



VPB-111/VP-21 VAGABOND NEWS

www.vp-21navy.org

John G. Esposito, Editor

SUMMER 2014

A MESSAGE FROM THE LEFT SEAT:

Usually I provide you with information in my quarterly newsletter report – but not this time. This time I'm asking all of you to provide me with information.

Over the years, our Association's Master Roster has become corrupted. This has resulted from a number of factors. Some of you have moved, changed your phone number, or your email address. Some of you have married, divorced, or been widowed. All without letting us know. But there have been other reasons. Sometimes I've fat-fingered the wrong information into the data base. Once I had a minor PC problem that caused me to lose some data. Whatever the reason, the roster currently is not perfectly accurate and I'd like to take this opportunity to get that situation resolved. I'm asking each of you to provide me with the following information:

NAME – Last, First, Middle Initial. Nick name.

HOME ADDRESS – If you have more than one address (snow birds), provide both of these addresses, and please indicate the respective months that you intend to receive mail at each of these address. Please include your full nine digit zip code. The USPS requires it for our newsletters.

PHONE NUMBER – Land line and cell.

EMAIL ADDRESS.

YEARS YOU ARRIVED AND DEPARTED THE SQUADRON. RATE/RANK WHEN YOU LEFT THE SQUADRON.
RATE/RANK WHEN YOU LEFT THE NAVY.

SPOUSE'S NAME/ NICK NAME – if living.

PREFERRED SQUADRON INSIGNIA – Globe for VPB-111, Dumbo, Turtle or Blackjack for VP-21.

SQUADRON WIDOWS – Please provide as much of the above requested information as possible and indicate if you wish to continue receiving Association correspondence.

If you're responding by email my address is blocke21@comcast.net. It will only take you a few minutes. If you're responding by letter, my address is Bill Locke, 255 Mere Point Road, Brunswick, ME 04011-7723. It will only take you a few minutes and a 49 cent stamp. I, on the other hand, will be reading (hopefully) 1000 messages. But it will be worth it.

Since the last newsletter, we've lost contact with the following squadron mates: Galen Kyre, 48-51, James Markle, 53-56, Carl Warstat, 48-50, Lawrence Winchell, 43-45, Donald Wing, 63-67. If anyone knows their current status, please let me know.

After a long illness, Shirley LaFontaine, beloved wife of our friend and squadron mate, Ed LaFontaine has passed away. Shirley was a lovely lady and her passing diminishes all of us. During this time of grieving, our thoughts are with Ed and his family.

Fly safely.
Bill

Reunion Notes – Pensacola, April 27-29, 2015

How would you like to be faced with this challenge? Your task: get and keep a 55-year-old slurry tanker in the air long enough to help contain a rash of wildfires currently spreading across a mountainous, five-state region in the western U.S. Neptune Aviation met that challenge last year using just one converted P-2V, and flying 243 sorties with it over a sixteen week stretch, dropping retardant on 160 fires. Amazing accomplishment! – and this year they're seeing an even more active fire season. Hope you're going to be at our Wednesday afternoon session in Pensacola to hear Dan Snyder, Neptune's Chief Operating Officer, talk about this new mission some of our old airplanes are being used for, and how his mechanics and pilots cope with its extraordinary demands on a regular basis.

Our reunion next April will be held at the Homewood Suites, Pensacola Airport/Cordova Mall (<http://www.homewoodsuitespensacola.com/>). The hotel is a low-rise building, on a side street in a quiet neighborhood, close to the

airport. All rooms are suites, breakfast is free, and there's also a free hot dinner buffet, wine and beer included, Monday through Thursday evenings. The hotel is adjacent to Cordova Mall, and offers free van transportation within a three mile radius, which includes the mall and lots of restaurants nearby. Location is close to I-10 and I-110 for those driving. Reunion rate: \$129.00/night plus tax for 2 persons. Please call the hotel at 1-850-474-3777, and mention that you'll be attending the VPB-111/VP-21 Reunion (Group Code: VET).

For RV and camper travelers, there are two sites nearby for military retirees:

- Oak Grove (<http://www.militarycampgrounds.us/florida/oak-grove-park-and-cottages>) is located aboard NAS Pensacola, near Sherman Field, and on the Intracoastal Waterway.
- Blue Angel (<http://www.militarycampgrounds.us/florida/blue-angel-naval-recreation-area>) is south of Rte. 98, on the grounds of the former NAAS Bronson Field.

Slots fill up fast in springtime, so make your reservations early - and remember that you'll need to join up with us on the bus for our trips to Military Command sites.

Thanks to those who have already responded to our survey. We still need your feedback to plan around bottlenecks and to arrange transportation: for security reasons, we've been asked to enter all military facilities (Museum not included) as a group, travelling together on a bus. To respond, revisit the detailed schedule in the last newsletter (summarized below), decide what you want to do, then enter one number in each box for the activity you and your spouse, individually, have selected. (For example, on Wednesday morning, if you want to visit Whiting Field and your wife would prefer to walk on the beach, you'd enter a 6 for yourself and a 9 for your spouse.)

Monday Morning, 4/27/15

1. Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC)
2. Historic Pensacola Trolley Tour
3. Make your own plans

Tuesday Morning, 4/28

4. Blue Angels Practice Session, lunch & Air Museum
5. Make your own plans

Wednesday Morning, 4/29

6. Training Wing 5, NAS Whiting Field

7. Training Wing 6, NAS Pensacola

8. Aviation Survival Training Center, NAS Pensacola
9. Make your own plans

Wednesday Afternoon, 4/29

10. Business Meeting & Neptune Aviation Presentation
11. Make your own plans

Wednesday Evening, 4/29

12. Banquet with Two-Bell Ceremony
13. Make your own plans

To submit this form: If you received your newsletter by U.S. Mail: tear off this page, fill it out and mail it back to the address below. If you received it by email: either 1) Copy, fill it out, and Paste it into a new email to roconnor@gulftel.com; or 2): print a copy of this page, fill it out, and mail it to: Bob O'Connor, 755 Wedgewood Dr., Gulf Shores, AL 36542. If you have any further difficulty with the survey and a grandchild - either kinfolk or borrowed for the occasion - is unable to help, call me at 251-967-1292. – Thanks, Bob

Mon Morning 4/27 (Select #s 1, 2 or 3)		Tues 4/28 (Select #s 4 or 5)		Wed Morning 4/29 (Select #s 6,7,8 or 9)		Wed Afternoon 4/29 (Select #s 10 or 11)		Wed Evening 4/29 (select #s 12 or 13)	
Self	Spouse	Self	Spouse	Self	Spouse	Self	Spouse	Self	Spouse
Comments:									

DONATIONS RECEIVED:

Joseph E. Sheehan

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) William Scherbon: 66-69, ADJ3 of Merrimac, MA passed away on 7 July 2014 from complications during an operation. Bill served as Plane Captain on CAC8.
- 2) William Gallagher: passed away on 13 April 2012. He served in our squadron in 1954 as an ADR3. He retired as an ADR1. During his career, he served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam.
- 3) Robert Hatton: passed away on 17 November 2013. The cause was cancer. He was in VPB-111 from 43-45. He resided in Jupiter, FL.
- 4) Maurice James "Moe" Bourassa: Gorham, NH. Passed away on 1 September 2013 at his home following a period of declining health. He was 91.

- 5) Harold Ashton: passed away on 16 September 2014. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.
- 6) Warren R. Bosworth: AD1, 60-63 passed away on 27 October 2008 in Van Cleave, MS.
May all of the above departed rest in peace.

SICK CALL:

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE STOREKEEPER:

With the holiday season fast approaching, it is time to offer gift ideas to help family members complete their shopping list for you. Visit our VPB-111/VP-21 website at www.vp-21navy.org and click onto the Small Stores tool bar to bring up photos and 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 their service to our country from this unique New England post. This treasure can be yours for a modest \$10 cost that includes shipping and handling. Place your order now before we exhaust our supply of this limited edition coin. For further information or to place your Small Stores order, contact Storekeeper, Carter Nute, at (352) 335-1293 or by email at ccnute@cox.net.

A MESSAGE FROM THE WEBMASTER:

We (primarily Bill Locke, Dan Dwyer, John Esposito, and I) try to keep the site accurate, current, informative, and easy to use. From time of receipt, information/ data is published to the site within that week. Photos can take a bit longer, especially if I have to scan them.

Here's a brief synopsis of some of what the VPB-111/ VP-21 Veterans Association website has to offer.

Membership Roster - Contains all VP-21 and VPB-111 veterans who are known to the Association by way of a postal address, email address, or whom we have tracked down through investigation or referral from other members.

VPB-111 and VP-21 Rosters - Each of these rosters contains the names, rank/ rate, and period of service for members of their respective squadrons. These rosters were compiled from various sources, including squadron microfiche records, other websites, and members' memories and records.

History Page - Contains formal history, rosters by year, flight crew lists, training schedules, social rosters, and more.

Deceased Roster - Contains all members, VP-21 and VPB-111, who are known to be deceased. Deceased date is listed if known.

Lost and Found Page - Newly found and recently deceased members are listed here. Newly found members who supplied an email address can be contacted by clicking on their names. If an obituary was available for a recently deceased member, clicking on their name will take you to their obituary in the Biographies/Profile Page.

Biographies/Profile Page - Contains autobiographies or profiles of our members, past and present, and obituaries for deceased member, if available. I encourage all of you to please send me your biography/ profiles so that our membership and your family may be enriched further.

Guestbook - There are 257 entries here by ex-VPers who surfed the web and found our site. You'll find many interesting comments. Please visit and leave your own "Kilroy" statement.

Photo Gallery - There are presently 34 gallery contributions here, spanning the entire history of VPB-111 and VP-21 from 1943 to 1969, plus past reunions. These galleries contain literally thousands of photos of people you knew, places you've been, and the aircraft you flew, maintained, or otherwise supported. It's a great 'memory lane' trip.

Reunion Page - Keep abreast of everything you need to know about upcoming reunions here. Dates, location, hotel info, prices and more can always be found here.

My thanks to all who have supported and contributed to our website over the years.

Please send your website input or comments to: Herman Schmidt, 3404 Red Tailed Hawk Drive, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34952, Tel: 772-621-4503, Email: schmidthw@bellsouth.net

Partial reprint and update of the Webmasters article published in the fall 2008 newsletter.

WELCOME (BACK) ABOARD:

No lost sheep were reported during this quarter.

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

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Return Service Requested

OCTOBER 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!

Directors:

- Dwyer, Dan, Online Coordinator; Director; #6 Sarah Liberty Lane, Scarborough, ME 04074
- Esposito John G., Editor/Director, 862 Central Ave., Southampton, PA 18966
- La Fontaine, Edward, Museum Director, 161 Jackson Dr., Frankfort, KY 40601
- Locke, William Chairman, 255 Mere Point Rd., Brunswick, ME 04011
- Nelson Robert, Special Projects, 17032 SE 96th Chapelwood Circle, The Villages, FL 32162
- Novay , Ron, Director; 7775 Lake Hardeman Rd., Saulsburry, TN 38067
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- Ledford, Leland, Treasurer/Director; 127 Pete St., Waterloo, SC 29384-4647
- Schuster; Fred, Dir/Historian/Director; 2713Cabin Creek Rd., Edwardsville, IL,62025
- Schmidt, Herman, Webmaster/Director,3404 Red Tailed Hawk Dr., Port Saint Lucie, FL34952
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- Woods, Dale, Director; 5480 W. Arrowhead Lake Dr. Glendale, AZ 85306

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