



VPB-111/VP-21 VAGABOND NEWS

www.vp-21navy.org

John G. Esposito, Editor

FALL 2014 Edition

A MESSAGE FROM THE LEFT SEAT:

In the last newsletter, I requested that all our members provide me with updated personal information for the Association roster. I want to thank all of you who responded – all 84 of you. That leaves only 948 to go. So I'm asking again. Please provide your full name – first, MI, last and nickname. Full mailing address including 9 digit zip. Telephone numbers – home and cell. Email address. Year you arrived and departed the squadron. Rate/rank when departing the squadron. Rate/rank when you left the service. Squadron insignia when you left the squadron. Spouse's name and nickname – if living. It will only take you about two minutes. And I thank you in advance.

We've lost contact with two more members since the last newsletter went out – Rolland Autote of Marlton, NJ and Arthur Patch of Portsmouth, NH. If any of you have any information regarding their location/status, please let me know.

As Bob O'Connor states in the Reunion section, we've had some problems working through the Navy's bureaucratic BS. But he and his team, and a couple of our O6s, will work it out and, in a week or two when the event schedule is finalized, we'll get the registration forms off to you. In the meantime, I strongly encourage all of you who plan to attend to get your hotel reservations made. In addition to the already scheduled events, Carter Nute has been discussing with VP-30 the possibility of having a P8 available for us to tour while we're in Pensacola. There's some logistics required so it's not locked in concrete but if they get the plane there, and there's a good chance they will, we'll fit it in the schedule.

I'm looking forward to seeing as many of you at the reunion that can possibly make it. It will be one to remember.

Fly safely, Bill

DONATIONS RECEIVED:

The following persons made donations to our association during this quarter:

- Judith F. Ramsden
- Rudolph F. Falkenstein
- Bill Locke

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.

TAPS:

It is with deep regret that I inform you of the passing of our following shipmates:

- 1) Martin McKinnie, Master Chief (retired), died on December 26, 2010. No other details are available.
- 2) Sandra Scharf, beloved wife of Paul Scharf, passed away on 27 October after a long illness. Our thoughts go out to Paul and his family.
- 3) Patricia Woods, beloved wife of board member Dale Woods, passed away on 28 October after a long illness. Our thoughts go out to Dale and his family.
- 4) CDR Charles Epps, USN (Ret) of Topsham, ME, passed away on 22 October, 2014. He was in the squadron from 47-50.
- 5) Norm Roinestad passed away on Saturday, October 18, 2014. Norman enjoyed 20 years of military service after joining the Navy in 1948. During this time frame, he served in VP 21.
- 6) CDR Philip J. Connell, USN(ret) of Norfolk, VA, passed away on January 27, 2014.
- 7) Byron E. LaDuke, 84, Green Bay, died Wednesday, August 20, 2014.
- 8) Galen Kyre of Pickerington, OH, 48-51, ADAN, on October 19, 2014.
- 9) James Markle of Westover, PA, 53-56, YN3, on November 28, 2013.
- 10) Carl Warstat of Hanover Park, IL, 48-50, AN, on February 3, 2006.
- 11) Lawrence Winchell of Port Republic, NJ, 43-45 on May 5, 2014.
- 12) Donald Wing of Leeds, ME, 63-67, ADRC, on February 9, 2009.
- 13) Retired CDR Martell J. Cook, of Toms River, NJ, passed away January 11, 2014. Martell retired after 29 years of faithful service.

A MESSEGE FROM THE STOREKEEPER:

Association logo items. Visit our VPB-111/VP-21 Web site at www.vp-21navy.org. With the April 2015 Reunion fast approaching it is time to gear up with appropriate click on the Small Stores tool bar to bring up photos and a price list of Association memorabilia treasures. **NEW ITEM!** We recently added to our inventory a NAS Brunswick Commemorative Challenge Coin. This handsome coin salutes 68 years of aviation excellence provided by those who served at NAS Brunswick from 1943 to 2011. This is a must have item for association members to display their pride in being part of the rich history and tradition of your service to our country from this unique New England post. This treasure can be yours for a modest \$10 cost, which includes shipping and handling. Place your order now before we exhaust our supply of this limited edition coin. Follow directions on the Small Stores Web site to place your order. If you have any questions, contact Storekeeper, Carter Nute, at (352) 335-1293 or by E-mail at ccnute@cox.net.

Cheers, Carter

Reunion Notes – Pensacola, April 27-29, 2015

Thanks to all those who sent in survey responses. Your input was helpful in selecting sites to visit but – regretfully - we've had to make some changes. NAS Pensacola recently informed us that due to safety, security and budgetary concerns, it can no longer authorize the command tours that have been offered for many years to retiree groups such as ours.

This should not impact our visit to the Air Museum and Blue Angels' practice session on Tuesday, because those are open to the public. Security clearance requirements may derail the NATTC visit on Monday and the Whiting Field trip on Wednesday, but we're still working on those. The visits to Wing Six and Water

Survival on Wednesday have been cancelled. As Bill mentioned in his column, if we get a P-8 to fly over from VP-30 we may need to adjust Wednesday's schedule. (Sound like another day in the life back on active duty?) As soon as we can work out the details on all of this we will let you know.

Spring break crowds should be minimal by late April, but it would be a good idea to make your hotel reservations early. Make your reservations at: Homewood Suites by Hilton, Pensacola Airport/Cordova Mall. Tel. 850-474-3777 (Ref: VPB-111/VP-21 Reunion, Group Code: VET). Reunion rate: \$129.00/night plus tax, double occupancy. (Free Breakfast daily and hot dinner buffet, wine & beer included, Mon. thru Thurs. evenings.) *No guarantees for reservations made after March 26, 2015.* Room rates apply for 2 days on either side of our meeting. Cancellations require 24-hour notice. Directions: If you're driving: take Exit 12 off I-10 and merge onto I-110 toward Pensacola/Pensacola Beach. At Exit 5, turn left onto Airport Blvd. Go about three miles and take a right on Corporate Woods Drive. Homewood Suites will be on your right. If you fly, there's a call box in the baggage pick-up area to contact the hotel for free shuttle service, or call 850-474-3777. If you're renting a car, exit the airport onto Airport Blvd and, after the traffic light, take your first left onto Corporate Woods Drive. The hotel will be on your right.

If you have internet access, visit the Association's website for a recent photograph of *Tanker 43*, the fire-fighting conversion of *Airmail 8* (there's a link on the Home page). After the fire season ended on 31 October, the crew dropped it off in Alamogordo, NM for major inspection. Still working hard and looking good - at age 56!

Hope to see you in Pensacola.

Bob O'Connor roconnor@gulftel.com, 251-967-1292

Online Coordinator

While "patrolling" around the net I came upon a Navy website where they have detailed histories of all Naval aviation squadrons. To see what the Navy has to say about VPB-111 and VP-21, go to the site below, and scroll down to page number 123 where there is a history of what they call the "'5th VP-21'", but it's really the history of the start up of the original VPB-111 and its then evolution into VP-21, and then continuing on through the decommissioning of VP-21:

<http://www.history.navy.mil/avh-vol2/chap3-4.pdf>

Or, if you prefer, you can visit our website, open the History section, and read it in "Official History."

Thanks to the dogged determination of the members and the board, we have successfully established, or re-established, email contact with 25 of our members.

If you would like to be added to the email roster, and receive quarterly updates of the email addresses for all members, please contact me at DDwyer1@Maine.RR.Com.

For those looking for a New Year's resolution for 2015, one that is always welcomed is "'I promise to update my email address with the Online Coordinator any time I change my email address, or my service provider changes his service's address'".

Happy New Year to all!!

VPB-111/VP-21 VETERANS ASSOCIATION
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FALL 2014

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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