



# VP-68 Hawk's Nest



Volume No. 41

VP-68 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

June 2012

The Hawk's Nest is the official newsletter of the VP-68 Alumni Association, chartered in 1998 in the state of Maryland for the sole purpose of uniting in a central organization all former -Blackhawks of Navy Patrol Squadron 68 (VP-68), it's parent and supporting Navy squadrons, and those interested in preserving the name and history of VP-68.

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2012 Spring Fling Picnic at NAS Pax River

## **2012 Spring Fling**

The annual VP-68 Alumni Association -Spring Fling" picnic was held on Saturday, 14 APRIL 2012 at the NAS Patuxent River Beach House. Activities started at 1100. The weather was Pax-Picture-Perfect and a great crowd showed up.

A business meeting was conducted, officer reports were given and plans for the future were discussed. As in every year after the picnic, a bunch of us headed out to a great local restaurant, The Ruddy Duck in Solomons, for more laughs, fine food, laughs, drinks, laughs and fellowship.

A great time was had by all and the only complaint heard was that the time spent together was just too short.

**See photos on page 2**

## **Fall Muster & Elections of Officers**

The annual VP-68 Alumni Association -Fall Muster" will be held on 13 OCT 2012 at the U.S. Navy Recreation Center (NRC) located at Solomons, MD.. NRC Solomons is a beautiful facility located about 65 miles Southeast of Washington D.C. and about 16 miles North of NAS Pax River near the confluence of the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay.

**See "Fall Muster" & "Elections" on page 8**

## **Association Treasurer**

**Temporarily, President Jacque LaValle will assume the duties of Association Treasurer until the elections at our business meeting at the Fall Muster. All payments and correspondence are to be done through Jacque.**

**See details on page 18**

## **NAF Washington "Blackhawk" P-3**

Naval Air Facility Washington at Andrews AFB has taken delivery of a decommissioned P-3 Orion and is currently setting it up as a permanent static display at the Quarterdeck.

Official dedication is set for 01 October 2012 according to

**See "Blackhawk P-3" on page 8**

## **2012 VP-68 Carnival Pride Cruise**



**THAT'S US!!!!**

**WOW...WOW...and TRIPLE WOW!!!!**

Wyman Bailey, you did one fantastic job getting this trip organized and what a phenomenal, awesome time we all had.

**See "VP-68 Cruise" on pages 3 to 7**





Spring Fling photos courtesy of Wyman Bailey, Kathy Wright, "Doc" Durity and Laurie Tabinski



# **Blackhawk Cruise 29 April – 06 May 2012**

- ☺ *Grand Turke, Turks & Caicos B.W.I.* ☺  
 ☺ *Half-Moon Cay, Little San Salvador Island* ☺  
 ☺ *Freeport, Bahamas* ☺



***Thank you Wyman for the great cruise and fond memories.***



## VP-68 Cruise (continued)



Words cannot express how grateful we are to Wyman Bailey for the planning, promotion and execution of an absolutely awesome cruise. From the moment we departed until we returned, it was a continuous adventure and tons of fun for us all.

Take a look at the clipart above that we have been using for a year to promote this cruise and the photo below from the cruise...how is THAT for delivering the promise?



### Sunday, 29 April – Depart Baltimore, MD – 1630

We all met dockside in Baltimore around noon on Sunday, 29 APR 2012. After a brief customs and boarding process, and within minutes of stepping on board, we found a tropical drink in hand and the promise of fun to come.

From the start to finish, it was professionally handled by Carnival & Tradewinds Travel with every detail thought of and executed. Our steward and wait staff asked our names once...and remembered each and every one of us by name the entire cruise. In briefing us about what to expect, they offered us a suggestion...to do on cruise something we normally do not do at home...remember that!! In fact, throughout this story when you see a purple smiley face (☺) say...*Now, there's something I don't normally do at home!!*



Oh where oh where do we begin....ah yes, back to that drink in hand. We had just stepped on board, walked about 10

feet and were greeted by a waiter with a tray of drinks. We had deposited our luggage on the pier and had to wait a bit in the lounge area to get into our staterooms...so we drank!!! Every day on board had a "Featured Drink-of-the-Day" (☺).

We all got to spend a few hours touring the ship and finding our way around the various bars, I mean decks, and before we knew it, they blew the ship's horn and at 1630 we cast off and started our adventure. In each of our staterooms we found two pleasant surprises, compliments of Tradewinds Travel: a delicious fruit & chocolate tray (☺) (went great with the wine we brought aboard!) and a \$25 credit voucher.

Cruising down the Chesapeake Bay we passed under the Francis Scott Key Bridge (☺) and then under the Chesapeake Bay Bridge (☺). Further down we passed Pax River and waved. On deck we saw a fellow wearing the original red "W" ball cap...here, it was Blackhawk Barry Thomas and his wife Barbara and they immediately became part of our group.

On another deck, a fellow was talking to some ex-Navy folks and he said he used to be in VP-68 to which they told him they saw a bunch of VP-68 ballcaps onboard and soon he found us. Blackhawk David Hiers and his wife Tam were on the cruise for their anniversary, so they quickly became part of our group, now a total of 32, and he joined the Alumni Association. David used to fly in the same crew with Ed Stanfield...small world!!

The evening routine, the Blackhawk "Plan-of-the-Night", included drinks, a fantastic dinner, drinks, a great floor show, drinks, comedy club, drinks, piano bar till 0100 (☺), drinks, pizza at 0200 (☺), adult-only "Serenity Deck" & bar till 0300 (☺) (bar closes at 0400!!). Shortly after midnight we crossed out into the Atlantic Ocean and turned South....YES!!

### Monday, 30 April – Fun Day At Sea

At 0930 Tradewinds Travel arranged for VP-68 to have special Blackhawk continental breakfast/business meeting in the Raphael Room. We got all of us, spouses & friends introduced, socialized and made our plan-of-attack for the week.

The rest of the day was filled with things like: casino "lessons" and tournaments, cooking and ice carving demos, pool & deck games, mixologist competition, yoga, spa and so, so much more. We did a lot of lounging, drinking, sunning and socializing topside and enjoyed the fact that it got warmer by the hour. The evening dinner was the first "Formal" evening featuring a "Meet the Captain Social" (☺) followed by much the same "Plan-of-the-Night" activities as Sunday evening.

### Tuesday, 01 May – Fun Day At Sea

Tuesday's Day at Sea included much of above with the addition of a ship-wide "Hairy-Chest" Contest (☺). I went to watch it, but found out it was a male-only contest...so I left!!

### Wednesday, 02 May – Grand Turk & Caicos, 0800 – 1500

At 0700 we docked at Grand Turk. We allowed the ship's crew to do a few things and by 0830 we were ashore. Activities included, but were not limited to, 0830 Tiki-hut bar (☺) / 0900 Jello shots (☺) / Margaritaville/swim-up bar (☺) / snorkeling (☺) / swimming, touring and shopping. The Blackhawks strategically set up a "command post" at a tiki-hut bar within feet of the ocean and alongside Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville.

An awesome time, had to be dragged back to the ship. Fantastic dinner followed by "Plan-of-the-Night" evening routine (☺), including an under-the-stars pool and deck party (☺).

### Thursday, 03 May – Half Moon Cay, 0900 – 1600

This beautiful piece of paradise (also known as Little San Salvador Island) is owned by Carnival Cruise Lines and has  
( VP-68 Cruise continued on page 05 )



( VP-68 Cruise continued on page 06 )





Some of the nearly 1,000 photos taken by the gang on our cruise!!

( VP-68 Cruise continued on page 07 )





**04 MAY 2012**  
**VP-68 Carnival Pride Cruise**

Jim & Angela Rowe  
 Sheryl "Pat" Meyer  
 John & Nancy Carr  
 Joe & Jeanne Odenthal  
 Barry & Barbara Thomas  
 Nancy Frey  
 Elaine Schneider  
 Cornelius & Clarissa Stripling  
 Ed & Brenda Stanfield  
 Dick & Sylvia Perkins  
 John & Judy LeNard  
 Fred & Judy Haynes  
 Dale & Katherine Grimes  
 Kathy Wright  
 Jim & Irene Rozycki  
 Jay & Karen (Rozycki) Wildpret  
 Wyman & Kay Bailey  
 David & Tam Hiers

**VP-68 Cruise (continued)**

the most beautiful beaches & water. We anchored offshore and the ship's crew and staff took the first boats ashore to set up the bars and picnic. We then took shuttle tenders to the beach and "Wish I Could Stay Here Forever" Bar, had drinks in hand by 0930(☺). Folks did Yoga on the beach(☺), glass-bottom boat tours, para-sailing, picnic lunch, Pirate Ship Bar, shopping, swimming and sun and fun until we caught the very last shuttle back to the ship. After dinner it was follow the Blackhawk "Plan-of-the-Night"(☺)....oh, and that we did!!

**Friday, 04 May – Freeport, Bahamas, 0700 – 1400**

Arrived at the commercial port in Freeport for a short visit and took cabs and shuttles to the various resort and shopping areas nearby. Did a little touring, shopping and lunch. We departed Freeport at 1400 and prepared for a Complimentary Open Bar & Snacks Hour compliments of Tradewinds Travel at 1630 in the Butterfly Lounge(☺).

This was the second formal evening and we also gathered as a group on the grand staircase for a group photo (above) and afterwards presented Wyman with a small gift...a signed & framed certificate of appreciation from all of us.

As with every other night, we closed the Piano Bar but tonight, the Carnival Pride's Captain Galotto, joined our group

and took photos with us(☺). Oh yes...we also hung out at the adult "Serenity Deck" & outdoor bar till 0300(☺).

**Saturday, 05 May – Fun Day At Sea**

Saturday's Fun Day at Sea was a great time for us to relax poolside as the world floated by and reflect on the absolutely awesome week we spent together. Carnival had all types of fun & entertainment all day, there was a final Carnival floor-show and we closed the bars and lounges one last time (☺).

I bought a souvenir video CD of our cruise, and saw Joe and Jeanne Odenthal in there at the Captain's Social.

Carnival had us place our luggage outside our staterooms prior to midnight and the next time we saw them we were ashore, porters loaded them into our vehicles, and we on our way home...SWEET!!

**Sunday, 06 May – Arrive Baltimore, MD – 0800**

Early breakfast then went to our assigned areas to await departure and Dale Grimes broke out his guitar and entertained the troops while we waited. By 1045 we were in our cars and heading home but truly wishing we were just departing again. **When do we do it again??????**

☺ ***Thank You Wyman!*** ☺

## **Blackhawk People News**

### **Jacque LaValle**

Our President Jacque LaValle got a surprise...no, two surprises in June. First he was diagnosed with kidney stones in both kidneys...second was he was grounded & unable to fly until he had them removed. Unfortunately, they could not do both kidneys at once, requiring two separate hospital stays. One surgery down....one to go! Get back home, back to work, and go flying soon Jacque. Best Wishes...Get Well Soon!!

## **VP-68 2012 FALL MUSTER**

The annual VP-68 Alumni Association "Fall Muster" event will be held on Saturday, 13OCT2012 at the Large Pavilion on Navy Recreation Center (NRC) Solomons Island, MD.

NRC Solomons is a beautiful facility located about 65 miles Southeast of Washington D.C. and about 16 miles North of NAS Pax River near the confluence of the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay. This is where we have held our Pig Roast in 2008 and the Grilled Steaks in 2009. The Large Pavilion (next to Club 9) is on the waterfront overlooking the Patuxent River, and it is a fantastic setting for our events.

The picnic begins about noon and is FREE to members of the Alumni Association and \$5 to guests & non-members. Hot Dogs, Burgers, sodas and munchies will be provided. VP-68 Alumni Association does NOT serve or provide any alcoholic beverages at our functions. Please B.Y.O.B., coolers and ice.

We will be conducting a business meeting and, in accordance with our bi-laws, conduct Election of Officers for the coming two years of 2013 and 2014.

If you decide to spend the weekend at Solomons, there is billeting available and is walking distance from the party zone....hence, no driving after partying!!

### **NRC Solomons billeting accommodations include:**

6 Classic Cottages / 7 Contemporary Cottages / 5 Log Cabin Duplexes / 4 Cozy Cabins / 21 Bungalows / 15 Apartments / 2 "Yurts" / 14 group campsites / 55 primitive campsites / 146 complete hookup sites / 158 electric & water only sites

Photos and information are located on the NRC website. Billeting rates are based on rank and since the event is occurring "Off-Season", rates are even more attractive.

Make your lodging reservations to NRC at:

**[www.cnic.navy.mil/solomons/index.htm](http://www.cnic.navy.mil/solomons/index.htm)**

Lodging & Reservations – Bldg. 411  
13855 Solomons Island Road  
Solomons, MD 20688  
800-NAVY230  
410-286-7301  
410-326-4280 fax

### **Should you not be able to get lodging there at the Rec Center, here are some local motels:**

**Navy Lodge**  
NAS Patuxent River  
Patuxent River, MD 20670  
301-737-2400

**Holiday Inn Select**  
155 Holiday Drive  
Solomons, MD 20688  
410-326-6311

**Comfort Inn Beacon Marina**  
255 Lore Road  
Solomons, MD 20688  
410-326-6303

**Sleep Inn & Suites**  
23428 Three Notch Road  
California, MD 20619  
301-737-0000

### **Super 8 Motel**

22801 Three Notch Road  
California, MD 20619  
301-862-9822

### **Days Inn (Old Belvedere)**

21847 Three Notch Road  
Lexington Park, MD 20653  
301-863-6666

### **Hampton Inn**

22211 Three Notch Road  
Lexington Park, MD 20653  
301-863-3200

### **Fairfield Inn by Marriott**

22119 Three Notch Road  
Lexington Park, MD 20653  
301-863-0203

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## **2012 Election of Officers**

In accordance with our bi-laws, every two years we must conduct elections for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. 2012 is our election year.

If you are nominating a member for office, we must have a letter in writing from that person 30 days prior to the election stating that they permit us to place their name on the ballot and, if elected, they will serve.

If you are interested in running for an office, please submit your name and contact information 30 days prior to the election to the Election/Nominating Committee shown below.

### **Election/Nominating Committee**

Richard Fickling  
276 River Oak Drive  
Weems, VA 22576  
[p3css1@aol.com](mailto:p3css1@aol.com)

Joseph Odenthal  
10713 Norman Avenue  
Fairfax, VA 22030-2923  
[odenthal@cox.net](mailto:odenthal@cox.net)

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## **Blackhawk P-3 at Andrews**



Buno 161006 after arrival at NAF Washington 15May12

an email with the details received from former Blackhawk Chris Huels, currently mobilized on active duty with VR-48.

NAF C.O. CAPT Randy Johnson released an official plan and timeline noting that there is much to be done following a standard Aircraft Deactivation Checklist including: defuel and remove all fluids, change all 4 props, remove APU, totally seal the aircraft, and much more.

The current plan calls for painting the P-3 with VP-68 markings since VP-68 was the only P-3 Squadron there. Along with digital images of the Blackhawk artwork, they are looking for extra bodies (help) and ideas before the paint starts flying.

If you think you can help, feel free to contact:

AWFCS(NAC/AW) Chris Huels  
VR-48 Safety/Training/MMT ACOR  
1-240-857-1554 work  
[Christopher.Huels@navy.mil](mailto:Christopher.Huels@navy.mil)

Updates will be posted on our website: [www.vp68.org](http://www.vp68.org).



**Easter 2012****Memorial Day 2012**

( submitted by Brad Kirley )



in order that you may feel free



**Did you circle 13 OCT 2012  
on your calendar yet???**

**Hawk's Nest Feature****Here's Why...# 4**

( submitted by Ed Stanfield - source: Navy Times )

Have you ever wondered why that in their cars, sailors gauge their speed by miles per hour but, at sea, under way speed is measured in knots. Why is that?

Knots is a seaman's term for "nautical miles per hour," according to *The Bluejacket's Manual*, the basic Navy handbook. One knot is equal to a nautical mile, or 6,076 feet. A land mile is only 5,280 feet.

"Do not show yourself to be a landlubber and say knots-per-hour while at sea" the manual warns. It is a misnomer, because what you would actually be saying is "nautical miles per hour per hour!!" If a ship is moving at 10 knots per hour just say the ship is traveling at 10 knots.

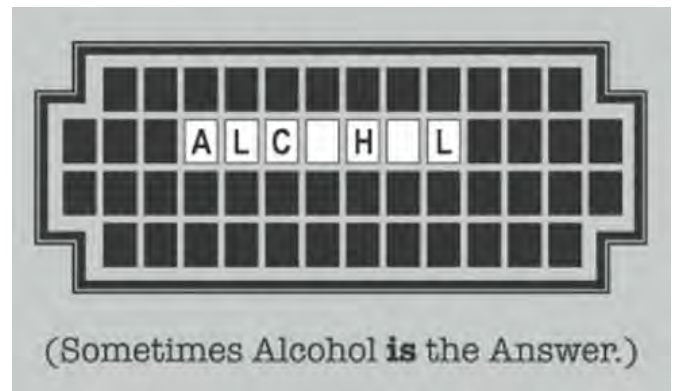
The term "knot" dates back at least to the 1500s, according to PhysLink.com, a website dedicated to physics and astronomy education.

In those days, a sailor would throw a wood log in the water that was tied to a rope and observe how quickly it moved away from the ship. The sailor would count rope knots – tied exactly the same length apart – that would go overboard over a given time interval.

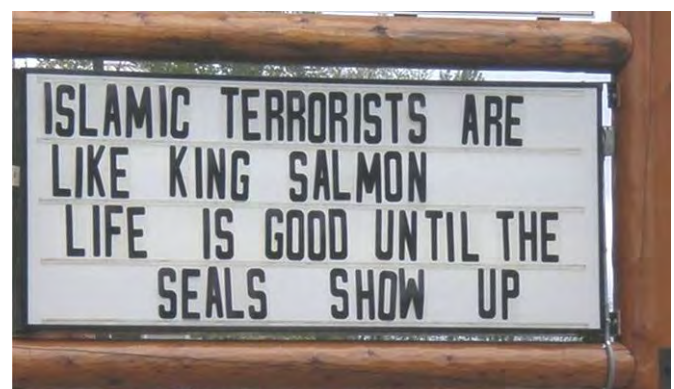
This evolved into today's practice of measuring nautical miles. Today, knots can also be used to measure air speed.

(Editor's Note: sorry Ed, I'm an engineer...I had to do it!!!)

1 knot = 0.868976 mph OR 1 mph = 1.15077945 knots

**The Crew 4 Game Show:****Alaskan Fishing Sign**

( submitted by Wally Chance )





## **Speaking of the Seals...**



**Group Photo of Seal Team Six**

Imagine the look on Bin Laden's face when these guys came through the door? This is what the Navy Seal team looked like when they went in to get Bin Laden. A couple of things to notice: 50 caliber sniper on the right; knee, knuckle and forearm protection; various plastic/wire ties; absolute identity denial to protect their families; free choice of footwear; fourth from the right has three artillery simulators and CS gas grenades.



**WE ARE U.S. NAVY SEALS**

THERE'S NO REASON TO THANK US BECAUSE WE DON'T EXIST.  
YOU NEVER SAW US.  
THIS NEVER HAPPENED.



**NAVY SEALS**

DANA PERRINO (Fox News) IN AN INTERVIEW WITH A NAVY SEAL DISCUSSING ALL THE COUNTRIES HE HAD BEEN SENT TO:

"DID YOU HAVE TO LEARN SEVERAL LANGUAGES?"

"NO MA'AM, WE DON'T GO THERE TO TALK"

## **F-35B Tests Aboard Aircraft Carrier USS Wasp**

(photos from video)

During the Spring Fling at Pax River in April, we were treated to a mini air show by the Navy's new F-35 aircraft. It went right over us and did a few maneuvers to our delight. The few lucky Blackhawks present who work on base and on the program gave us a narrative.

Well...searching the web I found this video of the F-35B during made aboard the Wasp in the Atlantic, just off Newport News (Hampton Roads), Virginia.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=Ki86x1WKPmE&feature=colike](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=Ki86x1WKPmE&feature=colike)



These are the latest sea trials of the F-35B on the USS Wasp. They were very successful, with 74 VL's & STO's in a 3 week period. The media and the program critics had predicted that we would burn holes in the deck and wash sailors overboard. Neither of which happened.



In the video, you will notice a sailor standing on the bow of the ship near to where the jet rotates. That was an intentional part of the sea trials.



No catapult... No hook... It's a *new world* out there! The shape and scope of warfare – worldwide – just *changed*.



ONE LAST CRUISE LAUGH!!!**Helga's Cruise Ship Dairy***( submitted by Joe Odenthal )***DEAR DIARY - DAY 1**

All packed for the cruise ship -- all my nicest dresses, swim-suits, short sets. Really, really exciting.

Our local Red Hat chapter, The Late Bloomers, decided on this "all-girls" trip. It will be my first one, and I can't wait!

**DEAR DIARY - DAY 2**

Entire day at sea, beautiful. Saw whales and dolphins. Met the Captain today -- seems like a very nice man.

**DEAR DIARY - DAY 3**

At the pool today. Did some shuffleboard, hit golf balls off the deck. Captain invited me to join him at his table for dinner. Felt honored and had a wonderful time. He is very attractive and attentive.

**DEAR DIARY - DAY 4**

Won \$800.00 in the ship's casino. Captain asked me to have dinner with him in his own cabin. Had a scrumptious meal complete with caviar and champagne. He asked me to stay the night, but I declined. Told him I could not be unfaithful to my husband.

**DEAR DIARY - DAY 5**

Pool again today. Got sunburned, and I went inside to drink at piano-bar, stayed there for rest of day. Captain saw me, bought me several large drinks. Really is quite charming. Again he asked me to visit his cabin for the night. Again I declined. He told me, if I did not let him have his way with me, he would sink the ship. I was shocked.

**DEAR DIARY - DAY 6**

Today I saved 2,600 lives....Twice!

**Ole Boats***( submitted by Nick Schaus )*

A fellow was sitting on his lawn, sunning and reading, when he was startled by a fairly late model car crashing through a hedge and coming to rest on his lawn. He helped the elderly driver, retired Ole Boats, out and sat him on a lawn chair.

"My goodness" he exclaimed, "you are quite old to be driving!"

"Yes" Ole Boats replied, "I am old enough that I don't need a license." "Ya see...the last time I went to my doctor, he examined me and asked if I had a driving license." I told him "yes" and handed it to him. He took scissors out of a drawer, cut the license into pieces and threw them in the wastebasket."

"You won't be needing this anymore," he said.

So...I thanked him and left.

**Military Aviation Humor:**

On some air bases the military is on one side of the field and civilian aircraft use the other side of the field, with the control tower in the middle. One day the tower received a call from an aircraft asking, "What time is it?"

The tower responded, "Who is calling?"

The aircraft replied, "What difference does it make?"

The tower replied, "It makes a lot of difference... If it is a commercial flight, it is 3 o'clock. If it is an Army aircraft, it is 1500 hours. If it is a Navy aircraft, it is 6 bells. If it is an Air Force aircraft, the big hand is on the 12 and the little hand is on the 3. If it is a Marine Corps aircraft, it's Thursday afternoon and 120 minutes to "Happy Hour."

**Tri-Care • Medicare • Social Security**

( submitted by Kevin Dillon and from the below sources )  
Fleet Reserve Association - FRA Today Magazine; AUSN Association of the United States Navy - Navy Magazine; MOAA Military Officer Association of America Magazine; Military Times; Navy Times  
(Special Thanks to Bob Barnes for some great info this issue.)  
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**Elections 2012:** The 2012 Presidential and Congressional elections are fast approaching and once again veterans are in the spotlight. Recent poll information shows that veterans are a strong voting bloc and make up about 13% of the U.S. population. Candidates for the Presidency and the House and Senate know this and are crisscrossing the country with their messages at Town Hall Meetings and other veteran-related forums. Attending these meetings is important to finding out where the candidates stand on the priority goals of member organizations of The Military Coalition. It is time to ask the tough questions about what the candidates are going to do for veterans, service members and their families if they are elected or re-elected.

One factor is deciding who to support in the upcoming elections is to know how current legislators voted on veterans' legislation that passed their respective chambers.

At <http://capwiz.com/vfw/keyvotes.xc/?lvi=C> can be found a roll call registry to determine this. As in the past, several votes were taken by unanimous consent/voice vote, so individual votes were not recorded and do not appear in the roll call registry. In addition, a number of important veteran related bills have been introduced and are awaiting committee action.

One list of such bills can be found at

<http://capwiz.com/vfw/issues/bills/>.

Reviewing this list prior to attending Town Hall Meetings and other veteran-related forums could be useful in forming questions to the candidates on how they support or would vote on these issues. For information on hosting or attending a Town Hall Meeting, or registering to vote, take a look at VFW's veterans vote brochure at:

<http://www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/Veterans%20Vot%20Brochure.pdf>.

For a state-by-state election guide, go to:

[http://vfw.capwiz.com/election/register\\_vote](http://vfw.capwiz.com/election/register_vote).

And for a copy of VFW's, go to:

[http://www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFW.org/VFW\\_in\\_DC/2012%20Priority%20Goals%20Brochure.PDF](http://www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFW.org/VFW_in_DC/2012%20Priority%20Goals%20Brochure.PDF).

[Source: VFW Washington Weekly 8 Jun 2012 ]

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**Sequestration:** The National Association of Uniformed Services (NAUS) continues to be seriously concerned at the lack of action on the sequestration cuts set to begin in January 2013. They are bothered that the Senate seems to not have a sense of urgency that many in and out of DoD are stressing. Secretary of Defense Panetta has said numerous times that sequestration would be a disaster for DoD, calling it "a doomsday button." The House passed the Sequester Replacement bill (H.R.5652) in early May. But the Senate has not taken a specific action. The House passed bill may not be perfect, but it is a start. It lays down a marker and begins the process of averting a major national security catastrophe. The Senate needs to start as well before the sequester goes into effect, Jan. 2, 2013.

A sequester is a mandated automatic cut. Under this specific sequester, the Budget Control Act (BCA), Public Law 112-125, directs that \$1.2 Trillion will be reduced over the next nine consecutive fiscal years, beginning in calendar year 2013.



The currently faced sequester comes into effect because the original BCA called for a bipartisan congressional committee, called a "Super Committee," to find an agreement to achieve the \$1.2 Trillion of required savings. The Super Committee failed. Therefore, an automatic sequester, designed as a backstop, is now in place. Under the sequester, \$984 billion will come from split evenly between defense and non-defense spending cuts divided evenly among the nine relevant years. (It is assumed that the remaining reduction, \$216 billion, would come from reduced debt service due to less borrowing.)

Unless an agreement can be found before January, defense will face a reduction of \$492 billion over the decade, over and above the \$485 billion defense reduction contained in the fiscal year 2013 budget, resulting in an approximate \$1 Trillion cut in defense over the next decade. Nearly all spending that is characterized as defense in the budget is annually appropriated (discretionary). Therefore, essentially the entire \$55 billion annual defense reduction will be achieved through defense discretionary spending reductions. In a letter to Speaker John Boehner prior to passage of H.R.5652, the Sequester Replacement Act NAUS President Klimp said, "Sequestration is a terribly blunt instrument that must be avoided. There is no credible voice in American politics that suggests the impact of the maximum sequester would be anything other than devastating. It presents a no-kidding disaster." NAUS will continue to press the Senate into action that averts a pending "no-kidding" disaster.

[Source: NAUS Weekly Update 8 Jun 2012 ]

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**TRICARE Pharmacy Copay Update 04:** As it now stands both the House and Senate NDAA bills effectively kill most of the Pentagon-proposed TRICARE fee hikes. But there will be some increases in TRICARE pharmacy copays, and the only issue is how big the hikes will be. That's where the House and Senate bills take significantly different approaches. The Senate bill is silent on the pharmacy copay issue. Since current law gives the Secretary of Defense authority to set pharmacy copays, the Senate bill silently endorses the Pentagon-proposed plan to more than double the copays this year, and triple them over the next five years. The problem the Senate Armed Services Committee faced in stopping the proposed Rx copay hikes lies in Senate budget rules that require the Committee to find other offsetting cuts in either military retirement, survivor benefits, or other TFL benefits. Why? Because the offset law applies to so-called "mandatory spending" programs, and that includes any benefit funded through a trust fund - which TFL is.

When the Pentagon proposed higher Rx copays for TFL beneficiaries, it reduced the budget for TFL spending by the government - with the difference made up by the assumed revenues from higher copays. To reduce or bar the copay hikes, the Committee would have to replace the lost revenue by increasing government spending on TFL. And that requires an offsetting spending cut. The Senate didn't want to identify an offset - which meant letting Pentagon leaders double and triple Rx copays. The House thought those copay increases were so bad that they came up with an alternative offset that did three things:

- It substantially reduced the Pentagon-proposed copay increases for FY2013
- It put a statutory cap on any increases after FY2013, so that the percentage increase in Rx copays in any year couldn't exceed the retired pay COLA percentage
- To pay for these, it established a five-year pilot program that would require TFL beneficiaries to use the mail-order sys-

tem for at least one year to refill any maintenance medications (waivers would be allowed under certain hardship or other conditions); after one year, beneficiaries could opt out of mail-order participation

Here's the bottom line -- compared to the DoD/Senate plan, the House-passed plan would:

- Cut retail copays by about 40% below the DoD plan
- Keep access to non-formulary meds in retail stores
- Cut mail-order copays by more than 50% for brand-name meds
- Cut mail-order copays by 25% for non-formulary meds
- Keep mail-order copays at zero for generic meds

More than 90% of those who use the present mail-order system are very happy with it so mandatory mail-order use should not be a big issue to most. Without the House-proposed statutory cap on future increases, we'd be held hostage to bigger copay increase proposals every year. But if the COLA-based cap is put in law as the House proposes, Congress will be able to ignore any future proposed hikes above that rate - and won't have to come up with any offset.

At this point, the only options on the table are: (1) letting the Pentagon impose whatever copays it wants or (2) accepting the House alternative plan. All things considered, the significantly lower copays and future protections of the House plan would be worth requiring a one-year mail-order trial for maintenance med refills. After a one-year trial, everyone would recover full choice. Once they try it, the vast majority of new enrollees will most likely be pleased with the convenience and significant cost savings of the mail-order system.

[ Source: MOAA Leg Up 8 Jun 2012 ]

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**TRICARE Pharmacy Mail Order:** The House version of the 2012 NDAA bill would establish a five-year pilot program in which all TFL beneficiaries would be required to use the TRICARE Pharmacy mail-order system for at least one year to refill any maintenance medications (waivers would be allowed under certain hardship or other conditions); after one year, beneficiaries could opt out of mail-order participation. In anticipation that this will be enacted and for those who are not currently enrolled in this program the following Q & A is provided:

**Q:** How long does it take to set up an account with the mail-order system?

**A:** You should allow two to three weeks between registering for mail-order and the first delivery of medication.

**Q:** How can I use the mail-order pharmacy if I need medication right away?

**A:** The initial prescription fill can be made through a military or retail pharmacy. The mail-order system is only for refills. Emergency or temporary medications such as pain relievers, antibiotics, etc. would still be filled in retail or military pharmacies.

**Q:** How would I start using the mail-order system?

**A:** You start by registering with the system. That can be done on-line, but many prefer to talk to a real person by phone at 1-877-363-1303. You'll need a 90-day prescription from your doctor, vs. the 30-day prescription normally provided through retail stores. If you already have a 30-day supply of medication, you can mail or fax the 90-day prescription to Express Scripts, or the Express Scripts agent can help you have an existing 90-day prescription transferred to the mail-order system. If it's a new prescription you've never used before, take the 90-day prescription to the retail or military pharmacy and



ask for a 30-day supply, then call the mail-order agent to have the prescription transferred to the mail-order system so you'll receive your first delivery in a couple of weeks. If your doctor electronically prescribes, as many do, the mail order pharmacy can accept these prescriptions also.

**Q: What happens when I use up the refills?**

**A:** The mail-order system provides you a reminder when it's time to order a refill (by email if you signed up on line) or when a prescription will expire. At your request, the mail-order agent will contact your doctor to get the prescription renewed.

**Q: What happens if my medication gets lost in the mail or otherwise doesn't arrive before my existing supply is about to run out?**

**A:** If you are low or out of your medication and need immediate assistance, contact Express Scripts Customer Service at (877) 363-1303. Express Scripts can issue an override that will allow you to pick up your prescription at the retail pharmacy or send you a replacement order.

**Q: I live in a very hot location. Won't medications be spoiled if they're left in a hot mailbox for hours?**

**A:** The mail order pharmacy takes special precautions with medications that can be effected by extreme temperatures. Coolers are used to protect certain medications against temperature extremes. Beneficiaries can request specialty processing and scheduled delivery if there continues to be concern about a cooler being left on the front porch.

**Q: Where can I go to find out more about this program?**

**A:** Refer to [http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/Prescriptions/Fillin\\_gPrescriptions/TMOP](http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/Prescriptions/Fillin_gPrescriptions/TMOP)

[ Source: MOAA Leg Up 8 Jun 2012 ]

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**DFAS SCAM Update 01:** The IRS and Maryland's comptroller are warning of a new scam that targets military personnel and retirees as well as civilian workers. Emails, which seem to come from the Defense Finance and Accounting Services, claim that recipients of disability compensation from the VA may be entitled to more money from the IRS. Not true. The email, which has a ".mil" domain, instructs recipients to send copies of their income tax returns, 1099-Rs, Retiree Account Statements, VA award letter to a colonel in Florida, officials say. With that kind of information, a con artist can steal an identity and wreak all sorts of havoc on a victim's finances. The IRS says beware of any emails out of the blue promising benefits. Also, if you think it may be legit, contact the agency on your own — don't respond to the email. And any email or phone solicitation asking for your Social Security number should send you running.

[ Source: The Baltimore Sun Eileen Ambrose article 6 Jun 2012 ]

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**VA Health Care Access Update 03:** You probably qualify for VA Health Care if any of the below statements are true:

- You served in the active military, naval, or air service and were honorably discharged or released; or
- You were/are a Reservist or National Guard member and you were called to active duty by a Federal Order (for other than training purposes) and you completed the full call-up period.

.....AND

- You were discharged or separated for medical reasons, early out, or hardship

- You served in theater of combat operations within the past 5 years
- You were discharged from the military because of a disability (not preexisting)
- You are a former Prisoner of War
- You received a Purple Heart Medal
- You receive VA pension or disability benefits
- You receive state Medicaid benefits

Your eligibility for VA health care benefits may be based on special factors such as service in Vietnam, other military history factors or even household income. All veterans are encouraged to apply now for VA health care benefits now before they encounter a medical issue that requires medical attention and compensation.

Submitting an application is the best way to find out if they qualify. Plus, if in the future new regulations take effect, VA will automatically reassess your application to determine if you qualify. With an application on file, VA will be able to notify you if new rules make you qualified for health benefits in the future. The fastest and easiest way to apply or update your information is online at:

<https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/>.

Other ways to apply or UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION are:

- By Phone - You can apply for enrollment of your benefits or update your information by phone by calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Monday through , between the hours of 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM (Eastern Time). A VA representative will have your completed form sent to you for verification and signature.

- By Mail - Print the 10-10EZ form

<https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/Form/1010EZ-fillable.pdf>

or 10-10EZR form

<https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/Form/1010EZR-fillable.pdf>

or call to have the form mailed to you. Complete and sign the application, then

mail it to your local VA Medical Center or clinic whose address can be found at

<http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isflash=1>.

- In Person - Visit a VA Medical Center or clinic nearest you to apply for enrollment or if you are already enrolled, to update your information in person.

If you do not have an ID card, another way you can get logged into the VA system would be by requesting to be screened for Agent Orange affects or getting an annual physical. There is no charge for the screening but dependent on your annual income and status you may have to pay a small copay for the physical. Then, to stay within the active VA database, continue to get the annual checkup.

The backlog can be 6 to 8 months long for case reviews so position yourself for faster processing, should you need it.

If you need help call at 1-877-222-8387, M-F between the hours of 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM EST.

[Source: <https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/> Jun 2012 ]

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## ***And then the fight started!!***

Master Chief and his wife of over 50 years of "marital bliss" are sitting on their front porch when she turns to him and says..."We never talk any more."

Ole Master Chief retorts: "I told you everything I knew the first month we were married and ain't got a word in since!"

***....and then the fight started!!***



### **Military Acronyms:**

The military just loves its acronyms. Here are a few that have flown under the radar!!

**NAVY:** Never Again Volunteer Yourself

**MRE:** Meals Rejected by the Enemy

**LOST:** Looking Over Strange Terrain

**ARMY:** Aren't Ready to be Marines Yet

**MARINES:** Muscles Are Required Intelligence Not Essential

### **Speaking of the Marines...**



A Marine was deployed to Afghanistan. While he was there, he received a letter from his girlfriend. In the letter, she explained that she had slept with two guys while he had been gone and she wanted to break up with him. She also wanted the pictures of herself sent back to her.

So, the Marine did what any other man in that situation would do. He went around to his buddies and collected all of the unwanted photos of women he could find. He then mailed the 24 photos of women (with and without clothes on) to his ex-girlfriend with the following note:

*"I don't remember which one you are. Please remove your photo and send the rest back."*

### **Master Chief & the Admiral...**

Ole Master Chief and an Admiral were sitting in the barbershop. They were both just getting finished with their shaves, when the barbers reached for some after-shave to slap on their faces.

The Admiral shouted, "Hey, don't put that stuff on me! My wife will think I've been in a whorehouse!"

Ole Master Chief turned to his barber and said, "Go ahead and put it on. My wife doesn't know what the inside of a whorehouse smells like."

### **Officer Etiquette...**

Officer: "Sailor, do you have change for a dollar?"

Sailor: "Sure, buddy."

Officer: "That's no way to address an officer!....Now let's try it again!"....."Sailor, do you have change for a dollar?"

Sailor: **NO SIR!**

### **50 years of the P-3 Orion**

*( submitted by Vince Apostolico )*

JACKSONVILLE, FL – The Maritime Patrol Association (MPA) celebrated 50 years of the P-3 Orion at their annual Heritage Dinner on March 28, 2012 onboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville. –There are very few airplanes in the world that can tout the distinct honor of being in service for 50 years. This is testament to the ingenuity and innovation of the designers, manufacturers and assemblers who created the P-3 Orion," said Lockheed Martin Vice President of P-3 Programs and Greenville Operations Ray Burick. –The P-3 is the world standard in maritime patrol and reconnaissance and will continue to serve operators around the globe for many more decades to come."



The primary aircraft of the US Navy Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force (MPRF), the P-3 Orion has aided in anti-submarine warfare since the early 1960s when it was introduced to the aviation community by aeronautics corporation Lockheed Martin. The P-3 turboprop was an answer to a late 1950s request by the Chief of Naval Operations for an aircraft with more cabin space, a larger radius and a longer endurance than its predecessor, the P-2 Neptune.

In August of 1962, Patrol Squadron EIGHT (VP-8) took possession of the first P-3, and then in 1969, the final revamp of the Orion, the first ~~P-3C~~ "Charlie", came online. –From a tactical standpoint, this new 'Charlie' was a quantum leap in improved sensors, data processing, tactical displays, weapons delivery, and decision making assistance over any P-3 system flying at that time," said CAPT Ron W. Martin, USN (Ret.), Patrol Squadron (VP) THIRTY's first P-3C Project Officer. –We all knew Maritime Patrol was about to become a force to be reckoned with."

A half century later, the celebration of the P-3C Orion comes at both a historic and pivotal point in the MPRF's future. In June of this year, Jacksonville-based Patrol Squadron SIXTEEN (VP-16) will receive the first of a fleet of replacement aircraft for the P-3. The P-8A Poseidon, a multi-mission maritime aircraft developed by Boeing, will be the first jet-powered maritime patrol aircraft commandeered by the US Navy.

The Heritage Dinner took place during the 2012 MPA Symposium the week of March 27-30, 2012, onboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville. In addition to the dinner, symposium attendees could register for a host of events, including the P-8A Poseidon Roll-Out, Integrated Training Center dedication, a Flight Suit Social, golf tournament, 5K, and others. The Heritage Dinner, highlighted the history and heritage of the last 50 years of the P-3 aircraft, and also served as a ceremony for three new Hall of Honor inductees from the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance community.

A 501(c)(3) Florida non-profit corporation established in 2011 and headquartered in Jacksonville, FL, the Maritime Patrol Association plans on being a premier professional organization representing the U.S. Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance community by promoting the use of the patrol and reconnaissance aircraft in the United States Navy.

For more information, contact September Wilkerson, Executive Director, at (904) 563-4036 or [info@maritimepatrolassociation.org](mailto:info@maritimepatrolassociation.org); or check out the MPA website at [www.maritimepatrolassociation.org](http://www.maritimepatrolassociation.org).



## **Aviator's Heaven**

*( submitted by Brad Kirley )*

- Everybody's a Lieutenant, except God. He's a General or Admiral (as the mood strikes Him!)
- You only come to work when you're going to fly.
- You fly three times a day, if you wish, except on Friday.
- You never run out of fuel.
- You never run out of ammo.
- Your missions are one hour long (or longer if you desire), and no briefings are ever required.
- Sorties are air-to-air or air-to-ground, your choice.
- You shoot the gun on every mission.
- There are no check rides.
- It is always VFR, and there are never any ATC delays.
- You can fly out of the MOA and down to 10 feet AGL, if you want.
- There are no "over G's."
- The airplanes never break.
- Never any Fatahs...I mean...you are already there!
- There are never any duty officer assignments.
- You always fly overhead landing patterns with initial approach at 20 feet, then break left.
- You can go cross-country anytime you desire...the further the better.
- There are no flight surgeons.
- There are no Staff Jobs.
- There are no additional duties.
- Friday Happy Hour is mandatory & Happy Hour begins at 1400 hours and lasts until 0200+.
- The bartenders are all big bosomed and friendly.
- Beer is free, but whiskey costs a nickel.
- The bar serves only Chivas Regal, Jack Daniels and Bee-featers...plus 500 kinds of beer.
- Country and Western music is free on the jukebox.
- You never lose your room key and your buddies never leave you stranded.
- The sun always shines, and you can put your hat in your pants pocket.
- Flight Suits are allowed in the O Club at all times.
- The NEX always has every item you ask for, most being free.
- There are never any crosswind landings, and the runways are always dry.
- Control tower flybys for wheels-up checks can be made at 600kts.
- There are never any noise complaints.
- Full afterburner climbs over your house are encouraged.
- Fitness reports always contain the statement, "Outstanding Officer."
- Functions requiring mess dress never occur.
- All air traffic controllers are friendly and always provide priority handling.
- "ACE" status is conferred upon all Aviators entering Heaven.
- and finally.....You Never Have To Grow Up!

## **Who is an American?**

Several years ago in the news there was actually a report that someone in Pakistan had published in a newspaper an offer of a reward to anyone who killed an American.....any American!

So an Australian dentist wrote the following to let everyone know what an American is, so they would know when they found one:

An American is English, or French, or Italian, Irish, German, Spanish, Polish, Russian or Greek. An American may also be Canadian, Mexican, African, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Australian, Iranian, Asian, or Arab, or Pakistani, or Afghan. An American may also be a Cherokee, Osage, Blackfoot, Navaho, Apache, Seminole or one of the many other tribes known as native Americans. An American is Christian, or he could be Jewish, or Buddhist, or Muslim. In fact, there are more Muslims in America than in Afghanistan. The only difference is that in America they are free to worship as each of them chooses.

An American is also free to believe in no religion. For that he will answer only to God, not to the government, or to armed thugs claiming to speak for the government and for God. An American is from the most prosperous land in the history of the world. The root of that prosperity can be found in the Declaration of Independence, which recognizes the God given right of each person the pursuit of happiness.

An American is generous. Americans have helped out just about every other nation in the world in their time of need. When Afghanistan was overrun by the Soviet army 20 years ago, Americans came with arms and supplies to enable the people to win back their country. As of the morning of September 11, Americans had given more than any other nation to the poor in Afghanistan.

Americans welcome the best, the best products, the best books, the best music, the best food, the best athletes. But they also welcome the least. The national symbol of America, The Statue of Liberty, welcomes your tired and your poor, the wretched refuse of your teeming shores, the homeless, temp-est tossed. These in fact are the people who built America. Some of them were working in the Twin Towers the morning of September 11, 2001 earning a better life for their families. I've been told that the World Trade Center victims were from at least 30 other countries, cultures, and first languages, including those that aided and abetted the terrorists.

So you can try to kill an American if you must. Hitler did. So did General Tojo, and Stalin, and Mao Tse-Tung, and every bloodthirsty tyrant in the history of the world. But, in doing so you would just be killing yourself. Because, Americans are not a particular people from a particular place. They are the embodiment of the human spirit of freedom. Everyone who holds to that spirit, everywhere, is an American.

As Americans....let us now salute our American Flag.



**REMINDER:  
ASSOCIATION OFFICER  
ELECTIONS ON 13OCT12**



## **National Debt Ceiling Solution**

( article by Warren Buffett )



**Warren Buffett, in a recent interview with CNBC, offers one of the best quotes about the debt ceiling:**

“I could end the deficit in 5 minutes,” he told CNBC. “You just pass a law that says that anytime there is a deficit of more than 3% of GDP, all sitting members of Congress are ineligible for re-election.

The 26th amendment (granting the right to vote for 18 year olds) took only 3 months & 8 days to be ratified! Why? Simple! The people demanded it. That was in 1971 – before computers, e-mail, cell phones, etc.

Of the 27 amendments to the Constitution, seven (7) took one (1) year or less to become the law of the land – all because of public pressure.

The below will never happen...but, wouldn't it be nice and...it is what our Founding Fathers meant Congress to be.

### **Congressional Reform Act of 2012**

**1.** No Tenure / No Pension. A Congressman/woman collects a salary while in office and receives no pay when they're out of office.

**2.** Congress (past, present & future) participates in Social Security. All funds in the Congressional retirement fund move to the Social Security system immediately. All future funds flow into the Social Security system, and Congress participates with the American people. It may not be used for any other purpose.

**3.** Congress can purchase their own retirement plan, just as all Americans do.

**4.** Congress will no longer vote themselves a pay raise. Congressional pay will rise by the lower of CPI or 3%.

**5.** Congress loses their current health care system and participates in the same health care system as the American people.

**6.** Congress must equally abide by all laws they impose on the American people.

**7.** All contracts with past and present Congressmen/women are void effective 12/1/12. The American people did not make this contract with Congressmen/women. Congress made all these contracts for themselves. Serving in Congress is an honor, not a career. The Founding Fathers envisioned citizen legislators, so ours should serve their term(s), then go home and back to work.

**Editor's Note:** Many of our hard-earned veteran benefits could be on the chopping block and many of us are unaware of proposed legislation to do so. It is our Association policy to be neutral and non-bias regarding religious, political and racial matters in our dealings and publications. But, in these hard economic times that have affected all of us for so, so many years now, and because so many of us are retired & of the “Greatest Generation”, the above article caught our attention.

We are the generation that write-to, confront and solicit our legislators. We are the veterans, the activists, the tax-payers, and in this, the Presidential election year, it will be US who vote for and select our next President and legislators. So it should be US who remind them all that they are one of US, and we elect them to represent US and that they work for US!!

Contact your Congressman...protect your benefits!

## **The Farmer and the Politician**

Finally retired from the Navy Ole Boats was overseeing his herd in a remote mountainous pasture in Montana when suddenly a brand-new BMW advanced toward him out of a cloud of dust.

The driver, a young man in a Brioni suit, Gucci shoes, Ray-Ban sunglasses and YSL tie, leaned out the window and asked Ole Boats, “If I tell you exactly how many cows and calves you have in your herd, will you give me a calf?” Boats looks at the man, who obviously is a yuppie, then looks at his peacefully grazing herd and calmly answers, “Sure, why not?”

The yuppie parks his car, whips out his Dell notebook computer, connects it to his Cingular RAZR V3 cell phone, and surfs to a NASA page on the Internet, where he calls up a GPS satellite to get an exact fix on his location which he then feeds to another NASA satellite that scans the area in an ultra-high-resolution photo.

The young man then opens the digital photo in Adobe Photoshop and exports it to an image processing facility in Hamburg, Germany. Within seconds, he receives an email on his Palm Pilot that the image has been processed and the data stored. He then accesses an MS-SQL database through an ODBC connected Excel spreadsheet with email on his BlackBerry and, after a few minutes, receives a response.

Finally, he prints out a full-color, 150-page report on his hi-tech, miniaturized HP LaserJet printer, turns to Boats and says, “You have exactly 1,586 cows and calves.”

“That’s right. Well, I guess you can take one of my calves,” says Boats. He watches the young man select one of the animals and looks on with amusement as the young man stuffs it into the trunk of his car.

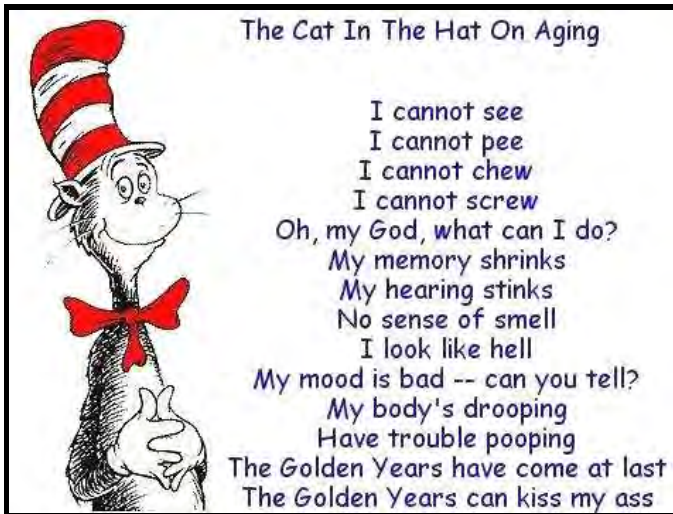
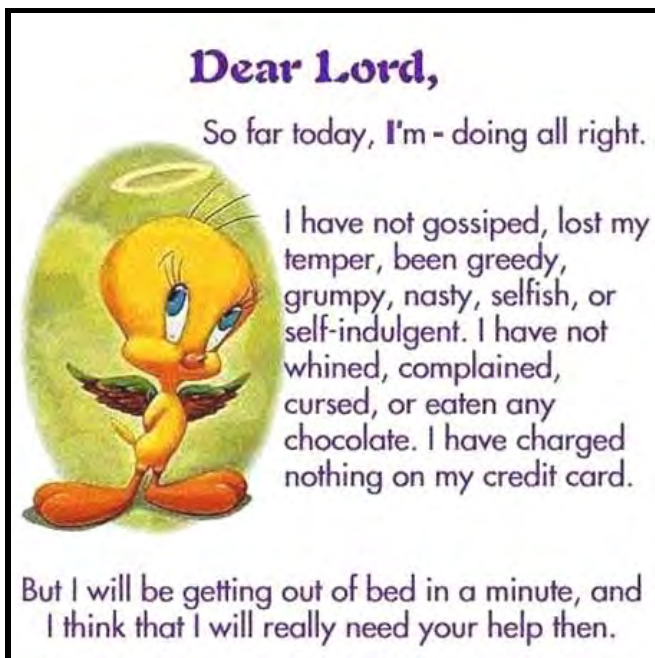
Then Ole Boats says to the young man, “Hey, if I can tell you exactly what your business is, will you give me back my calf?” The young man thinks about it for a second and then says, “Okay, why not?” “You’re a Congressman for the U.S. Government,” says Boats.

“Wow! That’s correct,” says the yuppie, “but how did you guess that?” “No guessing required,” answered Boats. “You showed up here even though nobody called you; you want to get paid for an answer I already knew, to a question I never asked. You used millions of dollars worth of equipment trying to show me how much smarter than me you are; and you don’t know a thing about how working people make a living - or about cows, for that matter.

This is a herd of sheep. Now give me back my dog!!

**AND THAT FOLKS IS WHAT THE PROBLEM IS ALL ABOUT.**



**ON AGING.....****Retiree's Prayer****Fighter Pilots:**

- Q:** How do you know if there is a fighter pilot at your party?  
**A:** He'll tell you.
- Q:** What's the difference between God and fighter pilots?  
**A:** God doesn't think he's a fighter pilot.
- Q:** What's the difference between a fighter pilot and a jet engine?  
**A:** A jet engine stops whining when the plane shuts down.

**Any Pilots we know???**

( submitted by Nick Schaus )

The flight attendant listened patiently to the man's complaints: --You bring me cold coffee. You serve me lousy food. I can't see the movie. Not that it matters because you didn't bring me any headphones. And my window doesn't even have a shade, so I can't sleep."

When he'd finally stopped whining, she said, --Just shut up and fly the plane!"

( Nick sez:.....could this be our CAPT. Kevin? Oooooo! )

**The President's Corner:**

by Jacque LaValle

Already it's summer time! Record breaking heat has spread across the mid-Atlantic and evening thunderstorms will take the place of clear drier skies of the spring.

The Association has had a very active spring season with our annual Spring Fling at Pax River and the 2012 VP-68 Alumni Carnival Cruise, which our editor-in-chief has done a fantastic job capturing in both text and pictures.

Although there was no interest for the Reading, PA Fly-In, VP-68 was still represented at the World War II Memorial weekend. For those who remember the Mid Atlantic Air Museum, the P-61 Black Widow restoration is coming along slow but well. Donations are always accepted and more info is available at [www.MAAM.org](http://www.MAAM.org). The P-2V-7, which was their flying museum piece, has long since seen the skies from above. Some say her last flight was in 1993. It sits on the tarmac gathering layers of bird poop...what a shame.

Elections for new Alumni Association officers are coming up this fall. Just a reminder, that everyone who is a member in good standing is eligible to hold any of the offices. If you wish to either nominate a member or serve as an officer, please contact our Election Committee members, Dick Fickling or Joe Odenthal 30 days before the Fall Muster.

As we enter into the last half of 2012, there are still plenty of adventures ahead. We were contacted by Chris Huels that NAF Washington at Andrews has acquired a retired P-3C for use as a static display. Since VP-68 was the only P-3 squadron stationed there, it would only be fitting that the VP-68 tail feathers be displayed on that aircraft. The aircraft will be displayed at the Navy's operations building and a brief ceremony is planned for the 1st of October. Stay tuned to our web site for further announcements.

The 2012 Fall Muster will be held at the Navy Recreation Center Solomons Island on Saturday, 13 October 2012. Come on down and spend the weekend. Accommodations will be the responsibility of each individual. We currently need volunteers to help organize and pull off both of these events. Please contact myself or any other officer if interested in helping.

[jacque.lavalle@verizon.net](mailto:jacque.lavalle@verizon.net)

I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you in the fall. Wear those VP-68 ballcaps and keep a watchful eye out for those who served with VP-68 so we can keep our membership strong.

***Have a fine Navy day!***



**From the Editor:**

Jim Rozycki

As always, I would like to thank all of the VP-68 Blackhawks who called, mailed and emailed me contributions for this issue of the Hawk's Nest newsletter.

I am always in need of material so please don't be shy. What are you up to these days? Working? Retired? What is new with your family? Again, this is **YOUR** newsletter and we want to include everybody in it.

Photos....please send me photos, especially if you have ones from the "early" years of the squadron.

**Future Hawk's Nests will be published in:  
March – June – September – December**Email me at: [rozyckijim@aol.com](mailto:rozyckijim@aol.com)

Call me at: 412-487-5854

Mail to me at: VP-68 Hawk's Nest  
2414 Rolling Farms Road  
Glenshaw, PA 15116-2564

**From the Secretary**

If you move and change your mailing address please let me know as that is the only way we can keep track of you. Send your address information to:

[wright\\_kathleen@bah.com](mailto:wright_kathleen@bah.com)

or mail to: VP-68 Alumni Association  
4924 25th Street S  
Arlington, VA 22206

**From the Treasurer**

Members who have not renewed their dues by March of each year will be dropped from our roster, lose their membership rights and no longer receive this newsletter. Please consider converting to a Life Membership and never have to write us another check. Annual dues is \$10, Life Membership is \$100 unless you are over 75 and then it is only \$25.

All dues payments and financial matters are to be mailed to:

**VP-68 Alumni Association**  
**21496 Lynn Drive**  
**Lexington Park, MD 20653-4128**

Make checks payable to:  
**VP-68 Alumni Association**

contact Jacque LaValle at: **301-247-2321**  
or email at: [jacque.lavalle@verizon.net](mailto:jacque.lavalle@verizon.net)

**Former Blackhawks**

When you are calling or sending emails to your Blackhawk friends, ask them if they are members in the VP-68 Alumni Association and received this Hawk's Nest. If not...please ask them to join!

There are many former Blackhawks out there who still do not know of our Association. Give them our web-site or bring them to the next function.

**Color Copies of Hawk's Nest**

Color copies of current and past Hawk's Nest newsletters may be downloaded and printed in pdf format from our website: [www.vp68.org](http://www.vp68.org)

**Membership Committee**

The Membership Committee, headed up by Dick Perkins, is still searching for former Blackhawks who are not yet members of our Alumni Association. If you know of anybody please forward their names and contact info to Dick via e-mail at [vp68co@yahoo.com](mailto:vp68co@yahoo.com)

Membership applications may be downloaded from our website: [www.vp68.org](http://www.vp68.org)

**Missing Blackhawk Found**

For quite some time now we have been looking for —missing— Blackhawk Alfredo Arroyo, L-98. Well, the search is over. Alfredo came to the Spring Fling picnic and is officially —back in the nest.— Welcome back!

**2011 & 2012 Association Officers**

President	<b>Jacque LaValle</b> <a href="mailto:jacque.lavalle@verizon.net">jacque.lavalle@verizon.net</a>
Vice-President	<b>Wyman Bailey</b> <a href="mailto:baileymod@msn.com">baileymod@msn.com</a>
Secretary	<b>Kathy Wright</b> <a href="mailto:wright_kathleen@bah.com">wright_kathleen@bah.com</a>
<b>Treasurer (*)</b>	<b>Jacque LaValle</b> <a href="mailto:jacque.lavalle@verizon.net">jacque.lavalle@verizon.net</a>
Historian	<b>Ed Stanfield</b> <a href="mailto:edwin.stanfield@gmail.com">edwin.stanfield@gmail.com</a>

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**(\*) Temporarily send all  
Treasurer correspondence  
& payments to Jacque LaValle  
at the address shown to the left**

\*\*\*\*\*

**SEE YOU 1200 AT THE  
2012 FALL MUSTER  
13 OCTOBER 2012  
U.S. NAVY REC CENTER  
SOLOMONS, MD**