

Ray

This is a rather strange situation. Please bear with me while I explain it.

Recently, Bill LeMaster (another VP-44 alumni from the early 1950's) came up with a crew list for Crew 10 (about 1955) from memory. I was part of that crew too, and Bill sent it to me to help fill in some of the blanks. One of the blanks was the 2nd Radioman for that crew. Neither of us was sure of who that was. We knew that the 1st Radioman was Jim Sebring. We figured that the 1st Radioman would remember who the 2nd Radioman was so I sent Jim Sebring an email. The email bounced, and was marked "Not one of our customers." I asked Bill LeMaster if he had a new email address for Jim. He said "No."

It occurred to me that I had not heard from Jim in awhile, actually, not since September 2006. Something made me check the Social Security Death Index. There were quite a few Sebring's listed. Sadly there was a James R. Sebring, born 1933, died December 2006. Place of death Sparks Glencoe, MD. That seemed to fit Jim perfectly. However, we could not be sure. Bill LeMaster checked further and found an obituary on a Bendix website <http://www.thebluebanana.org/>. After his Navy days Jim worked for Bendix for a long time. Of course, that confirmed that Jim Sebring had died, and that we had lost a shipmate.. He died on December 22, 2006. It is a shame that we didn't find out until almost 2 years later in September 2008.

So, I am sending you a 2 year old obituary for Jim Sebring, VP-44 alumni. Please use any or all of it as you see fit. I am also sending you the picture that I sent Jim some years ago that he liked so much. Jim is in the middle, Bill LeMaster on the left and our Plane Captain Gant is on the right. They are standing in front of CC-10, our plane. It was taken in 1955 at NAS Norfolk, Breezy Point seaplane base on the VP-44 ramp.

When I saw him last (abt. 1956) Jim Sebring, was an AT2, and 1st Radioman of CC-10 (P5M-2) with VP-44 at NAS Norfolk. He was with VP-44 during approximately the same period as I was, 1953-1956.

FYI Jim did attend at least one of the VP-44 reunions, and I remember seeing him in one of the pictures from that reunion. However, I could not find it on the squadron website.

That is about all that I can tell you about Jim. The obit has more detail, such as where he lived, etc. Bill LeMaster tried to call Jim's home number in Sparks Glencoe, MD but it was disconnected.

If I can help with any other information please contact me.

Regards

Bill Stupka, AT2, VP-44, 1953-1956