



VP ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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

ISSUE 31

JUNE 2008

Welcome to another edition of the VP Association newsletter. As always, please direct all general VP Association-related inquiries or correspondence to William Hanigan, 23 Parkview Terrace, Duxbury MA 02359, 781-585-4950, vpassociation@aol.com. Please send all newsletter-related correspondence to Marc J. Frattasio, P.O. Box 30, Pembroke MA 02359, marc_frattasio@yahoo.com.

RECCO:

VP-11Z4 CAC-1 on the ramp at NAS South Weymouth in front of an SP-2H Neptune about 1969. Do you remember when all the VP squadrons at NAS South Weymouth went by the radio call sign "Hamlet Base" and the patrol aircraft assigned to the base air wing when they were flying used radio call signs in the format "Hamlet XYZ" with the "XYZ" being the number on the nose? The Neptune shown here would have been designated "Hamlet Two One Zero". Many thanks to Lee Cabana for this photo. Got something similar to share? Contact Marc J. Frattasio.



FINAL FLIGHTS:

It is our sad duty to report the recent deaths of Richard Scaffidi and William Connell. Richard, who lived in Roslyn, PA, was a member of VP-92 and worked as a civilian at the NAS South Weymouth fuel farm before the base closed. William, who lived in Weymouth, MA, was a member of VP-915.

ILL SHIPMATE IN NEED OF CHEERING UP:

Al Warnick, who served with VP-10, is very ill and dealing with a grueling treatment regimen. Cards or letters from his Navy friends (Al has attended all VP Association reunions to date) would be much appreciated. Al's address is 1710 Narrows Hill Road, Upper Black Eddy PA 18972.

ANNUAL REUNION:

The VP Association's annual reunion banquet will be held at the Officer's Club at Hanscom AFB in Bedford, MA on Saturday September 20, 2008 from 1200 to 1700. This may be the last newsletter

you receive before the reunion. Attendance will be limited to 150 people so if you wish to go but have not yet made your banquet reservation(s) please do so immediately to avoid possible disappointment.

The reunion banquet costs \$40 per person and a mail-in reservation form is presented on the last page of this newsletter. Reservations will be on a first come-first served basis and are required in advance. Tickets will not be sold at the door this year. Please mail your reservation as soon as you can to prevent possible disappointment and so we can tell the caterer how many people to expect.

Hanscom AFB requires 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 on the banquet reservation order form so your name can be added to the base's security access list for the reunion. All persons without a military ID will have to enter the base at the civilian gate, not the Hartwell gate. If you have any questions about this contact Bill Hanigan at 781-585-4950 or vpassociation@aol.com.

Anyone who wants to stay overnight should contact Hanscom AFB directly at 1-888-235-6343 for information regarding accommodations on the base or in the local area. Please try to get the word out about the reunion to as many of your old Squantum/SoWey/Brunswick reserve patrol squadron friends as possible. Don't assume that every former shipmate you're in contact with is affiliated with or 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 any memorabilia that you may wish to bring. If you have photos, cruise books, patches, caps, NATOPS manuals, or any other interesting memorabilia that you'd like to show off please bring it with you.

ADMIN FUND DONATIONS:

The VP Association has no dues. Voluntary contributions are always welcome to help defray the cost of printing and mailing newsletters to shipmates who do not have e-mail. We'd like to thank Brian Devaney, Paul Harriman, and John Yaney for their recent contributions to the administration fund.

LOST CONTACT:

Please let Bill Hanigan know whenever your street or e-mail address changes. We need contact information for Eric Britton, Robert Forsee, Mark Groves, Richard LaFountain, Joseph Ludwickowski, Pat McDermontt, Larry Middlebrook, Timothy Neal, James Patrick, Carl Rischie, George Robertson, Rusty Robertson, Neal Rosenstrom, Bruce Thacker, Richard Thomas, and Charles Viau.

RECENT CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

Ray Ofenbeck (VPB-92)
375 State Road 67 Apt. 158B
Dousman, WI 53118
262-965-7375

William Rogerson (VP-92)
4059 Tralee Drive
Lake Wales, FL 33859
863-324-2771
rogersonw@prodigy.net

Dennis Miller (VP-92)
1340 Ottawa Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32210
904-626-1200
denniscm@bellsouth.net

Michael Kidder (VP-92)
5310 West Grouse Way
Tucson, AZ 85742
520-572-1409
robertkidder@comcast.net

Bryan Goff (VP-92)
56 Eli Chapman Road
Moodus, CT 06649
860-873-8733
bmgoff@sbcglobal.net

Donald Swinton (VP-92)
553 B Memorial Drive Extension
Greer, SC 29651
864-201-2164
csm2ndbrigade@yahoo.com

NEW MEMBERS:

Nevins Frankel (VP-5)
3985 Yates Road

Robert Lemois (VP-92)
142 Crady Polk Road

John Yaney
81 West Street

Clemments, MD 20624
nfrankel@vpnavy.org
<http://www.vpnavy.org>

Winter Haven, FL 33880
Robert.lemois@gmail.com

Whitman, MA 02382
jyaney@fstinc.com

HELP WANTED:

John Donatelo, a former P-2 Neptune FCO who served with VP-912 at NAS South Weymouth during the early to mid 1960s is seeking any photographs of VP-912's CAC-1. This was CDR Oldford's crew. If you can help John contact him at 13717 Premier Lane, Herriman UT 84065, 801-253-4689, donatej@juno.com. Photographs can be reproduced while-you-wait at any Walmart for short money.

AIR SHOW AT NAS BRUNSWICK:

The annual NAS Brunswick air show will be held on Saturday September 6 and Sunday September 7 2008. On both days the gate will open to the public at 8 AM, the air show will begin at 9 AM, the gate will be closed to vehicle traffic at 1 PM (or earlier if base parking capacity is met), and the air show will end at 4 PM. The Navy's Blue Angels will perform on both days, weather permitting, and rumor has it that this may be the last air show before the base is shut down. This may be THE VERY LAST TIME that you'll be able to see the Blue Angels at a Navy installation in New England. Think about it!

RECOMMENDED READING:

Wayne H. Heiser, a retired TAR AVCM, has written a three-volume set of books covering the history of Navy and Marine Corps reserve aviation between 1916 and 1942. The books, U.S. Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Aviation Volume 1: 1916-1942 Chronology (ISBN 0-9778267-0-8), U.S. Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Aviation Volume 2: Aircraft 1916-1942 (ISBN 0-9778267-1-6), and U.S. Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Aviation Volume 3: The History of the Naval Reserve Aviation Bases (ISBN 0-9778267-2-4) can be obtained for \$18.95, \$18.95, and \$21.95 respectively through <http://www.amazon.com> or special order from your local bookstore. The three books provide a detailed history of the Naval Air Reserve during its formative years with coverage of NAS Squantum.

Another highly recommended book is Coffee on the Wing Beam - Memories of the P2V Neptune by retired USNR CAPT Brian McGuiness (bmcguiness@webtv.net). This 140-page paperback presents Brian's adventures flying Neptunes in the regular Navy and Navy Reserve during the late 1960s and early 1970s. Though long out-of-print, a limited number of copies are available directly from the author on a first come-first served basis for \$8.00, postage paid. To order, send a check for \$8.00 to Brian McGuiness, PO Box 296, Clearlake WA 98235-0296.

NEWS OF INTEREST:

Boeing began final assembly work in April on the first P-8A Poseidon, the intended replacement for the Navy's P-3 Orion fleet. The Poseidon is derived from the 737 airliner in the same way the Orion was derived from the Lockheed Electra. Subcontractor Spirit AeroSystems builds P-8 fuselages in Wichita, KS and delivers them to the Boeing facility in Renton, WA. The P-8A's first flight is scheduled for 2009 and entry into operational service is set for 2013 (information Flight International).

VP-92's last Commanding Officer, CDR Scott Bailey, retired from the Navy Reserve on May 1. The squadron's last OINC, CDR Jonathan Lovejoy, was recently selected to command the Navy Reserve Center in San Antonio, TX and will assume command in January 2009. Best wishes to both men.

THE ASSOCIATION OF NAVAL AVIATION PATRIOT SQUADRON:

The Association of Naval Aviation Patriot Squadron is a group of Navy veterans and civilians who are establishing a museum dedicated to NAS Squantum and NAS South Weymouth at the "Southfield" development on former NAS South Weymouth. The group operates from temporary quarters in the old base fitness center but will be moving into a permanent museum building in two years. Members

meet monthly for lunch on Boston's South Shore and maintain the base museum, the Shea Field Memorial Grove, and the "7Z" Douglas A-4 Skyhawk. Membership costs \$15/year. To join send a check for \$15 to The ANA Patriot Squadron, 495 Shea Memorial Drive, South Weymouth MA 02190.

ON THE INTERNET:

Tom Hildreth, an aviation enthusiast from Vermont, has put together a web site devoted to VP-92 ("VP-92 Minutemen: An Online Tribute") at <http://www.vermontel.net/~tomh/VP92/VP92Front.html>. The web site is a must-see for all former Minutemen as it features dozens of images of VP-92 SP-2H Neptunes and P-3A, P-3B, and P-3C Orions.

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.



Until Next Time, Lose Not Thy Speed In Flight Lest The Earth Rise Up And Smite Thee – "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.