Departure: **October 12, 2014**

ROOM RATE INFORMATION

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	9:00 AM	11:30 AM	Guest speakers	Guadeloupe Room
Fri 10/10	2:00 PM	5:00 PM	VP30 P8-A tour	NAS Pensacola
Sat. 10/11/14	8:00 AM	11:00 PM	Hospitality	Guadeloupe Room
Sat. 10/11/14	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	Business meeting MEMBERS ONLY	Guadeloupe Room
Sat. 10/11/14	4:00 PM	6:30 PM	Group pictures @ QE10 and Happy Hour	NAS museum and Flight Academy
Sat. 10/11/14	6:30 PM	9:00 PM	Dinner	NAS Pensacola 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

Wednesday OCT 8, 2014 5:00 – 6:00 pm

Welcome reception in the Guadeloupe Room

Thursday Oct 9, 2014 5:30pm – 8:00 pm

Buffett Dinner at Poolside Deck

There will be a Ukulele 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 a guest speaker in the ready room today to assist people with filing with VA and other benefits. There will also be a book signing and talk from author Paul Cardinal. In addition there will be a tour of the P8-A at the base.

These times will be handed out @ the reunion.

Saturday Oct 11, 2014

There will be business meeting from 10:00 -12:30 PM in the Ready Room. **This is for members only**

I am setting up a brunch and a “Painting With a Twist” session for the ladies during this time. If interested here is their web site. <http://www.paintingwithatwist.com/>. There will be a sign up sheet for you in the ready room, please let me know ASAP so we can book this event.

4:00-5:30 Group pictures at the QE10 plane in Hanger One

5:30-6:30 Happy Hour @ the quarterdeck in the National Flight Academy Bldg.

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm Banquet Dinner @NAS Pensacola National Flight Academy Bldg.

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

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.

We will have happy hour from 5:30-6:30 on the quarterdeck @ the Flight Academy bldg, followed by 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.

I have arranged for VP30 to fly the new P-8A and a P3V from NAS JAX to NAS Pensacola for our reunion. This will be on Friday but I do not know the time yet. We will have a tour inside of it.

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.

I have been sent a book from author Mr. Rick Campbell. He has written a book (which I have read and highly recommend) entitled **THE TRIDENT DECEPTION** It is the best novel about a submarine since Tom Clancy's THE HUNT FOR RED OCTOBER. We will have signed books on hand for sale during our reunion.

We also will have an author, **Mr Paul Cardinal**, who has written a book **WHEN PIGS FLEW**. Paul's father served aboard the USS CURRITUCK in Vietnam during the last few flights of the P5M. Paul has written a semi factual novel about the life and times of that era. He has video of some of the happenings while in Viet Nam and will be showing that as well as autographing his book at our reunion. He and his sister will be there Friday and Sat. Be sure and attend to hear his tales.

This will be the last newsletter before our reunion, so if you want updated information about it please visit our web site www.vp40.com. There will be updated info every week until the reunion. And then pictures etc. after it.

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

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SEE YOU ALL in Pensacola in October 2014

LAGING HANDA