



VP-68 Hawk's Nest

Volume No. 14

VP68 Alumni Association

Fall 2003

Fall Muster

The Fall Muster is just around the corner, be thinking about attending, once again at Andrews AFB.

Tentative date is October 18, 2003.

Access to AAFB - if they are in ThreatCon Charlie or lower, ID card. Sticker will speed things up, if they are in Delta, thing are more difficult and the lines can be long to access AAFB. Right know a sticker and ID gets you on, no problem. As always, if anyone needs to get on base, Carrie Blazek (mcbaze@erols.com) needs full name and SSN for attendees. She will get a list to the pass office at the main gate. We're on for 3 pm until. Pizza, beverages and good friends as always.

Crew News

CAC 8 had a gathering of the crew from Friday, August 22 to Sunday August 24th in Beaufort, NC.

PPC Mark (Mr. Kool) Bumgardner led the crew to a wonderful 3 days, at NAV, Pat (never get lost) Schlteas summer home in Beaufort, NC. Pronounced "bo-fort". This is the home of Blackbeard the infamous pirate. In attendance were Mike (sin-kem dog man) Hyder, TACCO, Larry (Mr. Smoo-thie) Stubbs, wild Bill (BB stacker) Eaton, ORD, Bob (Mr. Radar) Powell and yours truly Vic (smell



that burnin jez paper) Kraft, SSI.

Mark, Mike and Pat played golf and of course who else Mark showed the way with

a blistering (Tiger Woods performance). The young guys hit the bars Friday night and Pat led the way to the best places in town. The old guys faded and went to bed early.

Saturday featured a cookout and Bob Powell managed to start the fire on the last match with wet charcoal. (Boy Scout of the year award). Afterwards we all sat around and told sea stories and Mark showed us his motorcycle helmet and described its attachment to Route 66 some 10 years

ago. He's a tough guy. We watched home movies of our last cruise in 1990 to Rota, SP and I think I saw Mt Aetna erupt about 50 times. We made at least that many takeoffs and landings there and Sig. That 151 rum has a habit of making you repeat yourself. Anyway we had a great time and we plan on doing it again next year.

We did mourn one of our own though, Rex (Mr. West by God Virginia) Lake, FE. Who couldn't make it because of weather. He was missed. We all departed early Sunday after a fine breakfast prepared by Pat(don't burn the rolls) Schulte. Well we had a fire of unknown origin but crew 8 responded as usual. Good job crew no more NATOPS for us only party time. (Vic Kraft)

President's Corner

Wow, how time flies! Schools are opening, summer is almost over, time for vacation. When we return from vacation it will be well into leaf raking (and VP-68 Fall Fest) season.

As I look back over the past three months I compare my August list of completed tasks to my May list of summer goals. ugh, not a pretty sight. How could I have been so busy and accomplished so little?

Following are a few summer events:

- June- One task that I was remiss in was professional web surfing. I missed the FY04 LDO/CWO In-Service Procurement Board Selection Message. Two Blackhawks were prominently listed as selectees and I missed it. Belated congratulations to Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Selectee, CWO C. W. Furlow and Chief Warrant Officer Selectee, AWC Tom Donnelly.

- July- CRPW COC, Captain Michael J Szostak USN assumed command of the wing and Blackhawk Commander Rick Cline USNR (TAR) is XO. Speculations and rumors of the future of Reserve VP were everywhere. Separating fact from fiction

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was beyond me but it was obvious that big changes are on the way.

- August- Fall Fest scheduled, October 18, 2003
1500 Local Sports Page AAFB.. be there!

Well, OPK (other people's kids) are back in school so Jeanie & I are outa here. See ya'all in October.

Reminders

There are still prints, rubber stamps and other squadron items available from your alumni association. I am sure we will have a good stock at the Spring Fling, but if you can't wait or need something just in time for Easter, get in touch with Jim Rozycki for current prices. Jim can be found at rozycki-ijim@aol.com or the below address. We have the VP-68 Lithograph, "The Planes We Flew" rubber stamps and copies of "The Sky is Reserved" video. Order early and allow two weeks for delivery.

Make checks payable to **VP-68 Alumni Association** and send them to:

VP-68 Alumni Association
2414 Rolling Farms Road
Glenshaw, PA 15116

From the Secretary's Corner

Please get in touch with me if you move or change email addresses, it is the only way we can keep track of you. Send your information to me by email - wright_kathleen@bah.com or snail mail - 4773 W. Braddock Road, Apt 204, Alexandria, VA 22311.

By popular demand here are some Navy web addresses that might be of some interest: Keep watching here, we will add more information in the next newsletter.

www.vp68.org

Is "*on the air*", if anyone has any suggestions or changes, or new materials, contact any of the Alumni Officers.

Naval Reserves

<http://www.navres.navy.mil/>

This site is the central gateway for online resources for the Navy Reserve

Navy Reserve Personnel Center

<http://www.nrpcweb.nola.navy.mil/Index.htm>

Have any questions regarding reserve personnel records, retirement point accreditation, commissary cards etc? This is your place.

Armed Forces Vacation Club

<http://www.afvclub.com/>

For related news, visit the Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation Navy

NewsStand page at www.news.navy.mil/local/navymwr .

Government & Armed Forces Travel Cooperative Newsletter
The bi-weekly travel newsletter for all current and retired

members of the armed forces www.govarm.com

The new URL for all Naval Reserve commands is <http://reserves.navy.mil> Note: "Login" button for the private side is located in the upper right hand corner of the page.

For related news, visit the Naval Reserve Force Navy NewsStand page at www.news.navy.mil/local/nrf.

Checkout www.MilitaryBenefits.com for information about benefits.

Official/Other Business

Below are excerpts from a variety of "official" and unofficial sites.

Check out the VP-68 web page for the retirement announcement of AVCM La Valle. Jacques retires on 01 NOV 03 at NAS Brunswick. Check out www.vp68.org for an invitation. Anybody up for carpooling? Get in touch with your shipmates. Click on the slide show presentation on the website's home page. If you plan on attending, please RSVP by 01 October 2003 so Jacques can get a head count for the reception.

Newsletter Inputs

Your inputs for the newsletter should be sent to Dick Fickling, p3css1@aol.com for inclusion in the quarterly mailing. The cutoff for the next addition is November 30, 2003. Need items of interest, retirements and other Alumni news.

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