



VP ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

AN ASSOCIATION OF VETERANS WHO SERVED WITH THE NAVAL AIR RESERVE PATROL SQUADRONS BASED AT NAS SQUANTUM MA, NAS SOUTH WEYMOUTH MA, AND NAS BRUNSWICK ME

ISSUE 30

APRIL 2008

Welcome to the very first edition of the “new” VP Association newsletter. It’s “new” because starting with this issue there’s a new newsletter editor, Marc J. Frattasio (VP-MAU/VP-92), who’s agreed to help Herb Tallent put this publication together. Marc will work with Herb in an effort to get four newsletters out per year. VP-92 alumni Bill Hanigan and George Driscoll have also stepped in to assist Herb with the day-to-day management tasks of this organization. Going forward, please direct all VP Association-related correspondence to:

William Hanigan
23 Parkview Terrace
Duxbury, MA 02359
Telephone: 781-585-4950
E-Mail: vpassociation@aol.com

FINAL FLIGHTS:

It is our sad duty to report that we lost four shipmates recently, Phil Brangiforte of Quincy, MA, Guiseppe (Joe) Ellera of Waltham, MA, Malvin E. Meador of Erie, CO, and Lou Wallace (home town unknown). All four men served with VP-92. Phil was a plank owner.

ANNUAL REUNION:

The VP Association’s annual reunion will be held at the Officer’s Club at Hanscom AFB in Bedford, MA on Saturday September 20, 2008 from 1200 to 1700. We must vacate the banquet hall promptly at 1700 but the “side bar” will be open afterwards for those who wish to stay and continue the festivities. A cash bar and appetizers will commence at 1200. A buffet meal will be served beginning at 1300 with a menu that will include roast beef, chicken, potato, assorted vegetables, etc. The cost of the reunion banquet will be \$40 per person. A banquet reservation order form is presented on the last page of this newsletter. Please note that attendance will be strictly limited to 150 people and banquet reservations, first come-first served, will be required in advance. Tickets will not be sold at the door this year. Please mail your reservation in as soon as you can to prevent disappointment and so we can tell the caterer how many people to expect.

Hanscom AFB is an active-duty military installation requiring a military ID, active or retired, to be presented to the gate guards for entry under normal circumstances. If you do not have a military ID be sure to indicate this fact on the banquet reservation order form so your name can be added to the base’s security access list for the day of the reunion. Note, all persons without a valid military ID will be required to enter the base at the civilian gate, not the Hartwell gate. If there are any questions about this contact Bill Hanigan at 781-585-4950 or vpassociation@aol.com.

Those persons who wish to stay overnight should contact Hanscom AFB directly at 1-888-235-6343 for information regarding hotel accommodations on the base or in the local area.

Please try to get the word out to as many of your old friends from VP-92, VP-3001, VP-3101, VP-63Z1, VP-63Z2, VP-63Z3, VP-11Z4, VP-911, VP-912, VP-913, VP-914, VP-915, VP-916, VP-917, VP-ML-69, VP-919, VPB-92, VP-MAU, etc., as possible. Don't assume that every former shipmate that you know is affiliated with or even aware of the VP Association. Guests, military or civilian, are also welcome to attend the reunion.

As in prior years tables will be available in a room adjacent to the banquet hall for displays of memorabilia that you may wish to bring. If you have photos, cruise books, patches, NATOPS manuals, or any other interesting memorabilia that you'd like to show off please bring it with you.

ADMIN FUND DONATIONS:

A big "Thank You" to Tom Carroll (VP-92), Marc Frattasio (VP-92), and George Folopoulos (VP-913) for their recent contribution to the administration fund to help defray the expense of printing and mailing newsletters to shipmates without e-mail access since we do not have dues.

LOST CONTACT:

Please be sure to let us know whenever your address, street address or e-mail address, changes.

The following people have had their newsletters returned by the Post Office as "unable to forward":

Mark Biggs	Barry Burst	Henry Destoop	Aaron Hargis	Harry Jacobson
Joshua Justice	Thomas Lissell	Robert Marble	M. C. Carry	Vern Moore
Raymond St, Onge	John Steckel	Thomas Whitney		

We also need the mailing addresses for former VP-92 C.O.s Peter L. Blessing and William D. Dobbs.

If anybody has valid contact information for any of the individuals listed above please inform Bill Hanigan by mail, telephone, or e-mail as presented on the first page of this newsletter.

RECENT CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

William Caradona (VP-914)	James Brown (VP-92)	Diana Farrone (VP-92)
7 Harrington Drive	11 Stagecoach Road	45047 Plummer Street
Ashland, MA 01721	Woolwich, ME 04759	Rushford Village, MN 55971
		207-595-1597
		dianaf1961@hotmail.com

VP-92 PLANK OWNER LIST WANTED:

Does anybody out there have a list of VP-92 plank owners? If so, please contact Bill Hanigan.

EXPANDED SECOND EDITION OF THE VP-92 BOOK NOW AVAILABLE:

An expanded second edition of "The Minutemen of VP-92: The Story of New England's Naval Air Reserve Patrol Squadron" is now available. The second edition has 303 pages, 451 photographs, more "sea stories", and brings the history of VP-92 to a close with coverage of the decommissioning weekend. By way of comparison the original first edition had "only" 203 pages and 216 photographs. As was the case with the first edition, this book is only available directly from the printer and is not available in stores. Softcovers can be obtained on-line at <http://www.lulu.com/content/757344> for \$25 while hardcovers can be obtained at <http://www.lulu.com/content/1922535> for \$40 plus \$4.30 for shipping. The author, your new newsletter editor Marc Frattasio, can place an order with the printer

for anybody who does not have access to the Internet. To order books through Marc, send a check for \$29.30 for each softcover or \$44.30 for each hardcover to Marc J. Frattasio, P.O. Box 30, Pembroke MA 02359. Please note that all books are shipped directly from the printer so Marc is unable to provide autographed copies. However, if you bring your book to the annual reunion or to one of the monthly lunch meetings that Marc is able to attend he'll sign it for you.

OTHER RECOMMENDED READING:

VP Association member Bill Horsch, formerly a TAR at NAS Squantum and NAS South Weymouth and now the driving force behind the Patriot Squadron's South Weymouth museum effort, has recently published a book about his twenty-year Navy career. Bill's new book, "ATCS Bill Horsch: One Man's Career in Naval Aviation", has 151 pages and 33 photos. It tells the story of Bill's adventures in the Navy starting as a radar technician assigned to early Hellcat night fighter units in WW2 through his postwar career as an active-duty reservist flying Catalinas, Privateers, Neptunes, and Trackers at NAS Squantum, NAS South Weymouth, NAS Los Alamitos, and NAS Minneapolis. It's a great read that provides a wonderful insight into the reserve program of the 1940s and 1950s. You can order a copy on-line directly through the printer at <http://www.lulu.com/content/1582142> for \$15 plus \$4.30 for shipping or by sending a check for \$19.30 to William A. Horsch, 1007 Union Street, Rockland MA 02370.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM CDR SCOTT BAILEY, THE FINAL C.O. OF VP-92:

In preparation for our deactivation, we made arrangements with a company called Squadron Graphics to put together a wonderful full-color limited-edition artwork print of the very last aircraft assigned to VP-92, P-3C Orion "Lima Yankee 127", Bureau Number 161127. The print includes the squadron's commissioning and decommissioning dates, a brief historical narrative about the squadron, images of the squadron's original guillotine and later Minuteman insignia, aviator, NFO, and aircrew wings, and is really a beautiful piece. Unfortunately, we did not do a good job highlighting these beautiful prints at the decommissioning ceremony and I would like to generate some interest in the print for Squadron Graphics, who went to such great trouble to assemble it for us. There are a wide variety of matting and framing choices available at various prices and all of it can be viewed on-line at <http://www.squadrongraphics.com/p-1326-p-3-orion.aspx>. If you would like any help with your order, feel free to contact me directly via e-mail at scott.m.bailey@navy.mil or call me at 207-841-3433. I encourage all of you to visit this web site and give serious thought to purchasing a copy of this fine piece of history marking our shared time in Patrol Squadron NINE-TWO. All my best. Sincerely, Skipper Scott Bailey.

The small low-resolution image reproduced at right does not even come close to demonstrating the beauty and detail of this special limited-edition print. As Scott Bailey indicated above, the print is available with a wide variety of matting and framing choices at various price points. The print itself, without matting or a frame, is available directly from Squadron Graphics for just \$26 plus postage.



ON THE INTERNET:

A few web sites recently came to our attention that you may be interested in. DD-214s are now available on the Internet via the National Personnel Records center at <http://vetrects.archives.gov>. The Department of Veteran’s Affairs has put records for 3.2 million veterans buried at 120 national cemeteries since the Civil War on the Internet at <http://www.cem.va.gov>. If you haven’t checked it out yet, VP-5 veteran Nevins Frankel’s VP-Navy web site at <http://www.vpnavy.org> is a must-see.

MONTHLY MEETING:

Don’t forget that we meet for lunch on the last Thursday of every month at the Officer’s Club at Hanscom AFB in Bedford, MA from 1130 to 1330. Please join us if you can. If you don’t have a military ID (base stickers are no longer required) contact Okie O’Connell at 781-335-0553 or Bill Hanigan at 781-585-4950 so your name can be added to the base’s security access list. Note, all persons without a military ID are required to enter the base at the civilian gate, not the Hartwell gate.

That’s all for now. If you have anything that you’d like to have included in a future issue of this newsletter contact Marc J. Frattasio, P.O. Box 30, Pembroke MA 02359, marc_frattasio@yahoo.com.

Until next time, Fair Winds and Following Seas to all of you out there – “Frat”.

----- **Please Detach Here** -----

VP ASSOCIATION 2008 ANNUAL REUNION
HANSCOM AFB OFFICER’S CLUB BEDFORD, MA
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2008 FROM 1200 TO 1700

BANQUET RESERVATION ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Squadron Affiliation(s) and Years: _____

Number in Party: _____

Guest’s Name(s): _____

Military ID (Yes or No): _____

Amount Enclosed (\$40 Per Person): \$_____

Make Checks Payable to “**The VP Association**” and Mail to William Hanigan, 23 Parkview Terrace, Duxbury MA 02332.