



VP-68 Hawk's Nest

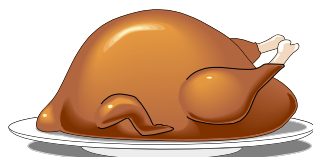


Volume No. 43

VP-68 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

December 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), its parent and supporting Navy squadrons, and those interested in preserving the name and history of VP-68.
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Happy Holidays



Alumni Association Officers

At the business meeting on 13 OCT 2012, and in accordance with the Alumni Association By-Laws, the below Officers were elected to 2-year terms of office for the years 2013 & 2014 beginning on 01 January 2014. Elected were:

President: Wyman Bailey

Vice President: Nancy Frey

Secretary: Kathy Wright

Treasurer: Fred Haynes

Please congratulate them and offer them your full support for their terms. The VP-68 Alumni Association is YOUR organization and we strive to keep the fun, the fellowship and the camaraderie continuing for many years to come.

2012 DUES ALMOST EXPIRED

SEND YOUR 2013 DUES NOW

If your post card address label has a "M-12" after your name, (see list on page 7) your Association membership will expire soon and you will no longer be a member of the VP-68 Alumni Association.

See "Treasurer" on page 18 for more details.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

*The Officers and staff of the
VP-68 Alumni Association
wish you and your families
a very safe and
blessed holiday season.*

2012 "Fall Muster"

The annual VP-68 Alumni Association "Fall Muster" event was held on 13 OCT 2012 at Navy Recreation Center (NRC) Solomons Island, MD. in the Pavilion (next to Club 9).

(continued on page 2)

"Spring Fling" – 27 APR 2013

The annual VP-68 Alumni Association "Spring Fling" picnic is scheduled for Saturday, 27 APR 2013 at the NAS Patuxent River Beach House.

(continued on page 5)

NAF Andrews Blackhawk P-3

Friday 16 NOV 2012 at 2:00pm, the permanent P-3 static display with VP-68 markings was dedicated at NAF Andrews.

(continued on page 3 & 4)

Hawk's Nest Editor Needed

Jim Rozycki will be retiring as Hawk's Nest Editor after this issue and we need a replacement. Jim will remain on as a contributing editor and says "why, it's so easy...even an AW can do it!" If you can help us, please contact Jim at:

rozyckijim@aol.com

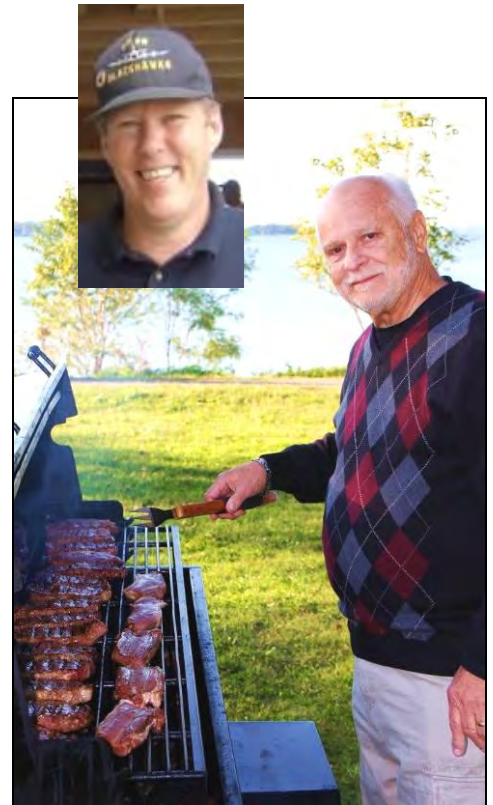
(continued on page 17)

VP-68 Bermuda Cruise 2013



Bermuda...here come the Blackhawks!

(continued on pages 20, 21 & 22)



Photos courtesy of John Benton

2012 "Fall Muster" (continued)

The weather was a bit chilly (except to Maine-er Kevin Cahill who wore shorts!) but, as you can see by the sunshine, smiles and food in the photos, everybody had a great time.

Members were present from Washington DC, Maryland, Virginia, and as far as Florida, Wisconsin, West Virginia, Maine and Pennsylvania.

Activities started at noon with a picnic lunch that was free to all members and guests. During the day, we sold tickets for the Grilled Steak Dinner & Fixin's at 1700 and the cost was only \$10 each for members and guests.

At 1600 we conducted our business meeting and election of officers. Then, at 1700 we had the fantastic Grilled Steak Dinner & Fixin's that was served up by "Chef" Wyman Bailey.

After dinner we all hung out at the pavilion until after dark and as usual sea-stories were shared, much laughter and lots of fellowship and camaraderie was had by all.

Very special thanks go out to Committee Chairs Tim Humphries (inset above) and Wyman Bailey for a fun and successful event. Folks are still raving about the fantastic steaks that Tim provided.....MMMMM-mmmm!!!!

We voted to rent the Club 9 building and deck to do it again same time next year....so plan to attend!

Andrews Blackhawk P-3 (continued)

Photos courtesy of Jacque LaValle and Dick Fickling

(Story by Jacque LaValle)

What a great event and the perfect day. A good group of 15 Blackhawks were present for the dedication including Terry Sellers and Tom Donnelly, the last CPOs initiated at VP-68.

This is significant as the P-3 is not far from the "White Hat

Burial Grounds" (see photo on page 4) there at NAF.

RDML Jeff Lemmons, VP-68's last CO, gave a great speech as always, and he said it all about the Blackhawks.

The ribbon-cutting was conducted by RDML Lemmons, CAPT Covert, base CO. and CAPT Johnson, past NAF CO.

Andrews Blackhawk P-3 (continued)

Photos courtesy of Jacques LaValle and Dick Fickling

RDML Lemmons is shown with CAPT Covert cutting the cake. The sword used for the cake cutting was provided by Kathy Wright. I couldn't help but take a photo of the hydraulic oil leaking on the belly of the P-3.

Vince "AP" Apostolico gave the Crew 4 plaque to Jeff as a memento and Jeff made the comment that of all the awards he has received in his career, this was the one that meant the most to him.

A few of us old goats made it to the "Goat Locker" for a beer or two and John LeNard and I were the last to leave.

Now, before you all shut down the internet with your emails to me I must point out that, yes, the paint scheme and tail marking is not exactly as it was for the squadron aircraft.

(see some original squadron aircraft photos on page 11)

But...seeing past that, VP-68 (though now gone) has both this aircraft at NAF Andrews and also the plaque at the Navy Memorial in Washington dedicated to honor the squadron's history. Now, just how many former squadrons can say that?

When you are in the Washington DC area, make it a point to visit both tributes to VP-68.....your squadron!

2013 "SPRING FLING" (continued)

This is the longest tenured event for our Association and there is hardly a better place to have a picnic on the base we spent some great years drilling with VP-68. We have a beautiful view of the Chesapeake Bay, a great facility with both indoor and outdoor facilities. Activities start at 1100.

\$ 0 Cost for Members – paid & in good standing

\$ 5 Cost for Guests & non-members

Every year after the picnic a bunch of us head out to a great local restaurant in the area so it will be an evening for more laughs, fine food, laughs, drinks, laughs and fellowship.

BE THERE!!!

For those of you who want to stay the weekend, here are some Lexington Park, MD accommodation numbers for you:

1-301-737-2400 = Navy Lodge – NAS PAX River

1-301-863-3200 = Hampton Inn (site of 40-yr reunion)

1-301-863-6666 = Days Inn (old Belvedere Inn)

1-301-863-0203 = Fairfield Inn by Marriott

1-301-862-9822 = Super 8 Motel, California, MD

November 11, 2012 **VETERANS DAY**

***Thank all of you for your service
to our country and please pray
for the men & women currently
serving in the U.S. Armed Forces***



The shadow of a man saluting a fallen comrade is cast on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC.

29OCT2012 - Arlington Cemetery **during Hurricane Sandy**

(photo submitted by "Doc" Durity & Sid Nichols)
Not everyone hunkered down for Hurricane Sandy...



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
Changing of the Guard

EDITOR'S NOTE: In past issues we have tried to call attention to the reduction of veteran benefits being proposed every year by Congress. We need to be aware of these proposals and this article highlights the decreasing number of vets in Congress who represent us.

Veterans In New Congress **Fewest Since World War II**

Source: Huffington Post: Updated: 11/17/2012 11:21am EST
Amanda Terkel aterkel@huffingtonpost.com

WASHINGTON -- The 113th Congress that takes office in January will have the fewest military veterans since World War II, although the number of members who served in the Afghanistan or Iraq wars is growing.

Nineteen percent of the next Congress will be veterans, with 85 in the House and 18 in the Senate, according to a tally compiled by the American Legion. In the current Congress, there are 91 veterans in the House and 25 in the Senate.

The decline isn't completely surprising. The 95th Congress of 1977 and 1978 (just after the draft ended in 1973) had 412 veterans. The percentage of members who served in the military has steadily fallen since.

"There are two things that are leading to fewer veterans in Congress," said Jon Soltz, co-founder of VoteVets.org. "First, the last conscription force to fight a war is at retirement age, and they are leaving Congress. Second, the new generation of veterans makes up a smaller percentage of the overall population now, and many of them are just getting into politics for the first time. Many of them aren't yet ready to run for Congress, because they have no political base in their communities."

(continued on page 6)

Veterans In New Congress **(continued from page 5)**

As many of the veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War retire, Afghanistan and Iraq veterans are beginning to take their places.

Rep.-elect Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), a double amputee from the Iraq War, is one of the highest-profile new members. During her race, she faced accusations from the incumbent, Rep. Joe Walsh (R-Ill.), who stated that she was not a "true hero" and talked too much about her military service.



*Tammy Duckworth, a Democrat from Illinois, will be one of just 85 veterans in House in the 113th session.
(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)*

Including Duckworth, there are a total of nine new House members who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan, according to Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. Republican Martha McSally, who served in both wars, is still waiting for the outcome of her race to be decided against Rep. Ron Barber (D-Ariz.). No new senators are veterans. Seven Iraq and Afghanistan veterans were reelected.

"While the total number of veterans in Congress has decreased, we will see a record number of post-9/11 veterans in Congress this year," said Tom Tarantino, chief policy officer for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. "Sixteen veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan have won their races and will be part of the House of Representatives next year."

While committee assignments in both chambers are still being figured out, Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) has already said she will step down from her position as chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee, meaning Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) will likely take her place. "I had to really think about stepping down from the committee because these issues have been such a passion for me," Murray told the Federal Times. "As I thought about it, I decided I could really fight for veterans just as strong on the budget committee."

More than 1 million new veterans are expected to return home within the next five years, meaning these issues will become increasingly important for Congress. "Congress must act on the challenges facing veterans and their families like employment, education, suicide and mental health, and a VA struggling to keep pace with demand for its services," said Tarantino. "Joined by their fellow veterans of all generations and civilian supporters in Congress, these new veteran representatives have the opportunity to uniquely speak to the experiences of veterans across the country and work to pass legislation to address the challenges facing them."

"VoteVets" was particularly active in helping to elect Duckworth and Rep.-elect Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii). The organization also was involved in supporting non-military members who are strong on veterans issues.

"Right now, Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are better represented in Congress than we are in the overall population, and even more young veterans are running and winning local and state office, which will put them on the path to higher office, if that's what they want," said Soltz. But, in the immediate term, what this all means is that veterans need to work that much harder to educate and hold non-veterans in office accountable, and push them on issues veterans face. That's why our group doesn't just focus on veterans running for office, but gets involved in other races, as well."

As the Washington Post noted, the Senate is set to lose six veterans due to retirement or election losses: Sens. Daniel K. Akaka (D-Hawaii), Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.), Scott Brown (R-Mass.), Herb Kohl (D-Wis.), Richard G. Lugar (R-Ind.) and James Webb (D-Va.). Akaka is one of just three World War II veterans in Congress.

The number of veterans in Congress since 1975, according to the American Legion:

<u>CONGRESS:</u>	<u>HOUSE</u> <u>435 Members</u>	<u>SENATE</u> <u>100 Members</u>
94th (1975-1976)	306	73
95th (1977-1978)	347	65
96th (1979-1980)	242	58
97th (1981-1982)	269	73
98th (1983-1984)	248	56
99th (1985-1986)	181	57
100th (1987-1988)	175	52
101st (1989-1990)	202	49
102nd (1991-1992)	161	51
103rd (1993-1994)	126	44
104th (1995-1996)	154	55
105th (1997-1998)	141	38
106th (1999-2000)	135	44
107th (2001-2002)	130	38
108th (2003-2004)	114	35
109th (2005-2006)	107	29
110th (2007-2008)	97	28
111th (2009-2010)	96	28
112th (2011-2012)	91	25
113th (2013-)	85	18

and then the fight started...

Ole Boat's wife was standing in the kitchen, preparing their usual soft-boiled eggs and toast for breakfast, wearing only the 'T' shirt that she normally slept in.

As Ole Boats walked in, almost awake, she turned to him and said softly, "You've got to make love to me this very moment!" His eyes lit up and he thought, "I am either still dreaming or this is going to be my lucky day!"

Not wanting to lose the moment, he embraced her and then gave it his all; right there on the kitchen table.

Afterwards she said, "Thanks," and returned to the stove, her T-shirt still around her neck.

Happy, but a little puzzled, Ole Boats asked, "What was that all about?" She explained, "The egg timer's broken."

....and then the fight started!!

Alumni Association Audit

(as of 01 DEC 2012)

In preparation for the transition of officers, a financial and member audit was conducted. The financial records were found to be in order and the checking account ledger balanced.

Listed below, from our member registry, are the 175 members of the VP-68 Alumni Association as of 01 DEC 2012.

NOTE: If there is an error in your name or membership or if your name is not listed, please contact our Treasurer.

Fred Haynes cruzintoegether@earthlink.net

If you do not see your Blackhawk friends names...

CALL THEM AND GET THEM TO JOIN!!!

If you see their name, but don't see them at our events...

CALL THEM AND GET THEM TO COME!!!

LIFE MEMBERS: 153

Louis E. Abbott, L-01	David Altdorfer, L-02
Etta Anderson, L-10	Vince Apostolico, L-98
William H. Arnold, L-06	Alfredo Arroyo, L-98
Ronald P. Auth, L-04	Les Auth, L-98
Wyman H. Bailey, L-02	Jack Baker, L-01
James L. Battaglia, L-08	Janice E. Battaglia, L-08
James Beddingfield, L-06	John Benton, L-11
Steven Black, L-01	Caroline Blazek, L-98
Dick Blosser, L-10	John E. Brown, L-12
Joe Brundage, L-00	Kevin R. Cahill, L-02
Joseph Callejo, L-01	John P. Cann, L-01
John R. Carlin, L-02	John S. Carr, L-08
James M. Carrico, L-09	Steven P. Cawi, L-98
Stephen F. Cawley, L-98	Wally Chance, L-03
Ronald Cimo, L-07	Sylvia R. Connick, L-98
Ford Cox, L-10	Steve Dansker, L-07
Tom Daugherty, L-10	Robert W. Davis, L-04
Dean DeHotman, L-11	Kevin L. Dillon, L-02
Ed Diraimo, L-05	Landon H. Donahey, L-98
Tom Donnelly, L-04	Howard M. Drogin, L-09
William H. Duxbury, L-01	Bill Eaton, L-99
"Sharkey" Estrin, L-04	Garrett A. Fahl, L-00
Frank Ferney, L-06	Richard J. Fickling, L-98
E. Byron Fisher, L-98	Richard S. Fitzgerald, L-06
Howard Flemming, L-06	Robert Fletcher, L-09
Dennis Fogler, L-12	Arthur K. Foscett, L-04
Calvin Foster, L-05	David Foy, L-06
Nevins Frankel, HL-00	Nancy Frey, L-10
Glen Gadberry, L-08	Donald E. Gallagher, L-12
Paul P. Gardner, L-04	Ron Garman, L-02
Mike Gerred, L-02	Anna Gibson, L-11
Timothy J. Gorman, L-98	David C. Graham, L-98
David P. Gray, L-00	Dale Grimes, L-00
Scott Grzybowski, L-01	James L. Hall, L-09
Doug Hannum, L-06	Raymond Harding, L-09
Frederick Haynes, L-12	Merrill W. Hood, L-01
Arthur T. Humphreys, L-09	Ronald Jacobs, L-06
Lewis W. Johnson, L-98	Brian "Packy" Jones, L-00
Raymond Jones, L-06	Frank Kearney, L-00
Steve Kimberling, L-06	Bradford A. Kirley, L-98
Vic Kraft, L-04	Louis G. Kress, L-09
L. Rex Lake, L-06	Jacque D. LaValle, L-02
Dana K. Law, L-00	Jeffrey A. Lemmons, L-98
John M. LeNard, L-00	William R. Levin, L-02
Debbie Gath Lineberry, HL-05	Lawrence E. Luck, L-99
Charles G. Macgill, L-07	Pamela M. Mann, L-98
"Bunky" Maurer, L-09	Dana Gath McGee, AL-05
A. Ray Miller, L-00	Greg Mitchell, L-01

Paul Monaghan, L-02	John "Blackie" Murdoch, L-05
Sidney K. Nichols, L-01	Frank Notarnicola, L-11
Ralph Nupp, L-06	Douglas W. Oard, L-05
Joseph T. Odenthal, L-98	Ralph Oman, L-98
Jeffrey Ostroff, L-10	C. Robert Paty, L-98
Stephen Peel, L-05	Don Peeling, L-99
Granville Pennypacker, L-04	Dick Perkins, L-03
Daryl G. Phillippi, L-11	Robert J. Powell, L-00
Patrick J. Quigley, L-01	Peter J. Richard, L-00
James M. Rozycki, L-98	(*) Harold H. Rymer, L-02 (*)
Nicholas, J. Schaus, L-04	John Schneder, L-03
Bill Schott, L-08	Greg Schultz, L-02
Joseph Schwendeman, L-01	Crystal A. Sharp, L-01
Fred Shenk, L-11	(*) Walt Siemon, L-98 (*)
Charles J. Sitko, L-00	Charles O. Smith, L-01
Daniel Smith, L-05	Harry Lee Smith, L-00
Robert I. Smith, L-00	Edwin Stanfield, L-00
Brenda Stanfield, L-08	Robert Sterrett, L-12
Ronald Stevens, L-08	Cornelius Stripling, L-98
Richard J. Tennies, L-98	Tommy G. Thacker, L-00
Barry W. Thomas, L-05	Paul L. Toutant, L-04
Gretchen C. Trujillo, L-08	Albert G. Tullus, L-01
Fred A. Ulle, L-00	Tondelayo Varelli, L-01
Kathleen H. Vasquez, L-98	Ramon Veras, L-02
Kathleen Vigiano, L-03	Mary Ellen White, L-01
Ronald G. Whittaker, L-98	Morgan Wilbur, HL-00
Clyde Wilcox, L-11	Gary A. Wiser, L-04
Kathleen Wright, L-98	Paul Yaron, L-01
Nancy A. Yohn, L-04	

(*) No current mailing address / contact info on record (*)

REGULAR YEARLY MEMBERS: 22

(if it is RED it is due)

Nick Cercone, M-12	Theodore Davis, M-12
Gene DiGennaro, M-12	Donald Doring, M-12
George W. Durity, M-12	Wally Fonville, M-12
Terry Gibson, M-12	Bob Grant, M-13
Phil Greubel, M-12	James Guilfooy, M-12
Dennis Hickman, M-12	David Hiers, M-12
Al L. Hurst, M-12	Toni King, M-12
John M. McDermott, M-13	Sheryl "Pat" Meyer, A-13
Elaine V. Schneider, M-12	Robert Seaver, M-12
Richard J. Stohr, M-14	James Tabinski, M-12
Peter Wade, M-12	Vicki L. Wertz, M-12

DECEASED MEMBERS: 24

Paul Auth	Walter Barbee
David C. Borggren, Sr.	Charles W. Brown
Leo J. Brune	Donald C. Caldwell
Iven M. Cole	Paul H. Costello
Lloyd J. Davis	Harry A. Estes
George Frey	Robert J. Gath
Andrew J. Gerhart	George P. Kurtz
Hugh E. Lee, Jr.	Pete Logan
Joseph G. Maloney	Dennis Manskar
Sidney H. Matthews	Samuel R. Paris
Paul J. Randolph	Don A. White
Vernon H. Winfield	Bennett S. Sparks

*Until we meet again shipmates...
...fair winds and following seas!*

Blackhawk People News

Travel Resources

(submitted by Dick Fickling)

I thought that I would share some good money-saving travel resources that my wife and I have taken advantage of.

www.afvclub.com/

= Armed Forces Vacation Club link.

www.dodlodging.net/

= a new site that is being built that includes links to all available lodging.

www.navy-lodge.com/

= as everyone should know, some of the places have closed due to BRAC.

www.armymwr.com/travel/lodging/default.aspx

= the Army equivalent of the Navy Lodge

www.ihgarmyhotels.com/pal/en/us/home

= direct link to Army Hotels and others.

www.mccslejeune.com/beach/lodging.html

= Camp Lejeune beach lodging, been there, nice.

www.shadesofgreen.org/home.html

= Disney Property, lots of specials towards the end of this year, big discounts on rates and tickets.

www.halekoa.com/splash.cfm

= Government property in Hawaii, like Shades of Green.

www.govarm.com/

= provides leisure and vacation travel services for government and military personnel, including retirees.

Another resource is the **Navy Gateway Inn** (old BOQ) at PAX River. But, if you Google **navy gateway inn** you will get a bunch of individual base listings, could not find a single government link that covered them all, the **dodlodging.net** link had most.

Some of the above are the government web sites, others are commercial. Some require registration to see their deals.

The Navy has lots of MWR run places, you almost have to Google MWR at NAS Jacksonville to find what you want.

I could not find a specific site that covered them all. JAX is the only one where we booked a cabin on the Golf Course.

Hope this helps.....Dick

George "Doc" Durity

(email received 16DEC12 from "Doc's" son Jeff)

"Doc's" son Jeff sent us an email that George had suffered a mild stroke and was in the hospital. As of this printing we have no further details.

As our Corpsman "Doc" took real good care of "his" Blackhawks and was always cheerful and went out of his way for all of us.

We ask that you keep George in your thoughts & prayers.

***Get Well Doc...
see you at the Spring Fling!***

Harry Lee's New 4-Wheeler

(submitted by....who else...Nick Schaus!)

Our buoy has been awful quiet lately, still recouping from his ATV accident of last fall. Well, we just received this photo of his new 4-wheeler. Good to see "The Creative Genius" is not giving up down there in Piney Flats, TN !



Harry Lee Smith (kinda!) & his new ATV

Crew 3 & Cuban Missile Crises

(submitted by Dale Grimes)

Two days after President Kennedy's speech on TV about the Cuban Missiles Crisis, Crew 3 was sent to NAS Jacksonville, Fla. to fly an ASW flight off the coast of Cuba. Bill Schott's Rule #14 for CREW 3 was "wherever we go the enlisted crew will pack a sport coat, and a dress shirt and a tie". Schott's attitude was, Khrushchev could act like a big jerk but Crew 3 had a reputation to maintain and war or no war Crew 3 was going to look sharp on liberty.

When we landed at JAX security was tighter than a tick on a hound dog. After getting back late the evening from our ASW mission, we were told everyone was still restricted to the base and to get into the Enlisted Men's Club you "must" wear your dress blue uniform. Back then the only time we wore our dress blues was for our combined annual inspection and squadron party. Schott soon took care of this little problem by having our co-pilot LT VonSunders write a note to the MAA of the club giving us permission to wear civilian clothes into the E-Club.

As the MAA was scratching his head trying to figure out what to do with Schott's note, Jim Hall said, "Hey man, we are O-2's and we are just down here at JAX for the weekend".

Fifty years ago all reservist were classified as O-2's.

(continued on page 9)

Blackhawk People News (continued)

The MAA had never heard of the term and he wanted to know what O-2's were equal to in the regular Navy. Bill Schott and Jim Vitak were 2nd class petty officers, Jim Hall and Lew Kress were 3rd class and I was a 1st class Electrician Mate. I told the MAA, O2's are equal to E 6, and he said "Oh...OK...COME ON IN". Lew Kress said to the waitress "I'll have a double order of gravy".

Because the base was locked down the club was packed and everyone was in uniform except Crew 3. We really stood out. They didn't know what to think of us and our sport coats. Some thought maybe we were with the on a special mission with the CIA, or maybe the FBI, or some other undercover agents.

Much, much later, after the Russians had turned their ships around, LT Fitzgerald told us that VP-662 was within 4 hours of being called to active duty for an indefinite period of time. Now, many years later and I have gotten older, I realize more and more that fools do walk where angels fear to tread.

Last week on the History Channel they interviewed one of the surviving commanding officers of the Russian submarine that was operating off of Cuba during the Missile Crisis. He told of how serious things were between him and his counterpart on his sub and how they argued and almost came to blows as to whether they should fire their nuclear missiles or not. It was enough to make anyone with any common sense to tremble with fear.

The world sure had a lot to be thankful for on that Thanksgiving Day in 1962. Today fifty years later we still have much to be thankful for. We just have to believe that God is still in control as much today as he was then.

.....Just an old SPOIT, Dale Grimes

Cuban Missile Crises

(submitted by Paul Monaghan)

For me, I was nearby in the U.S.S. Enterprise as an AQ2 in VF-102. We had just returned from a Mediterranean Cruise, off loaded, returned to NAS Oceana, let about half the squadron go on leave when we got the word to re-pack and get back aboard the Big E the next morning. We set sail heading south, with our twelve, soon to be fifteen new F4 Phantoms.

On the way south the VAH heavies were flown off and a reinforced Marine attack squadron of ~30 A4's replaced them. The hanger deck was chock a block with aircraft dripping with rockets, missiles, bombs – including napalm. They got my attention when I was issued a helmet and leggings.....me an Air-dale with a helmet...pure excitement and work. The AQ rate was a branch off from Aviation Ordinance so our "quiet" AQ time was spent helping the AO's load, unload, shift weapons from plane to plane.

We did a squadron mod to enable the Phantom to fire five inch Zuni rockets (telephone poles) and another mod using crystals to detect Russian radar frequencies. This while keeping everything flyable up, armed and ready. We kept five ready aircraft fully up. We'd have on a typical night five aircraft manned with pilot and RIO strapped in for interceptor (carrier air patrol) missions with two on the port catapults, two more lined up behind them and one for just in case. During the day-time the squadron kept two to four aircraft up and over the fleet at all times.

No E/M club but we did have all the bowls of grits a sailor could possible wish for. The Navy's golden rule...three squares a day....minimum.

Nick & Brandon Cercone

(submitted by Nick Cercone)

On Friday, 05 OCT 2012 at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, Alabama, Nicholas Brandon Cercone received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant (O1/E11) with the USAF/ANG.

Brandon is currently in pilot training for the KC-135 with the 171st Air Refueling Wing at Greater Pittsburgh Airport.



Brandon's mom and wife pinned his bars on and his dad, ADC (ret.) Nick, rendered him his first salute as an officer.



This continues a family tradition of military aviation as Nick retired as a Navy P-3 Flight Engineer with 26 years. Brandon currently has eleven enlisted years service with the 171st.

Congratulations Brandon !!

(Ref: Vol. 42, SEP 2012 Hawk's Nest) Noting that his original uniform had "shrunk", and a tailor can only do so much, Nick said he bought a new uniform, patches etc. for the ceremony.

Navy News Sources

(submitted by Jim Rozycki)

I thought that I would share some of the news resources that I have used for the Hawk's Nest....enjoy!

www.vpnavy.org

= Awesome VP Navy website by Nevins Frankel

www.navy.mil

= U.S. Navy website

www.ausn.org

= Association of the United States Navy

www.navytimes.com

= Navy Times Newspaper

www.military.com

= Military News

www.navsea.navy.mil

= Naval Sea Systems Command

www.shiftcolors.navy.mil

= Navy Retiree Newsletter

www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc

= Navy Personnel Command BUPERS

www.navyreserve.com

= U.S. Navy Reserve

www.aviationweek.com

= Aviation Week & Space Technology

www.moaa.org

= Military Officers Association of America - MOAA

www.nera.org

= Naval Enlisted Reserve Association - NERA

www.fra.org

= Fleet Reserve Association - FRA

www.history.navy.mil

= Naval History Center

www.defense.gov

= U.S. Department of Defense

www.goatlocker.org

This is a great site and one of my many resources of some great Navy info. Below is a feature article from this site.

The Chief's Fouled Anchor:



The **Fouled Anchor** is the emblem of the Rate of Chief Petty Officer of the United States Navy. Attached to the Anchor is a length of chain and the letters U.S.N. To the novice, the anchor, chain and letters only identify a Chief Petty Officer of the United States Navy, but, to a Chief, these have a more noble and glorious meaning.

The **"U"** stands for **Unity**, which reminds us of cooperation, maintaining harmony and continuity of purpose & action.

The **"S"** stands for **Service**, which reminds us of service to our God, our fellow man and our Navy.

The **"N"** stands for **Navigation**, which reminds us to keep ourselves on a true course so that we may walk upright before

God and man in our transactions with all mankind, but especially with our fellow Chiefs.

The Chain is symbolic of flexibility and reminds us of the chain of life that we forge day by day, link by link and may it be forged with Honor, Morality and Virtue.

The Anchor is emblematic of the hope and glory of the fulfillment of all God's promises to our souls. The golden or precious Anchor, by which we must be kept steadfast in faith and encouraged to abide in our proper station amidst the storm of temptation, affliction and persecution.

(also see "Here's Why # 8" on page 16)

Some Other Neat Views...

50-Year P-3 Service Video

(submitted by N².....Nick Cercone & Nick Schaus)

Almost ten minutes with some great shots and historical events on our beloved P3. Didn't realize we were such "pioneers" flying the "A" and "B" models.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=7aU9o_3awAM

Modern P-3 Navy

(submitted by Dick Fickling)

From Americas Navy website www.navy.mil

Today's Navy News. Not my navy! My Ordnanceman never looked that good. P-3 with real weapons? Check out SSI & II looking at radar/FLIR, multi-mode work stations.

www.navy.mil/viewVideo.asp?id=17790

Lockheed Martin Site

(submitted by Dick Stohr)

Saw a sidebar internet ad today, and when I clicked on it, this came up. Use the search for products.

www.lockheedmartin.com/us/products/p3.html

"Angel Flight" Video

This video is about a song called "Angel Flight"...

C-130 aircraft flying fallen heroes back "home".

www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=70lkj1hZDnw&feature=related

2013 Spring Fling
Saturday, 27 APR 2013
NAS Pax River Beach House

2013 Bermuda Cruise
31 MAY - 07 JUN 2013
Royal Caribbean Lines
Grandeur of the Seas

Blackhawk P-3 photo #1

VP-68 Battle "E" & Safety Awards – NAS Pax River

Blackhawk P-3 photo #4

VP-68 Blackhawk LW-03 & patches

Blackhawk P-3 photo #2VP-68 Blackhawk LW-07 over the Atlantic going to Rota
(see the moon above?.....explanation on page 18)**Blackhawk P-3 photo #3**

VP-68 Blackhawk LW-07 over the Atlantic going to Rota

Blackhawk P-3 photo #5

VP-68 Blackhawk LW-07 over Washington, DC

Blackhawk P-3 photo #6

VP-68 Blackhawk LW-04 over Arlington National Cemetery

"The Word" Revisited

Here are more Blackhawk memories from the unofficial squadron publication "The Word", most sought after and read by most Blackhawks (next to Playboy) on their monthly drill weekends published from MAR 74 until JUL 90 by our VP-68 Association Historian AWCM Ed Stanfield.

This issue we feature the year 1982....enjoy!

JAN-1982

Stanfield's Axiom of the Month: What some people lack in intelligence, they more than make up for in stupidity.

1) Old Timers: a) ATC Bortzfield is now settled in Florida and is tackling his new job. b) AMCS Oscar Line's daughter Patti-Ann married in Dallas, TX. c) AOC C.O. Smith has applied for his Reserve retirement at age 60. d) CDR Bob Smith now has a billet of interfacing with the OPNAV P-3 Program Coordinator. e) CDR Max Magee says he really misses the VP-68 action.

2) Uniforms: After 01MAR, white hats will replace blue utility caps as the primary head-gear with dungarees worn by Navy enlisted men. Females will switch to blue garrison caps.

3) Liberty Bell Trophy: Crew 4 of VP-66 won the Liberty Bell Trophy this year for excellence in antisubmarine warfare. Crew 2 of VP-68 won it last year.

4) Not Final Yet: A decision by the Defense Resources Board and high-level Dept. of Defense officials to terminate production of the Lockheed-California P-3C for five years has the U.S. Navy and officials from other countries looking at alternatives for the aircraft.

(Editor's Note: see Lockheed-Martin video on page 10!!!)

5) Only in Aviation: Let the chips fall where they may? From Norman Peese, who operates a Skylane out of his California ranch..."For a year or so we just buzzed the strip to scare the cattle off of it, but it soon became necessary to fence the strip. It is hard to describe what prop-wash can do to just one fresh cow pie."

MAR-1982

Stanfield's Axiom of the Month: When the plane you are on is late, the plane you want to transfer to is on time.

1) P-3C production: The prospect of foreign sales influenced the decision for continued production of the Lockheed P-3C. The Department of Defense is now requesting money in the 1983 Defense Budget for six P-3C's and plans are for 5 more each year through Fiscal Year 1988.....stay tuned!

2) Navy Sailor of the Year: Naval Reservists are going to get more status in future SOY competitions, Reserve officials have announced. Reservists serving on active duty either in the TAR program or TEMAC will compete with other sailors in the Pacific and Atlantic Fleets and shore duty categories.

3) Congratulations: a) AD1 Flemming selected as the VP-68 SAR Sailor of the Year b) AD1 Kelber selected as the VP-68 TAR Sailor of the Year and c) AMS1 Wagner selected as the Outstanding Enlisted Naval Reservist of the Year.

4) There They Go: a) I saw AT2 Osborne at North Island in February. He was halfway through SEER School. He had just finished the water portion and he had gone to sleep in the life raft. The swimmer dropped from the helicopter asked him if he was OK and he said "Yeah..I was just out very late the night before." He was getting ready to go to Warner Springs so the Marines could chase him through the sagebrush. After that, he's going out to one of the VP squadrons in Barbers Point, Hawaii. Ossie says "Hi" to everyone in VP-68. b) AOC Mike Dominick drills last time with us this month. His job and family are in Ft. Lauderdale, FL and he'll transfer to VP-62 in JAX.

c) AOC Joe Sowers transferred to VP squadron in Memphis,

TN....we lost the only forest ranger the squadron ever had! d) LT Mike Lowe has accepted to go into training as an FAA Center Controller at Memphis, TN. Good luck to you all.

5) The Cruise: Here's the latest plan for the Cruise...

31JUL-15AUG: Crews 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9 - three Alpha Crews and 50 maintenance support folks will deploy to Rota, Spain for 10 days. 13AUG-29AUG: Crews 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 - three Alpha Crews and 50 maintenance support folks will deploy to Bermuda for 10 days.

6) Advance Base: a) Crew 15, on their return flight from WST at Whidby Island and Hawaii, made an unscheduled stop in Grand Junction, Utah. An EDC turbine failed and her were greeted on the precautionary landing by the local volunteer fire department and a segment of the local population. Apparently, P-3's don't stop in Grand Junction too often! b) Crew 12 came back from their torpedo exercise in Hawaii with 40 cases of pineapples. I think it was to help prevent scurvy during the long flight back.

7) Lost Colony: I took a tour of the AIMD facilities. ATC Abbott handles the production end of the business while AOC Gleason takes care of the administration of the division. These two chiefs and the whole AIMD division are doing a superb job for the squadron. Rather than "black box" changes, these folks can actually dig into the guts of equipment. Because the spaces are not located physically close to the squadron spaces, AIMD remains an enigma to most squadron folks. After all, how many people accidentally wander into the old seaplane hanger? Thanks for the professional support all AIMDers!

APR-1982

Stanfield's Axiom of the Month: The amateur is the one with all the answers.

1) Stealth Bombers: It has been rumored that two of the three prototypes already built have crashed. They must be true "stealth" aircraft because nobody knew they were built, let alone knowing that they crashed.

2) Selected Reserve Bonus: Effective 01Mar82, the following ratings are eligible for the 1982 Selected Reserve enlistment/reenlistment/extension bonus: AW, AX and AK.

3) Congratulations: To AT2 Pete Logan for being awarded the Navy Unit Commendation Citation and Ribbon for action with Task Force 77 aboard the USS Kitty Hawk with Air Wing II from JAN to AUG 1969 in support of Viet Nam operations. He also received the Korean Expeditionary Medal for participation with the same group during operations off Korea from MAY to JUN 1969 relating to the USS Pueblo crises.

4) We Can Use You Pappy: Navy Secretary John F. Lehman Jr. has proposed legislation to Congress that would require Reservists, regardless of age, to serve on active duty for up to two years in time of national emergency.

MAY-1982

Stanfield's Axiom of the Month: The person who slings mud, loses ground.

1) Congratulations: a) AT1 Martz in receiving a letter of commendation for his fine work with the VP-68 Human Relations Council. b) PNC Warren Fulks, AD2 Dick Blosser, AK2 Steve Shields, AD1 Mike Costello, AMS2 Norman Bailey, AMEAN Pete Bailey and AD3 Randy Sharp in receiving Good Conduct Medals. c) AK2 Jim Kearney in earning the PQS Maintenance Patch. d) AZ2 Hettie Boyce in being selected as the VP-68 SAR Sailor of the Quarter. e) CDR Jim Hartley, former VP-68 C.O. and CDR Lloyd Davis, former VP-68 NFO, in both being selected for advancement to Senior Chief. f) ADC Ron Garman in being selected for advancement to Senior Chief. g) AK3 Kellie Janus for receiving a letter of commendation from NAF Washington for her recruiting efforts there...she just joined the squadron.

(continued on page 13)

"The Word" (continued)

h) AX3 Ray Winkel in receiving a letter of commendation for his outstanding work in the SH-2F Avionics Maintenance Department aboard the USS John Hancock while deployed.

i) AO1 John Cotthaus, AE1 Bernard D. Cordial and AE2 Harry Love in receiving a letter of appreciation from VP-67 for providing maintenance support when one of their P-3A's has a generator problem during a passenger pick-up at PAX.

2) Only in Aviation: "Free Gas" said the poster advertising Cleburne, Texas Municipal Airport's Ninth Annual Free Fly-In Bean Dinner last summer. Next to the large "Free Gas" bannerline was an instruction to see the note below which read..."From the beans, not the pumps."

JUN-1982

Stanfield's Axiom of the Month: Never do card tricks for the group you play poker with.

1) Congratulations: a) Crew 2 of VP-68 was runner-up for the COMRESPATWINGLANT Crew of the Quarter. b) LCDR John Adkisson in being awarded the Armed Forces Reserve Medal. c) Crew 10 in being selected VP-68 Crew of the Quarter (JAN-MAR 1982) with a C.O. letter of commendation going to crew members: LT John Abbitt, LT Reed Birney, LCDR Jock Snyder, LT Kelley Schultz, AT1 Chuck Watts, AW1 Sammy Jackson, AW2 Joe Stewart, AW2 Pete Wade and AE1 Dennis Carroll. d) LCDR Wedekin, LCDR Morgan, LT Starling, ADCS John LeNard, AWC Chris White and AWC Ken Winter in receiving a letter of appreciation from the Navy Recruiting District New Jersey for crewing a "Fly Navy" orientation flight for 19 prospective officer applicants.

2) Aircrewmembers Note: Parachutes should be packed before leaving the ground. Attempting to do it in the air and waiting until the last minute is asking for trouble!

3) Communication: A Commanding Officer gave the following order to his Executive Officer: "Tomorrow evening at approximately 2000 hours, Halley's Comet will be visible in this area, an event which occurs only once every 75 years. Have the men fall in on the pier in dungarees and I will explain this rare phenomenon to them. In case of rain, we will not be able to see anything, so assemble the men on the mess decks and I will show them films of it." The Executive Officer told the Department Head: "By order of the Commanding Officer, tomorrow at 2000 hours, Halley's Comet will appear above the pier. If it rains, fall the men out in dungarees, then proceed to the mess decks where the rare phenomenon will take place – something which occurs only once every 75 years." The Department Head then told his Division Officer: "By order of the Commanding Officer in dungarees at 2000 hours tomorrow evening, the phenomenal Halley's Comet will appear on the mess decks. In case of rain on the pier, the Commanding Officer will give another order, something which occurs once every 75 years." The Division Officer told the leading Petty Officer: "Tomorrow at 2000 hours, the Commanding Officer will appear on the mess decks with Halley's Comet – something which happens every 75 years. If it rains, the Commanding Officer, in dungarees, will order the comet to the pier." The leading Petty Officer passed the word to the division personnel: "When it rains tomorrow at 2000 hours, the phenomenal 75-year-old Admiral Halley, accompanied by the Commanding Officer, will drive his Comet off the pier in dungarees."

JUL-1982

Stanfield's Axiom of the Month: The time to leave is when the tar is hot, the feathers are loose and you see two men walking towards you with a pole.

1) Rota Is Still On If We Pay The Rent: Spain and the U.S. agreed to a five-year extension of American military presence

in Spain, in return for which Spain will get \$400 million in military aid.

2) Safety: On 01JUN, for the second time in less than two years, the Naval Air Reserve Force passed the 100,000 mishap-free flying hours mark.

3) CNO Safety Award To VP-68: Chief of Naval Operations ADM Thomas B. Hayward, in a message of congratulations, said that the "outstanding performance demonstrated by all of the winners reflected sound safety programs aggressively pursued through strong leadership in all levels." Keep up the fine work Blackhawks!

4) Keeping Up To Uniform Changes?: All male Navy PO2s and below will have to wear bell bottoms after October – six months earlier than anticipated. PO1s can expect to be included about a year later. The Dixie Cup also must be worn with dungarees, except in immediate unit areas, where command ball caps can be okayed.

Unit identification patches are expected to surface by October and will be issued to all PO1s and below when they report aboard.

5) Around The World In A P-3: A P-3 Orion from the Pacific Missile Test Center recently flew around the world in 80 hours – that's total flying time. The trip began from Point Magu and proceeded East to Diego Garcia where they provided Harpoon missile support for 7th Fleet units in the Indian Ocean. They then headed East and finished their trip at Magu flying 12 flights in 15 days and accumulated 80 hours of flight time.

6) Way Back: Do you folks from VP-661, one of the parent squadrons of VP-68, remember CDR Mike Lorenzo? After being C.O. of VP-661, he eventually became a Rear Admiral. He was recently appointed Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for International Programs and Technology. VP sailors do well.

7) Congratulations: a) LTs Al Miller, Ted Bode, Jim Dorman and Dennis Grabulis in being selected for LCDR. b) LCDR Ron Stevens in being awarded the Armed Forces Reserve Medal. c) LT Jerome Kulemkemp, AT1 Lew Johnson, AT1 Fred Uile and AT2 Pete Logan in receiving a letter of appreciation from CDR Whittaker, C.O. of VP-4549 for going on active duty during their squadron's cruise to help out as instructors.

8) Watch It: A squadron man was captured last month by two M.A.s at NAS Norfolk for "Smoking in Uniform in Public." We're now looking for the instruction and will keep you posted. A Senior Chief Selectee at the time!!

9) Only In Aviation: A couple of hunters chartered a plane to fly into the Canadian wilderness. Two weeks later when the pilot came back to pick them up, he saw the two animals they had bagged and said..."I told you fellows I could only Take you and ONE moose. You'll have to leave the other behind." "But we did it last year in a plane this size," protested one of the hunters, "and the other pilot let us take two moose." "Well, okay" said the pilot. "If you did it before I guess we can do it again." So the two moose and the hunters were loaded in and the plane took off. Because of the heavy weight, it rose with difficulty and was unable to clear an obstructing hill. After the crash, the men climbed out a looked around. One hunter said to the other "Where are we anyway?" His buddy surveyed the scene and said "I think we are about half a mile farther than we got last year."

AUG / SEP-1982

Stanfield's Axiom of the Month: Experience varies directly with equipment ruined.

1) Congratulations: a) to the following for being advanced in rate: AW3 McDaniel, AW2 Jacobs, AW1 Wade, AW1 Stewart, AD3 Zink, AW1 Wilbur, and AO1 Perlick. b) to the following for earning their Aircrew Wings: AMH1 Marlor, AT1 Servello, and

(continued on page 14)

"The Word" (continued)

AO1 Eaton and AT3 Russell. c) AO1 Cotthaus in being selected VP-68 TAR Sailor of the Quarter (APR-JUN). d) AT1 Hansen in being selected VP-68 SAR Sailor of the Quarter (APR-JUN). e) AO1 Dusablon, AW1 Randolph, AMS1 Ferney, AMS1 Rushmeyer and PR1 Lewis for being selected for advancement to Chief. Once again we hear the proclamation..."You'll never get me to....."!!!!

2) Retirement: In July, YNC Warren Fulks was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal and piped over the side in an impressive retirement ceremony. Chief Fulks has done a tremendous job for the squadron running the ADMIN Department and we wish him and his wife the best of luck in the future.

3) New CNAVRES: Rear Admiral Robert F. Dunn will relieve Rear Admiral Frederick F. Palmer as Chief of Naval Reserve this fall and, as CNAVRES, will spend the first six months of his new tour in Washington, D.C. planning a major reorganization of the Naval Air Reserve. The reorganization will involve the creation of Reserve aviation augmentation units for all fleet air wings. It appears that the CNAVRES billet that Dunn is taking could become a three-star billet, with the flag officer in Washington rather than New Orleans, where the Naval Reserve Headquarters is located.

4) The Cruise: Congratulations to all of you on a highly successful cruise. The Skipper has outlined VP-68's specific achievements in his letter to all hands.

a) As many of you know, I have been keeping a running score for the squadron since its birth in 1971. Here is my tally.....

Rota: VP-68 = 0 / Guardia Civil = 1

Bermuda: VP-68 = 0 / Mopeds = 9

Azores: VP-68 = 0 / Bulls = 6

b) "Happy" Hooker sent words of greeting back to AE1 Doyne and I delivered the message in person because I was afraid Doyne's wife would answer the phone. Honestly, Hooker is a FE attached to VP-26!

c) LCDR Hinchliffe, LT Teixeira, LCDR Kirley and AW1 Grimes (Crew 15) saved cab fare at Lajes by running into Pria and back every day. They were greeted by Portugese kids and dogs and did some fancy stepping around donkey dumplings.

5) The Hierarchy: We welcome aboard AFCM Filardo who will be relieving AFCM Barte as Command Master Chief. Master Chief Filardo, we're glad to see you back with VP-68, and Master Chief Barte thanks for all of your hard work for the squadron and good luck in Willow Grove.

6) Mr. Experience: Jay Beasley, a Lockheed pilot, spent two days with squadron pilots in August. When you fly with a man that has been with Lockheed since 1944, has been a P2-V and P-3 test pilot, has logged over 26,000 landings in P-3s, you are bound to pick up a few good pointers.

OCT-1982

Stanfield's Axiom of the Month: Whatever hits the fan will not be evenly distributed.

1) Congratulations: a) to AO3 Ron Whiteside, AMS3 Michael Roth and AZ2 Lucy Tenwinkel in receiving their PQS Maintenance patches. b) to AM2 Jim Newman in earning the Good Conduct Medal. c) to Crew 2 in being selected as COMRESPATWINGLANT ASW Crew of the Quarter for the period ending 30JUN82.

2) More on Uniforms: To further standardize the appearance of Navy uniforms, "Gabadreme" (100% texturized polyester) will become the only authorized fabric for use in service dress white, summer white and summer khaki uniforms for officers and CPO's. Female summer white (B) and working khaki will continue to be made of present polyester/cotton material.

3) Natops: The CNAVRES inspection team for NATOPS was

with us in September. We came through with flying colors. All seat positions passed and the attendance and scores were better than last year. Aircrewmembers, the hard study and work paid off and the Skipper is smiling from ear to ear.

4) P-3 Competition?: The U.S. Air Force plans test firings next spring of the McDonnell-Douglas Harpoon missiles against shipping targets as part of tests of the Boeing B-52 in a sea-control mission. Use of the B-52 in the sea-control mission has been an on-again, off-again project because of the potential for service rivalries and conflict over the control of sea control assets.

5) P-3 Modernization: All of the active duty P-3B's and some of the Reserve P-3B's have been updated with TAC/NAV kits for a total of 52 aircraft. Unfortunately no money is in the FY83 budget for updates this year. The FY84 plan calls for funds to complete the program.

NOV-1982

Stanfield's Axiom of the Month: Cross-eyed teachers cannot control their pupils.

1) Congratulations: a) to AE2 Dennis Shipp and AE2 Harry Love in earning their PQS Maintenance patches. b) AT2 Pete Logan in receiving his 1,000-hour P-3 pin. c) to AO2 Bob Wilson and AD2 George Brown in earning their Aircrew Wings.

d) to AW1 Dale Grimes in being selected the VP-68 SAR Sailor of the Quarter.

2) Uniform Changes: Among 10 new uniform announcements by the Navy is the reminder that male PO2s and below should no longer be wearing coat-n-tie blues.

3) Latest in ASW: Fisherman Snags a Big One – A Soviet Victor III Class Sub: An Oregon-based commercial fisherman claims that his 80-ton vessel was dragged sideways in international waters off the Washington state coastline by what authorities believe was a Soviet Victor III Class Submarine. The vessel snagged a large object in her nets and was dragged for about 20 minutes at a speed of about three knots before a cable snapped and the object broke loose. Navy officials said that no American sub was operating in the area.

4) Reenlistment Bonuses: In 1983 the following rates are eligible for Reserve affiliation/reenlistment/extension bonuses for up to \$1,800: AW, AX, AK, HM and RM (shown are only those rates that pertain to the squadron).

DEC-1982

Stanfield's Axiom of the Month: When you are over the hill, you pick up speed.

1) Congratulations: to AOAN Bill Cain, AMEAN Preston Ephram, AKAAN Carl Hender, YN2 Lois Taylor and AN Jerry Vygrala for advancing in rate.

2) Former VP-68 C.O.s Do Well: Dr. (CAPT) Donald E. Knuth, VP-68's first Skipper in 1971, has been elected an Honorary Member of the IEEE for "his contributions to the field of computer science, through research and education." Dr. Knuth has been the Fletcher Jones Professor of Computer Science at Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA since 1977. He wrote "The Art of Computer Programming, Vols. 1,2, and 3, and was also the first recipient of the IEEE Computer Pioneer Award.

3) Retirement: This month ADCS Clarence Burke is retiring after a very full 34 years of military service. He was drafted into the Army in 1945, flew six combat missions in B-17s in WWII. He was an engineer in B-36s and also the B-47. He joined the Naval Air Reserves in 1965, and Senior Chief transferred to VP-68 in 1974. Good Luck on your retirement.

4) The Skipper: CDR Harris will be relieved this month as C.O. of VP-68. His leadership helped VP-68 to attain an unprecedented 13 (of 15) ALPHA Crews; win the CNO Safety Award; best CNAVRES NATOPS evaluation in squadron's history. So Captain, thank you for your incredible effort...Good Luck Sir!

Hawk's Nest Christmas' re-visited



T'was the night before Christmas, and out on the ramp...

Author Unknown

(Vol. 29-DEC 2008, submitted by Dick Fickling)

T'was the night before Christmas, and out on the ramp,
not an airplane was stirring not even a Champ.
The aircraft were fastened to tie-downs with care,
in hopes that come morning, they all would be there.
The fuel trucks were nestled all snug in their spots,
with gusts from two-forty at 39 knots.

I slumped at the fuel desk, now finally caught up,
and settled down comfortably, resting my butt.
When the radio lit up with noise and with chatter,
I turned up the scanner to see what was the matter.

A voice clearly heard over static and snow,
called for clearance to land at the airport below.

He barked his transmission so lively and quick,
I'd have sworn that the call sign he used was "St. Nick".

I ran to the panel to turn up the lights,
the better to welcome this magical flight.

He called his position no room for denial,
"St. Nicholas One turnin' left onto final."

And what to my wondering eyes should appear,
but a Rutan-built sleigh with eight Rotax Reindeer!
With vectors to final, down the glideslope he came,
as he passed all fixes he called them by name:

"Now Ringo! Now Tolga! Now Trini and Bacun!
On Comet! On Cupid!" What pills was he takin'?

While controllers were sittin', and scratchin' their head,
they phoned to my office and I heard it with dread,

The message they left was both urgent and dour:
"When Santa pulls in have him please call the tower."

He landed like silk, with the sled runners sparking,
then I heard "Left at Charlie," and "Taxi to parking."

He slowed to a taxi, turned off of three-oh
and stopped on the ramp with a "Ho, ho-ho-ho..."

He stepped out of the sleigh, but before he could talk,
I ran out to meet him with my best set of chocks.

His red helmet and goggles were covered with frost
and his beard was all blackened from Reindeer exhaust.

His breath smelled like peppermint, gone slightly stale,
and he puffed on a pipe, but he didn't inhale.

His cheeks were all rosy and jiggled like jelly,
his boots were as black as a crop duster's belly.

He was chubby and plump, in his suit of bright red,
and he asked me to "fill it", with hundred low-lead.

He came dashing in from the snow-covered pump,

I knew he was anxious for drainin' the sump.
I spoke not a word, but went straight to my work,
and I filled up the sleigh, but I spilled like a jerk.
He came out of the restroom, and sighed in relief,
then he picked up a phone for a Flight Service brief.

And I thought as he silently scribed in his log,
these reindeer could land in an eighth-mile fog.

He completed his pre-flight, from the front to the rear,
then put on his headset, and I heard him yell, "Clear!"

And laying a finger on his push-to-talk,
he called up the tower for clearance and squawk.

"Take taxiway Charlie, the southbound direction,
turn right three-two-zero at pilot's discretion"

He sped down the runway, the best of the best,
"Your traffic's a Grumman, inbound from the west."

I heard him proclaim, as he climbed through the night,
"Merry Christmas to all! I have traffic in sight."



Vol. 32-DEC 2009 The U.S. Military supports Santa Claus too!

Master Chief and the Christmas tree

(Vol.35-DEC 2010, submitted by Jim Rozycki)

Old Master Chief wasn't in one of his best Christmas spirit moods when his grandson asked him why we put angels on top of the Christmas tree.....so he told him!!

Well boy, it went like this.....when four of Santa's elves got sick, the trainee elves did not produce toys as fast as the regular ones, and Santa began to feel the Pre-Christmas pressure.

Then Mrs. Claus told Santa her Mother was coming to visit, which stressed Santa even more. When he went to harness the reindeer, he found that three of them were about to give birth and two others had jumped the fence and were out, Heaven knows where.

Then, when he began to load the sleigh, one of the floor-boards cracked, the toy bag fell to the ground and all the toys were scattered.

Frustrated, Santa went into the house for a cup of apple cider and a shot of rum. When he went to the cupboard, he discovered the elves had drunk all the cider and hidden the liquor.

In his frustration, he accidentally dropped the cider jug, and it broke into hundreds of little glass pieces all over the kitchen floor. He went to get the broom and found the mice had eaten all the straw off the end of the broom.

Just then the doorbell rang, and an irritated Santa marched to the door, yanked it open, and there stood a little angel with a great big Christmas tree.

The angel said very cheerfully, 'Merry Christmas, Santa. Isn't this a lovely day? I have a beautiful tree for you. Where would you like me to stick it?'

And that boy....began the tradition of the little angel on top of the Christmas tree.....not a lot of people know this!

Hawk's Nests Christmas re-visited (continued from page 11)

Piney Flats Christmas tale...

(Vol. 39-DEC 2011, submitted by ole Harry Lee himself)

Three good ole boys died on Christmas Eve and were met by Saint Peter at the pearly gates. Saint Peter said "In honor of this holy season, you must each possess something that symbolizes Christmas to get into heaven."

The first good ole boy fumbled through his pockets and pulled out a pack of matches. He lights one and says. "These are candles." "You may pass through the pearly gates" Saint Peter said.

The second good ole boy reached into his pocket and pulled out a set of keys. He shook them and said, "These are bells." Saint Peter said "You may pass through the pearly gates."

The Creative Genius started searching desperately through his pockets and finally pulled out a pair of women's panties. St. Peter looked at him with a raised eyebrow and asked, "And may I ask....just what do those symbolize?"

Harry Lee replied, "These are Carol's."

And finally...this year.....

Rudolph in Russia

(Vol. 43-DEC 2012, submitted by Jim Rozycki)

To prepare for the coming holiday, Santa told Rudolph to take a vacation so Rudolph headed "south" to Russia.

There he met this Communist fellow in a bar where the conversation turned to weather.

Rudolph said that it was really snowing hard outside but the Communist fellow insisted that it was really raining hard outside.

This bantering back and forth went on for some time before the female bartender stopped the two of them. She told Rudolph that the Communist fellow was correct.

Rudolph asked her how she was so sure and she said.....

(are you ready for this?)

....."Rudolph, the Red knows rain dear!!"

Halloween Moon



Ole Master Chief & Rye Bread

(submitted by Nick Schaus)

The 80-year-old runner had just finished his morning jog and wasn't even short of breath. Ole retired Master Chief was amazed at the guy's stamina and asked him what he did to have so much energy. The 80-year-old said, "Well, I eat rye bread every day. It keeps your energy level high and you'll have great stamina with the ladies."

So, on the way home Ole Master Chief stopped at the bakery. As he was looking around, the saleslady asked if he needed any help. He said, "Do you have any rye bread?" She said, "Yes, there's a whole shelf of it. Would you like some?" He said, "I want five loaves." She said, "My goodness, five loaves! By the time you get to the 3rd loaf, it'll be hard."

He replied, "Damn, I can't believe everybody knows about this but me."

Hawk's Nest Feature **Here's Why...# 7**

(submitted by Ed Stanfield - source: Navy Times)

Ever heard a sleepy person referred to as "groggy"? The term's use in the U.S. dates back to a ration given to sailors in the Navy's early days: a daily half-pint of rum, also called grog.

Rum was so much a part of a sailor's life that a popular saying came into use, according to Naval History and Heritage Command: "Blow up the magazines; throw the bread over the side, and sink the salt horse – but handle them spirits gentle-like." Sailors who consumed too much could be said to get "groggy", a term that has evolved to mean "sleepy."

Think a free half-pint of booze every day sounds like your kind of Navy? You're way too late – in 1862, according to the heritage command, Congress ruled "the spirit ration in the Navy of the United States shall forever cease." Another buzz-kill came in 1914 when then-Navy Secretary Josephus Daniels abolished popular wardroom and captain's wine messes.

(Editor's Note: That's why we aircrewmembers carried on this fine age-old tradition of havin' a grog or two.....aye matey!)

Hawk's Nest Feature **Here's Why...# 8**

(submitted by Ed Stanfield - source: Navy Times)

Why do Navy devices show a fouled anchor, something usually avoided? As with many naval traditions, the service



borrowed it from Great Britain. The fouled anchor was adopted as the seal of the Lord Howard of Effingham, Lord Admiral of England at the time of the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588. During this period, the personal seal of a great officer was adopted as the seal of his office. The fouled anchor still remains the official seal of the Lord High Admiral of Great Britain.

"It seems strange that the navies of the world should use as an insignia the abomination of all good sailors," Cedric Windas wrote in his 1942 book, "Traditions of the Navy." "Somewhere back in the early days, a draftsman with more artistic ability than technical knowledge produced the well-known design." Nevertheless, it has been part of the U.S. Navy since the beginning of the fleet.

(also see "Goat Locker" on page 10)

Classified Ad:**Newsletter Editor/Publisher**

The VP-68 Alumni Association is currently seeking a Blackhawk or Blackhawks, to serve as the Editor/Publisher of the quarterly newsletter, the Hawk's Nest.

The individual(s) must have a genuine interest in preserving the name and history of Navy Patrol Squadron Six-Eight (VP-68) and it's parent and supporting Navy squadrons.

Job skills required are: some ability to use the computer (even if it is only with 2 fingers!) and a sense of humor.

The job requires you to collect and compile (from various sources) Navy and pertinent current information; Blackhawk personal interest stories and humor in our newsletter format and email the completed newsletter to Nevins Frankel at the VP-68 Alumni Association website.

And finally, as reassurance that you may be qualified for the position we again quote the retiring editor...

.....***"Why, it's so easy...even an AW can do it!"***

To apply (volunteer) for the position, please contact any of the current VP-68 Alumni Association Officers using the contact information found on page 18 of this newsletter.

From the Retiring Editor:

Jim Rozycki

What an extreme honor and pleasure it has been to be Editor of the Hawk's Nest. Unfortunately, I currently have a progressive neurological condition that affects my muscles making walking and now use of hands very difficult. I took over "temporarily" as Editor in 2006 and now seven years later I really do not want to let it go...but I must.

I especially want to say ***"Thank You"*** to my inspiration...Ed Stanfield (*"The Word"* author) and to you Blackhawk "Contributing Editors" who have called, mailed and emailed me your contributions for the Hawk's Nest newsletter over the years.

A very special ***"Thank You"*** goes out to Kevin Dillon, who has supplied me with tons of info to do the Hawk's Nest feature titled ***Tri-Care • Medicare • Social Security***. Kevin cut and mailed me many articles from sources such as: 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 and more. On page 10, I list many of the links to these sources for your convenience. Keep informed folks!

Spending nearly 20 years with VP-68, I have made some very close and life-long friendships. The Hawk's Nest has been a way for me to stay close to all of you and I hope it has helped you to do the same. VP-68 was a terrific squadron with terrific people...IT STILL IS!!

I fully intend to remain on as a "Contributing Editor" as it is really fun and I enjoy presenting to you the Blackhawks, the news, the articles and the humor related to "our Navy."

My enthusiasm got me so into doing it, that I inadvertently almost turned the newsletter into a newspaper!! But...that is how much fun it was doing it.

For the new Editor, I have archived on discs every issue to date, the format used and a lot of the materials. I will work closely with you for a smooth transition and continue to submit materials for the newsletter as folks have done for me.

Thank you all again...hope to see y'all at the next function!

rozyckijim@aol.com

President's Corner

Jacque LaValle

It has been my pleasure to have served the VP-68 Alumni Association as its president for the past four years.

The Association has accomplished much, thanks to the hard work and dedication of so many of you. As I look back, the Association completed some amazing milestones.

- The 40-year reunion held at Pax River in 2010 introduced the new P-8A Poseidon aircraft coupled with another record breaking attendance of our membership.

- The first Alumni Association Cruise took place this year where many of you sailed the open seas on board a real ship and not a P-3 or C-141.

- The VP-68 Alumni Association Memorial Plaque is now prominently displayed at the Navy Memorial in Washington, DC.

- By the time you read this, the P-3C static display with the "Blackhawk" tail feathers will have been dedicated at Joint Base Andrews at the Operations building.

- Spring Fling attendance increased significantly with more officers appearing and becoming members. Your support with all our activities has been outstanding and greatly contributed to making our association stronger.

To that end we welcome our new Association president, Wyman Bailey, our new vice-president, Nancy Frey, our returning secretary, Kathy Wright, and our new treasurer, Fred Haynes. I ask each of you to fully support our newly elected officers and give them the same level of support that you gave to me.

Our Association is still in need of volunteers. Our Hawk's Nest Editor, Jim Rozycki, will be stepping down after this newsletter. Jim will be greatly missed and his shoes will be difficult to fill, but I know there are some talented folks out there who can step up to the plate. If interested, please let Jim or any one of the Association officers know.

Volunteers are also needed to organize and support our yearly Spring Fling (Pax River) and Fall Muster (Solomon's Island Recreation Center). 2013 will be my 10th year organizing the Spring Fling and now it's time for me to move on. If you are interested and can help in any way, again please contact one of the Association officers.

Dues are due in January, so please remit and send those dues to Fred. And lastly, keep those sharp eagle eyes out for VP-68 shipmates who need to become members of the VP-68 Alumni Association!

Again, it has been a pleasure to serve and a blessing to have strengthened the Association. May everyone have a safe and blessed holiday season, a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. See you all soon at an airport near you!

Have a fine Navy day!

jacque.lavalle@verizon.net

Jacque...

***Thank You for the
great job as President!***

2013 & 2014 Association Officers

President Wyman Bailey
baileymod@msn.com
 Vice-President Nancy Frey
monroviadame@yahoo.com
 Secretary Kathy Wright
wright_kathleen@bah.com
 Treasurer Fred Haynes
cruzintogether@earthlink.net
 Historian Ed Stanfield
edwin.stanfield@gmail.com

From the Secretary

Kathy Wright

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:

Email me at: wright_kathleen@bah.com

Call me at: 1-703-867-8604

Mail to me at: VP-68 Alumni Association
 4924 25th Street S
 Arlington, VA 22206

From the Treasurer

Fred Haynes

Members who have not renewed their dues by March of each year will be dropped from our member roster, lose their membership rights and no longer receive Association mailings.

Please consider converting to a Life Membership and never have to write us another check.

Annual Membership = \$10 yearly

Life Membership = \$100 one-time
 (\$25 one-time over age 70)

Make checks payable to:

VP-68 Alumni Association

Mail all dues payments & financial matters to:

**VP-68 Alumni Association
 80 Falling Leaf Drive
 Youngsville, NC 27596**

Email me at: cruzintogether@earthlink.net

Call me at: 1-919-761-8845

NOTE NEW ADDRESS, EMAIL & PHONE NUMBER

Membership Committee

Dick Perkins

The Membership Committee 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

When you are calling or sending emails to your Blackhawk friends, ask them if they are members in the VP-68 Alumni Association. 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 website or bring them to the next function.

Applications may be downloaded from our website:

www.vp68.org

(or use the one on page 19 of this issue)

From the Editor:

(currently vacant)

This is **YOUR** newsletter and we want to include everybody in it. We are 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? Are any of your children or grandchildren in the military?

We want to print Navy and especially Blackhawk news. We need you to send us jokes, photos (especially if you have ones from the "early" years of the squadron), videos, power-points, internet links, etc....anything and everything you can to help us produce this Hawk's Nest newsletter.

Email me at: _____

Call me at: _____

Mail to me at: VP-68 Hawk's Nest

Hawk's Nests will be published in:

March – June – September – December

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:

Did you know.....?

When you view issues of the Hawk's Nest on our website and see links to other websites or folks email addresses these are actually hyperlinks and all you have to do is "click" on them and you will go to that site directly rather than have to type it all over yourself...TRY IT!!

www.vp68.org

**SEE YOU AT THE
 2013 SPRING FLING**

27 APRIL 2013

**NAS PATUXENT RIVER
 LEXINGTON PARK, MD**

Editor Note: On page 11, in P-3 photo #2 did you spot the moon in the picture? Hint...look very closely at the forward starboard observer window! Now that the statue-of-limitations has expired I can publish it. (I told him I got a photo of it!!)

**VP-68 Alumni Association
80 Falling Leaf Drive
Youngsville, NC 27596
1-919-761-8845**

2013-2014 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(please print)

name: _____

address: _____

city: _____

state: _____ zip code: _____

home phone: _____

cell phone: _____ (optional)

e-mail : _____

when in VP-68?: _____

rank / rate / dept: _____

1) I hereby apply for the following membership (CHECK ONE):

- ☐ \$100 = Life Membership (one-time fee)
- ☐ \$25 = Life Membership **70 or older** (one-time fee) **DOB:** _____
- ☐ \$10 = Regular & Associate Membership (Annually - 01Jan to 31 DEC)

NOTE: Make checks payable to: "VP-68 Alumni Association",
mail check and completed membership application to above address.

2) I would be interested in serving on the following committee(s):

- ☐ Membership ☐ Nom. & Elections ☐ Audit / Budget
- ☐ Fund Raising ☐ Reunions ☐ Newsletter
- ☐ Constitution & By-Laws

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

The Alumni Association shall conduct programs to perpetuate the memory of Navy Patrol Squadron 68 (VP-68) and to provide social and recreational activities for its membership. Life & Regular Membership includes: voting privileges; quarterly "Hawks Nest" newsletter; attendance at annual events; reunions and other functions.

Privacy Statement: The VP-68 Alumni Association holds membership information strictly confidential and does not sell, disburse or distribute this information and uses it solely for Association purposes.

signed: _____ date: _____

(continued from page 1)

We are sailing on the Royal Caribbean "Grandeur of the Seas" that just underwent a \$48 million renovation at the Navantia Shipyard in Cadiz (Rota) Spain, that includes five new restaurants, a poolside LED screen, a new nursery, shipwide technological upgrades and sprucing up the staterooms with new furniture, carpets, upholstery and flat-screen TVs. Also new to the ship will be aerial entertainment in the six-story Centrum.



Once again the Officers and Board members of Patrol Squadron VP68 Alumni Association are preparing a cruise for the beautiful island of Bermuda; this time aboard the beautiful **Grandeur of the Seas**.

We will be departing Baltimore on **Friday, May 31, 2013** for seven fun filled days and returning **Friday, June 7, 2013**.

This is an opportunity for those of you who couldn't make last April's cruise to sign up for this one. Can you think of a better way to spend 7 days? You'll enjoy quality time to relax and reminisce about all the many wonderful cruises we went on with the squadron.

You will dine together in luxurious surroundings, enjoying the finest selection of meals. You will meet many new and wonderful fellow cruisers, try your luck in the casino, and take in spectacular Broadway style shows, specialty acts and comedians. You can participate in or just enjoy others trying karaoke. You can pamper yourself in the spa, explore the wonderful & colorful island of Bermuda or just soak up some rays. Do it all or perhaps do nothing at all! Your choice; your vacation! You'll return home with wonderful stories that will generate many new memories. Your Alumni Officers and Board Members are looking forward to this exciting cruise.

Don't let the ship set sail without you!!!!

DETAILS:

All rates are per person (based on double occupancy) and include (all inclusive of):

Accommodations as selected, port charges, govt. tax and security fees, all meals and entertainment onboard.

Group amenities (to be determined) and a Private Meet & Greet Coffee/Danish Breakfast Meeting will also be included.

Rates: **Interior Stateroom:** \$1,117 = Category M: Deck 2 mid-ship, Deck 3 mid-ship & Deck 4 forward

Large Ocean View Stateroom: \$1,177 = Category I: Deck 2 mid-ship

\$1,187 = Category H: Deck 3 mid-ship

\$1,207 = Category G2: Deck 4 mid-ship & forward

The above rates are group rates. Please be aware that Royal Caribbean offers a wide range of promotional with varying prices. Promotional rates maybe be lower than group rates, please call to discuss if a lower rate is available at the time of booking.

OPTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- 1) Above are our Group Promotional Categories - Other Categories are available – contact Libby for details.
- 2) You may elect to add Travel Insurance, \$59 to \$89 per person (based on cabin category selected)
- 3) Pre-Paid Gratuities of \$82 per person includes stateroom steward and dining room wait staff.
- 4) Dining Room Preference: 6:00 PM, 8:00 PM or "My-Time Dining" (*)=\$82/person gratuity automatically added.
- 5) A \$250 per person deposit is required at the time of booking to secure your stateroom
- 6) Final payment will be due on or before March 1, 2013
- 7) Proof of citizenship will be required for travel. Currently you may cruise with your certified, state issued birth certificate and photo ID; however, a passport is highly recommended.

Check out Royal Caribbean Website at: www.royalcaribbean.com

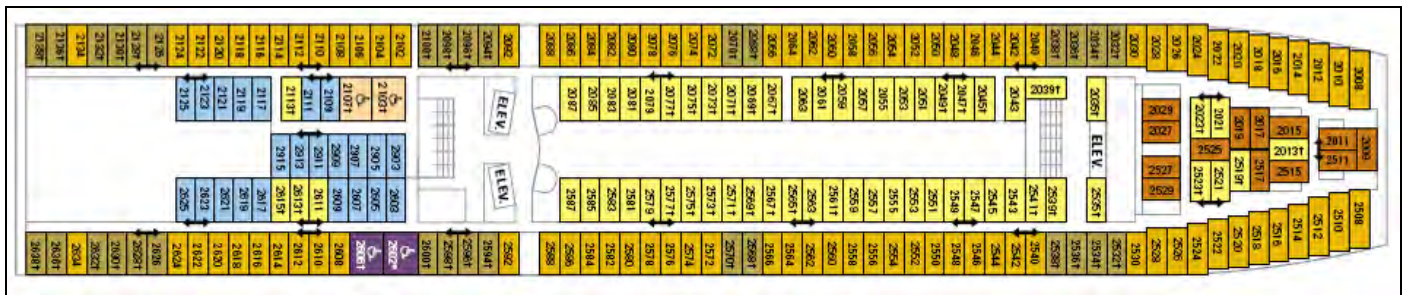
For additional information and to join the group contact:

TRADEWINDS TRAVEL 12800 Frederick Rd - Suite 203A
 Libby @ 1-301-317-4548 P. O. Box 222
 email: trwindstvl@aol.com West Friendship, MD 21794
 website: www.tradewindstravelinc.com

For other questions please contact:

WYMAN BAILEY
 1-410-465-8884
baileymod@msn.com

(continued from page 29)

Royal Caribbean - "Grandeur of the Seas"**DECK 2 – Category M & I****SYMBOL LEGEND**

- △ Stateroom with sofa bed.
- * Stateroom has third Pullman bed available.
- † Stateroom has third and fourth Pullman beds available.
- ‡ Connecting staterooms.
- ⊕ Indicates accessible staterooms.
- ◆ Stateroom with sofa bed and third Pullman bed available.
- ⊕ Stateroom has four additional Pullman beds available.

OUTSIDE**Oceanview Stateroom**

Two twin beds (can convert into queen-size), sitting area with sofa, vanity area and a private bathroom. (151 sq. ft.)
Please note: Staterooms 2008-2014 & 2505-2514 have two portholes instead of a window.

Accessible Outside Stateroom

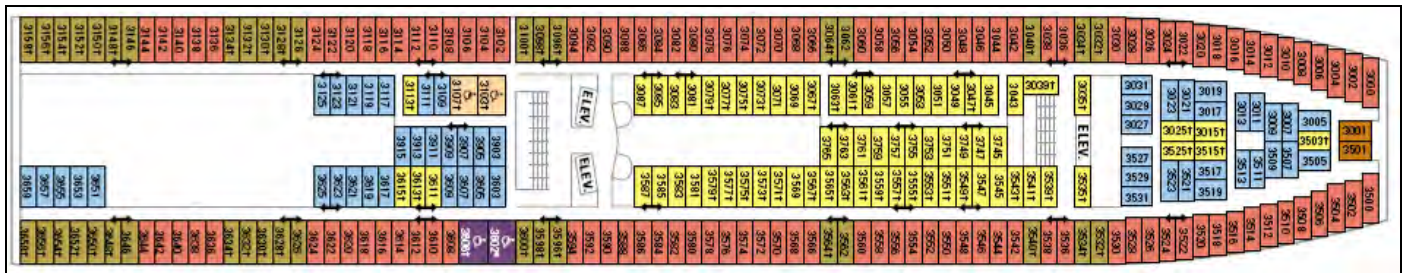
Two twin beds (can convert into queen-size) with open bed frames, wider entry door, turning spaces, sitting area with lowered vanity, closet rods, and safe, and a private bathroom with a wider door, roll-in shower, grab bars, fold-down shower bench, hand-held shower head, raised toilet, and a lowered sink. (262 sq. ft.)

INTERIOR**Interior Stateroom**

Two twin beds (can convert into queen-size), vanity area, and a private bathroom. (136 sq. ft.)

Accessible Inside Stateroom

Two twin beds (can convert into queen-size) with open bed frames, wider entry door, turning spaces, sitting area with lowered vanity, closet rods, and safe, and a private bathroom with a wider door, roll-in shower, grab bars, fold-down shower bench, hand-held shower head, raised toilet, and a lowered sink. (252 sq. ft.)

DECK 3 – Category M & H**OUTSIDE****Large Ocean View Stateroom**

Two twin beds (can convert into queen-size), sitting area with sofa, vanity area and a private bathroom. (151 sq. ft.)
Please note: Staterooms 3000-3014 & 3500-3514 have two portholes instead of a window.

Accessible Outside Stateroom

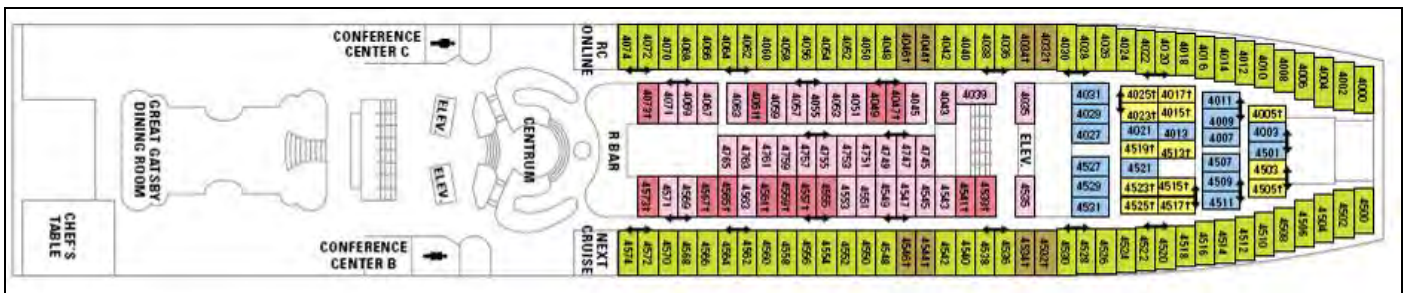
Two twin beds (can convert into queen-size) with open bed frames, wider entry door, turning spaces, sitting area with lowered vanity, closet rods, and safe, and a private bathroom with a wider door, roll-in shower, grab bars, fold-down shower bench, hand-held shower head, raised toilet, and a lowered sink. (262 sq. ft.)

INTERIOR**Interior Stateroom**

Two twin beds (can convert into queen-size), vanity area, and a private bathroom. (136 sq. ft.)

Accessible Inside Stateroom

Two twin beds (can convert into queen-size) with open bed frames, wider entry door, turning spaces, sitting area with lowered vanity, closet rods, and safe, and a private bathroom with a wider door, roll-in shower, grab bars, fold-down shower bench, hand-held shower head, raised toilet, and a lowered sink. (252 sq. ft.)

DECK 4 – Category M & G2**OUTSIDE****Large Ocean View Stateroom**

Two twin beds (can convert into queen-size), sitting area with sofa, vanity area and a private bathroom. (151 sq. ft.)

INTERIOR**Large Interior Stateroom**

Two twin beds (can convert into queen-size), vanity area and a private bathroom. (145 sq. ft.)

Interior Stateroom

Two twin beds (can convert into queen-size), vanity area, and a private bathroom. (136 sq. ft.)

VP68 GROUP BOOKING FORM Sailing: 5/31/13 GROUP BOOKING #: 5602954
Royal Caribbean Grandeur of the Seas

Booking Date: _____ CF # _____

Category: _____ Cabin: _____

Dining Preference: 6:00 PM _____ 8:30 PM _____ or My-Time (*): _____ (*) = auto \$82 gratuity added/person

Guest(s): _____ DOB: _____

Guest(s) or Sharing with: _____ DOB: _____

Guests(s) or Sharing with: _____ DOB: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: w / h/ c _____

Email: _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp: _____ Sec # _____

THIS SECTION FOR AGENCY USE ONLY:

Cost (per person/per cabin): Base \$ _____ Tax : \$ _____ Total = \$ _____

Insurance: No _____ Yes _____ = \$ _____ Pre Paid Gratuities at \$82 / person x _____ persons = \$ _____

Payments: _____ Total Booking (per person/per cabin) = \$ _____

Date Received / Date Deposited (ck / mo / cash / cc)	FOP	Amount	Balance:
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Comments: _____