



VPB-111/VP-21 VAGABOND NEWS

www.vp-21navy.org

John G. Esposito, Editor

SUMMER 2013 EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM THE LEFT SEAT:

I recently travelled to Frankfort, Kentucky where, in addition to enjoying a very nice visit with Ed LaFontaine and his delightful family, I had the opportunity to gather up the squadron artifacts that Ed has been holding for us and bring them to Maine. They'll be turned over to the Brunswick Naval Museum where eventually they'll be on display. They include, among other things, aircraft models, prints and photos, log books and NATOPS manuals, our Battle "E" and Isbell trophies, navigation charts and equipment, the squadron Commissioning Pennant and Colors, and many, many documents.

Which brings up a related subject that if any of you have any squadron related material hanging around that you think might fit into a museum display and with which you're willing to part, please let me know. If you decide to send them to me, you'll find my address elsewhere in this newsletter. If you send photos, please annotate them with names, dates, locations, etc. If you're not certain of the suitability of an item, please contact me and I'll bounce it off the museum staff. My email address is blocke21@comcast.net. By the way, the museum's web site is <http://www.brunswicknavalmuseum.org/>.

Bob O'Connor and Gary Phillips, coordinators for the 2015 reunion in Pensacola, have started their planning process. It's too early for anything definitive as yet but we'll keep you posted as things develop.

As always, fly safely.

Bill

DONATIONS RECEIVED:

The following persons have so generously contributed to our organizations fund. Their contributions have been greatly appreciated.

- Bill Locke
- Joseph Sediva
- Donald Moon

PLEASE NOTE: The VPB-111/VP-21 Veterans Association charges no dues. Our operations are totally supported by the generous contributions of our membership and by the sale of our squadron products. The association comes under section 501(C) 19, of the Internal Revenue Code as a “Not for Profit” organization. As such, contributions are legitimate tax deductions. Please make your contribution checks payable to the “VPB-111/VP-21 Veterans Association” and forward them to the Treasurer, Leland Ledford, at 127 Pete St., Waterloo, SC, 29384-4647.

A MESSAGE FROM THE STOREKEEPER:

Yours truly, the storekeeper, has returned from an extended summer mid-June to mid-August vacation and I am ready to fill your Small Stores orders. Now is the time to drop Christmas Holiday hints to family members looking for the perfect gift to place under the tree for you this year. I recommend you refer your “Santa” to view gift items on the Association Website at www.vp21navy.org. You may want to acquire one of the popular P-2 Neptune “Two Turning VP Two Burning” balls caps or the Association Polo Shirt embroidered with either Pilot, Naval Flight Officer, or Naval Aircrew Wings in addition to any other items seen on the Website. To place your order follow the Website instructions or contact the Storekeeper, Carter Nute, at (352) 335-1293 or by e-mail at ccnute@earthlink.net.

Thank you,
Carter

TAPS:

It is with deep regret that I inform you of the passing of our shipmate Chet Merritt who passed away in June, 2013. Chet was the youngest member of Ed LaFontaine's crew in VPB-111 in 1945.

May he rest in peace!

SICK BAY:

No sick, lame, or lazy were reported this quarter.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ON-LINE COORDINATOR:

I think that we as an association of former members of VPB-111 and VP-21 sometime come to take our Reunion Association for granted. That is, our having what is probably one of the best organizations of "old sailors", all united together by our association. Here it is, what? 70 years since the creation of VPB-111, and 44 years since the decommissioning of VP-21, and we can still count over 1,063 members in our association. To put that in perspective, one of the other Brunswick Squadrons that is STILL in commission does not have a reunion association at all. What they do have is one individual who tries to keep track of former members of that squadron, and their entire membership roster has just 300 or so names on it. Keep in mind that squadron has had forty-four more years of active duty personnel from which to enroll members, and the best they can muster is having a third as many members as we have. Hats off to those members of VPB-111 who had the foresight to create the organization that they created, and the foresight to then link up with those of us from VP-21 to create the organization we all enjoy today. So, to keep the ball rolling, don't wait to be called upon, volunteer to help out so we know there will always be someone around to carry the ball into the future. Nothing else? How about keeping your Email and Snail Mail addresses up to date? :>))

WELCOME (BACK) ABOARD:

No new round-ups were reported this quarter.

VPB-111/VP-21 VETERANS ASSOCIATION
255 Mere Point Rd.
Brunswick, ME 04011

Non-profit Org.
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AUGUST 2013

VPB-111/VP-21 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

A non-profit, fraternal, and historical association devoted to the reestablishment of contact with shipmates of the past, to strengthen the camaraderie among its members, to record and preserve the memories and incidents of the Association, to preserve the memory of departed shipmates, and to promote the comfort and welfare of its members and survivors. No dues are assessed!

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