

# Pelican Poop Sheet

Volume 25

December 5, 2012



**New on the roster:** Pete Van Ek (Son of Gerry Van Ek COL RCAF(ret) exchange pilot VP-44( Squadron Leader 1964-1966); Edward Gardner (Mess Cook 1968-1970); Kirk Munsch (AW2 1980-1983); Elmer Painter (AM3 1952-1953); Sam Travis (AD3 1952-1954)

**Regained Contact:** Richard Howden (SS2 1978-1979)

**Lost Contact:** Robert Lindsey (AW 1974-1978); Gilbert Tarrett (AT 1968-1971); CDR John Gough, USN(ret) (1984-1988); CDR Michael McCloskey, USN(ret) (1987-1990)

**Taps:** Scott Russell (ADJ1 1969); SSGT Lyle Girouard, USA(ret) (AO2 1951-1956); AXC Harry Steele USN(ret) (AX1 1959-1962)

## Squadron Patches

Gene: Regarding the origin of VP44 pterodactyl, in 1959 our Ops Officer, LCDR Frank Schneider, was PPC of P5M LM9. He persuaded the CO to allow "The Peripatetic Pterodactyl" to be painted under the pilot's window of LM9. He explained it indicted a "wandering, almost-extinct flying reptile" which he said P5Ms were destined to be. Frank later went on to be CO of a west coast P5M squadron. I guess "pterodactyl" stuck in someone's mind. Regarding the Marlin patch, I only know that it symbolized the P5M Marlin. The Marlin is holding 2 torpedoes over a sub caught in his radar beam right eye. The 12 circle of stars are the 12 P5Ms in VP44. Regards, Joe Davis

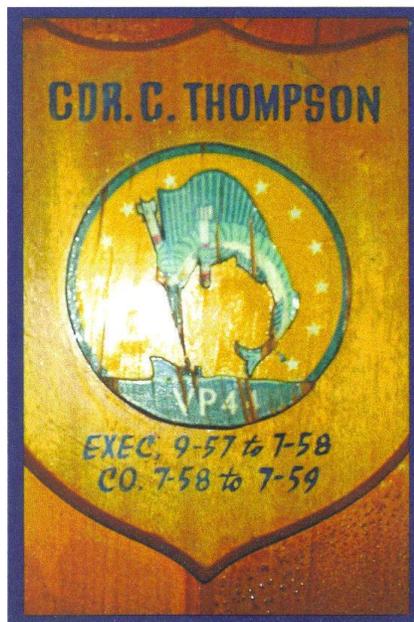
## 1959 Group Picture

Thanks to ADSC John Alderson, USN(ret) AD1 (1956-1959) we have the two group pictures from the past, first was taken 22 June 1959 with CDR Champ Thompson as CO and CDR Frawley as XO, with LM8 in the background. I had it copied and touch up and the picture came out in excellent condition. It is 9" by 17" and ready for framing, I can sent one out for about \$13.00 so let me know if you are interested. The second one was taken 10 May 1957 with CDR Macklin as CO and CDR Haller as XO, with CC4 in the background. This one is 9.5" by 21" and also ready for framing, I can send this one out for \$23.00 each. Thanks to Elmer Painter (AM3 1952-1953) we also have the change of command picture taken 3 June 1953, with CDR R. L. Etnire incoming CO, CDR F. J. Grisko outgoing CO and CDR C. J. Alley XO with seven CC planes in the background. The picture is 10" by 30" and I can mail it out for \$25.00. All picture were

taken at NAS Norfolk. I am doing the cost of these pictures with no mark up going to the Pelican Shop or myself so make the check out to me instead of the fund.

### Champ Thompson's Chafing Dish

The committee has great news on getting the chafing dish back to the family of CDR Champ Thompson's (CO 1959) family. CDR Martha "Mert" Dorgan, USN(ret) (LT 1981-1982) was able to track down his wife and daughter and got me a phone number. I called the daughter (Jackie) and they knew nothing about the dish but would gladly take it. She said her Mother thought the reason it got left behind was after the change of command he had to go to some school right away, she thought the Army War College in Carlisle Pennsylvania, for a year? In their hurry to get there they may have forgotten about it in the transfer? I shipped it out on September 8, 2012 and CDR Robert "Joe" Davis, USN (ret) (LT 1956-1959) wanted to pay the cost of shipping. The family got the dish okay on September 17 and many thanks to all for your help in getting the dish back to the family.



*Priscilla Thompson - (90  
still going)*

#### YOU FOUND US!

What a group! Perseverance and persistence pay off. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

The only theory we could think of for us leaving it behind might have been that in July of 1959 (the date on the Chafing Dish) Champ and family (myself being pregnant with our fourth child) would have been transferring to the Army War College in Carlisle, PA, for a one year tour. I can see us asking the company to hold onto it for us until our return... and then it slipped our minds. I can't imagine forgetting such a beautiful piece, but I guess the moving and hubbub of Navy life can do that to a person.

Thank you again for all your hard work and know that the dish has arrived into an appreciative and happy home. We're already planning what to put into it at Thanksgiving! I wish you all could join us!

Cheers to the Navy!

Priscilla F. Thompson &  
Phyllis, Barbara, Jacki, and Vicki Thompson  
October 19, 2012

"Nobody can make you feel inferior without your permission".  
~Eleanor Roosevelt

### **Request from Auckland, New Zealand**

Here is a guestbook entry I know will be of interest to VP-44 personnel -- Ray

It is my pleasure to inform the Golden Pelicans that I believe I discovered the remains of a Patrol Squadron 44 Catalina in the Solomon Islands in November last year (2011). Please see my website [www.archaehistoria.org](http://www.archaehistoria.org) for a report on the site. I feel honored to have surveyed this site and would like to return to do a more thorough survey--better photos! Better video! But usual story, lack the funds to complete the work. I live in Auckland, New Zealand and am very interested in VP-44 history. Also visited Choiseul Island where VP-44 PBY-5s used to supply coastwatchers and rescue downed aviators. I desperately need photocopies of VP-44 aviator logbooks for South Pacific WWII service would be a great help to the research. Also, the loss of PBY-5 from VP-44 near Tutuba Island, Espiritu Santo is obscure--what happened? I dedicated the web page to VP-44 crewman killed at Halavo-Clifford Olin- it would be nice to have a photo of him.

Most Sincerely, Ewan Stevenson.

Here is the article about the discovery --

[http://www.archaehistoria.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=51:site-flor8-aircraft-the-house-under-the-sea-pby-5-catalina-buno-08136-plane-side-no-44-p-8&catid=21:wwii-archaeological-sites-of-the-florida-islands&Itemid=102](http://www.archaehistoria.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=51:site-flor8-aircraft-the-house-under-the-sea-pby-5-catalina-buno-08136-plane-side-no-44-p-8&catid=21:wwii-archaeological-sites-of-the-florida-islands&Itemid=102)

Follow-up from LTJG Richard Watson (AMM3C 1942-1944):

Gene,

On March 24,1943 44-P-8 ,LTJG "Jiggs" Lyons and crew took off from Halavo Beach to return to Segond Channel in Espiritu Santos, he gained a little altitude and then dove on the Tulagi base in a goodbye salute, one of the pilots,AP1c Roy Robinson believed he wanted to blow down the miserable tent they had been living in. He pulled up at high speed at the end of the dive and both engines quit, the port wing hit the water first and broke off. The plane then cart wheeled and the starboard wing broke off and the plane sank. All crew got out without any casualties. Both engines quit due to water in the gas tanks. When the aircraft started to climb the heavier water got into the sump and they don't run real well on water. Incidentally I have had that happen to me but I was able to clear it by using the wobble pumps. Anyway, Lyons and crew and a PATSU crew stayed and salvaged what they could from aircraft. Cliff Olin AOM 1c was killed on February 21,1943. He was at Halavo Beach and a single Jap plane dropped a bomb on our tent area, 3 pilots were wounded.

### **Pelican Committee**

We want to welcome AFCM Bob Sass (1990-1991) USN(ret) and AOCS Tina Sass (1990-1991) USN(ret) to the committee and help for the future of our association. Special thanks to CDR Fred Malvin (LT 1960-1964), USN(ret) for his help on the committee during 2012.



### Pensacola Reunion

We had an excellent turnout in Pensacola with over 100 attending and positive feedback for the weekend, but as always looking to make it better. I've asked all those attending how we can do better and welcome All Hands feedback. We are still looking for a possible site and chairman for 2013, a possible reunion for 2014 may be in Jacksonville, FL. We will have more information down the road so stay tuned as it is very early in the planning phase. Here is the roster that made it to Pensacola:

| VP-44 Reunion November 8-11 2012 |                | Final |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-------|
| Avis, Ed & Cheryl                | LT 1972-1975   | CAPT  |
| Barnes, Michael                  | AX2 1961-1964  | Navy  |
| Blackwood, Steve & Barbara       | AMS3 1969-1971 | AMS1  |
| Brainerd, Jeff & Kathleen        | LTJG 1987-1989 | CDR   |
| Cairney, Bruce & Cindy           | LT 1971-1974   | Navy  |
| Cartier, David & Prislilla       | LT 1972-1975   | CDR   |
| Conner, George & Charlie         | LT 1971-1974   | CAPT  |
| Cook, Ralph & Suzanne            | AMH2 1959-1963 | Navy  |
| Cope, Don & Karen                | ADJ3 1968-1971 | Navy  |
| Finney, Don & Margie             | LT 1963-1966   | Navy  |
| Gaissert II, Elwyn & Lynne       | LT 1971-1974   | Navy  |
| Gilchrist, Stan & Mary Ann       | LT 1972-1975   | LCDR  |
| Gorman, Jeff & Mary Ellen Turk   | LT 1979-1982   | CAPT  |
| Greely, Bruce & Charlotte        | AO1 1980-1985  | AO1   |
| Hagan, Ralph & Christine Bonsel  | ENS 1975-1976  | LCDR  |

|                                   |                          |       |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| Hald, Rod & Rita                  | LTJG 1959-1961           | CDR   |
| Hall, William & Maureen           | LTJG 1973-1975           | CDR   |
| Hayes, Robert "Al" & Elizabeth    | AO2 1960-1964            | Navy  |
| Haynes, Burl & Terry VP-4 & VP-46 | Guest of George Phillips | CWO4  |
| Hedman, John                      | ADCS 1971-1973           | SCPO  |
| Hendricks, Bill & Tom Burrows     | LTJG 1952-1955           | CAPT  |
| Hogan, Robert & Gayle             | AT2 1950-1954            | MCPO  |
| Honour, Eric & Beth               | LT 1972-1976             | Navy  |
| Jackson, James & Nancy            | AT1 1962-1965            | CPO   |
| Jackson, Vern & Paula             | LT 1971-1973             | LCDR  |
| Jones, James & Vickie             | AMS2 1959-1964           | Navy  |
| Klinger, Carl & Linda             | AT3 1955-1957            | Navy  |
| Klosterman, Thomas & Barbara      | ADJ3 1962-1964           | CPO   |
| Johnson, Mollie                   | Guest of Klosterman's    |       |
| Kurkowitz, Frank & Franny Weber   | AVCM 1982-1985           | CWO4  |
| Lane, Clarence & Nobuko           | AMM1c 1941-1942          | Navy  |
| Larson, Jim & Marty               | LT 1970-1973             | CDR   |
| Luther, Joseph & Linda            | LT 1971-1975             | CDR   |
| Lynn, Bill                        | AT2 1959-1962            | Navy  |
| Mattix, Tom & Shauna              | LT 1970-1973             | CDR   |
| Mattox, Gray                      | LTJG 1953-1955           | CDR   |
| Miller, Terry                     | LTJG 1974-1977           | CDR   |
| Morrow, Estes & Elaine            | CMDCM 1977-1980          | CMDCM |
| Myers, Raymond & Mary             | LT 1958-1961             | LCDR  |
| Newell, Rich & Sue Stiegelmeier   | LT 1971-1973             | Navy  |
| Phillips, George & Margie         | LT 1982-1985             | LCDR  |
| Horace Riggs                      | AT2 1960-1962            | Navy  |
| Rogers, Ted & Wanda               | LCDR 1971-1974           | CAPT  |
| Rogerson, Ned & Liza              | LT 1971-1974             | CDR   |
| Sass, Bob                         | AMCS 1990-1991           | MCPO  |
| Sass, Tina                        | AOCS 1990-1991           | SCPO  |
| Smith, P.D. & Mary                | CO 1973-1974             | RADM  |
| Schwartz, Bill                    | LT 1963-1966             | Navy  |
| Snavely, Jeff & Mary Readmond     | AO2 1961-1964            | Navy  |
| Snyder, Blair & Jennifer          | ATN2 1961-1964           | Navy  |
| Spearman, Walt & Donna Slaven     | CO 1989-1990             | CAPT  |
| Spears, TC                        | AT2 1958-1960            | Navy  |
| Stevens, Ronald & Helen           | LTJG 1972-1975           | CAPT  |
| Strong, Brad & Adelaide           | LT 1965-1968             | Navy  |
| Sullivan, Ken & Ann               | LCDR 1974-1976           | CAPT  |
| Taylor, Jim                       | ADJ3 1962-1963           | CPO   |
| Toffolo, Gene & Janet             | AX2 1965-1969            | MCPO  |

|  |                             |      |
|--|-----------------------------|------|
| Veach, Roy & Roxie                           | AO3 1961-1964               | Navy |
| Walker, Ben & Michelle                       | AO2 1983-1986               | CPO  |
| Watson, Richard, Jr                          | AMM3c 1942-1944             | LTJG |
| Watson, Richard, III Richard Watson Jr's Son | VP-19, VP-31, VP- 42        | CDR  |
| Wojton, Jim & Diana                          | AT3 1958-1961               | Navy |
| Word, Brown & Nancy                          | LT 1974-1977 LCDR 1985-1988 | CAPT |

### Pelican Shop

It is not too late to shop our Pelican Shop for those hard to find VP-44 items. We also want to hear from you as to what items you would like to see added in the future? Visit us at [http://www.vp44goldenpelicans.com/pelican\\_shop2.htm](http://www.vp44goldenpelicans.com/pelican_shop2.htm) or call me and I can help you over the phone.

### Book Review

Hi Brown and Gene.

I am very grateful to you both. Brown's (Captain Word) help has been stupendous. He should be a novelist, certainly. I made a couple of suggestions to the paragraph below, as suggestions only. Note that it will be another few days before the entire eBook is released. I hear the 23rd is the day. But it is thanksgiving week, so it might be delayed. I can let you know.

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All Golden Pelican owe it to themselves to take a look at a new novel entitled **Higher Cause**, written by **Dr. John Hunt**. Dr. Hunt was a Navy doctor and completed a three-year tour at the hospital aboard NAS Keflavik, Iceland. That time provided him a window into VP operations, experience that he has used in this terrific read. His plot in part involves efforts by Middle Eastern terrorists to disable a project to generate electrical power using a natural deep ocean thermocline. Their use of a submarine brings the P-3 community into play at critical junctures in this complex, very timely and exciting tale. You can find the book's serial on-line publication at <http://lfb.org/blog/higher-cause-table-of-contents/>

The entire eBook will be available through various outlets starting the last week in November, and can be found most simply at [www.readjohnhunt.com](http://www.readjohnhunt.com).

Thank you for spreading the word. And thank you for being there for us.

Best,

John

# WARNING

## VP-44 Web Site may shut down

Gene,

I have placed the following note on our homepage. I have the complete files that can be provided for future use. Sorry, but due to old age and health can't continued and be proficient. I am thankful for the time I was able to maintain the site throughout these past years. -- The following note is now on top of the Homepage --

Note: This Website is no longer being maintained! The site will remain up for history purposes until the hosting contract expires or until a new webmaster is obtained.

<http://www.vp44goldenpelicans.com/>

### *Ray*

Shipmates, we have to really get serious and find somebody to take over the web site. If we want to continue to get the word out and add to our history the web is the way to go and we need somebody to step up. The fees are paid till July 2014 with Go Daddy or you can set up and transfer over to another system, the fees are paid for with association funds. Ray has me as the point of contact for incoming questions but I have no idea how to maintain the web site. He will help as best he can for any turnover but need somebody with experience in this type of activity to keep it running. Please check with anybody that may be interested, it would be nice if they were a Shipmate but will take anybody qualified. Please contact me if you can help.

“ Battles are won by slaughter and maneuver. The greater the general, the more he contributes in maneuver, the less he demands in slaughter.”

~Winston Churchill

## Maritime Patrol Association

Keep these dates of 16-19 saved in April of 2013 for the Maritime Patrol Association Symposium at NAS Jacksonville, FL. You can find information on joining by going to: <http://www.maritimepatrolassociation.org/> Here is your chance to see the new P8 up close and also hear one of our Shipmates Captain Andrew Jampoler (LTJG 1964-1967) USN(ret) They have four days of activities and I have a couple of Wednesday's below that I think you will enjoy. Those Veterans out there "can" get base access according to the web site by submitting an online form with a link on the web site. I went to their 2011 symposium and you really get a up close look at today's Navy.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

#### **Tours of P-8, P-3, Triton and Integrated Training Center**

*Time:* 0900-1330

*Cost:* \$0

*Location:* VP-30 Hangar

Join us for tours at VP-30. Aircraft will remain on display into the afternoon. Integrated Training Center is across the street from VP-30.

#### **Presentation of "Adak, the Rescue of Alfa Foxtrot 586" by CAPT Andrew C. A. Jampoler, US Navy (Ret)**

*Time:* 1100-1200

*Cost:* \$0

*Location:* VP-30 Auditorium

Join us for a historical presentation on the ditching of AF 586 off Kamchatka in October 1978, given by CAPT Andrew C. A. Jampoler, USN (Ret.), author of "Adak, the Rescue of Alfa Foxtrot 586," the 2003 Naval Institute Press book published about the ordeal of VP-9's flight crew. The narrated presentation includes the actual air-ground emergency communications between the aircraft and Elmendorf Radio on a audio track.

## Data Base & Newsletter

I know this is repeated from past newsletters but we have a lot of new Shipmates and I want to send out the information at least once a year.

I have almost 750 email addresses in the data base that I use to mail out the newsletter plus another 90 that I send via snail mail. Please keep me updated as to any changes to your important information. For those that are new to the newsletter I have my addresses broke into groups of no more than 30 and they run from LM1 through LM25. This pleases the AOL Spam gods and it helps me track the email's that kick back. **If you would rather not receive the newsletter please let me know and I will remove you from the mailing list.**

I run into contact problems every time I send out the newsletter when your email address changes and you don't let me know. If I have a mailing address I will send a hard copy with a request to update your email change. I'm missing a lot of contact information on some of you so please check the roster to see if your information is up to date. I can either send you the current roster (\$8.00 for printing and mailing) or check with me and I will give you the pass word to access it off the home page.

## Happy Holidays

The committee and I wish all of you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2013 New Year.

## 2013 Pelican Committee

Ed Avis LT 1972-1975; CAPT, USNR(ret) Chairman Brunswick Reunion 2010 [ed@avisfamily.com](mailto:ed@avisfamily.com) (ME)

Ray Beck ATN2 1961-1964; ATC USN(ret) Web Master (retiring); Chairman Fredericksburg Reunion 2005 [chief\\_beck@yahoo.com](mailto:chief_beck@yahoo.com) (TX)

David Bingham AWC 1982-1986 & AWCS 1990-1991; AWCS, USN(ret); Brunswick reunion Committee 2010 [dryfly6wt@comcast.net](mailto:dryfly6wt@comcast.net) (ME)

Ralph Cook AMH2 1959-1963 Co-Chairman Norfolk Reunion 2010; Public Relations [blusgtar@ptd.net](mailto:blusgtar@ptd.net) (PA)

Les Dennis LT 1960-1964; CDR, USNR(ret); Chairman St. Louis 2011 Reunion [ljdennis@charter.net](mailto:ljdennis@charter.net) (MO)

John Federice AFCM 1987-1991; AFCM, USN(ret) Decommissioning & Facebook Coordinator [jfederice2@aol.com](mailto:jfederice2@aol.com) (FL)

Jeffery Gorman LT 1979-1982; CAPT, USNR(ret) [jaggcmi@yahoo.com](mailto:jaggcmi@yahoo.com) (MI)

Frank Kurkowitz AVCM 1982-1985; CWO4, USN(ret); Chairman Green Valley 2009 Reunion [fdkusn@yahoo.com](mailto:fdkusn@yahoo.com) (TX)

Frank Romeo AE2 1959-1962 Co-Chairman Norfolk Reunion 2010 [frankp51f@verizon.net](mailto:frankp51f@verizon.net) (MD)

Bob & Tina Sass AFCM & AOCS 1990-1991, USN(ret) [rsass@cox.net](mailto:rsass@cox.net) (FL)

Jeff Snavelly AO2 1961-1965; Treasurer; Chairman Pax River 2003 [winnie3401@hotmail.com](mailto:winnie3401@hotmail.com) (MD)

Ron Stevens LTJG 1972-1975; CAPT, USNR(ret); Fallen Roster Coordinator; Brunswick Reunion Committee 2010 [rhstevens4@verizon.net](mailto:rhstevens4@verizon.net) (MD)

Gene Toffolo AX2 1965-1969; CUCM, USNR(ret) Sales & Admin; Chairman Indianapolis Reunion 2007; Chairman Pensacola Reunion 2012 [geneianjay@aol.com](mailto:geneianjay@aol.com) (GA)

Dick Watson AMM3c 1942-1944; LTJG, USNR(ret) Blue & Black Cats; CAC Roll of Honor [blucat44@gmail.com](mailto:blucat44@gmail.com) (SC)

Brown Word LT 1974-1977 & LCDR 1985-1988; CAPT, USN(ret) Brunswick Reunion Committee 2010 [fbword@gmail.com](mailto:fbword@gmail.com) (TX)