

Pelican Poop Sheet

Volume 33

October 1, 2015



New on the roster: Robert Donovan (AT2 1955-1957); Mark Strasser (1981-1984); Captain William Woodrow Clark, USN-RC (ret) (LT 1987-1990); Mike Mendenhall (Son of LCDR Robert Mendenhall died in 6/3/1972 crash in Morocco mountains.)

Lost contact: Earl Bryant (ACRM 1942-1943); Steve Jennette (YN3 1972-1974); LCDR Grant Miller, USN(ret) (VP204 1944); Troy Martins (AT3 1980-1983)

Taps: AOC Marcus Reed, USN(ret) (AO2 1968-1971 & AOC 1975-1979)

Looking for: Wayne Capra (AX3 1966-1969) is looking for LTJG Bill Pierce (crew 3.) He still has your 1965 426 Plymouth Convertible he bought from you. His email is wcapra@bblfleet.com or you can contact me and I will pass any info you have on to him.

Hullnumber Web Site

522 US Navy Aviation Squadron right shoulder rockers available.

To view the FLY NAVY SHIRT with:

Rocker = PATRON 44

Rating = NAVY

Click on: <http://www.hullnumber.com/FLY-NAVY-SHIRT.php?rating=NAVY&hn=VP-44>

To see those on the VP-44 roster at this site go here <http://www.HullNumber.com/VP-44>

Captain Jampoler web site

Gene, thanks. And thanks for your continued hard work in support of VP-44 alums.

Next time you publish the newsletter, invite your readers to check out my new website, jampoler.com.

It talks about my books, etc., and especially about the new one, coming out in November.

Best wishes, Andy Jampoler (LTJG 1971-1973)

Vietnam War Honors - a searchable archival directory of over 80,000 records of awards and decorations of honor during the Vietnam War, from 5/1969 - 3/1973 and documenting the period 12/1965 - 11/1972. Please be aware that this data base does not contain all the records available. Some information might have been corrupted or lost over time and maybe in various stages of data conversion. For more information, click the following link: <http://www.vietnamwarhonors.com/>

“A hero is a man who does what he can” ~ Ronald Reagan

Pelican Shipmate

Hello Gene, thanks for sending along the latest news from the squadron. My Dad, (then Major Gerry Van Ek in 1966) doesn't talk much about his years in the military, and he's one of the least sentimental guys I've ever met, so there's not too much I know about his time as a member of the "Golden Pelicans" I myself on the other hand, love history and am always interested in the past. Over the years I have garnered only a few bits and pieces from my Dad while he was at Patuxent River, and I'll pass them on to you for what they are worth.

I was born there, 25 October 1966, and lived there for the first year of my life. I still have a silver cup given to me by the squadron, which says Welcome Aboard Honorary Member of VP-44.

According to Dad's flight log he was flying that day, so I asked him about it and he said he was practicing landings and when my Mum went to the hospital he was told over the radio and was dropped off after he completed the next landing. The P-3 carried on and he drove to the hospital at the Air Station. My Mum says he was thrilled to have had a son, as I have three older sisters (!) and stood there in his flight gear handing out cigars, as was the custom then.

He once told me he always felt bad about the enlisted crew in the aircraft because, unlike in Canada where the aircrew turn the plane over to the ground crew for all servicing, he said in the USN the guys from the flight crew had to do a lot of their own maintenance and so were always busy, even after landing from a long mission.

When I first contacted you, you asked me to mention the occasion when Dad was called on the carpet for dropping a sonobouy which landed on the deck of a merchantman. His face lit up when I mentioned that and I could see he enjoyed the memory. He felt at the time that the ASW crew had worked so hard tracking the target that while he could have over-ridden the drop from the cockpit, he wanted to let the crew have the satisfaction of dropping their bouy on the target. Turns out it was right on target!

He also remembers playing tennis in the Airship hangars, and how much the family enjoyed living in Patuxent River.

That's about all I can remember him saying, as I said he doesn't dwell in the past. I do know that for many years as I grew up Dad had a model of a VP-44 P-3 on his desk that I loved to play with, and one day, long after he retired, he gave it to me. His name is painted under the left cockpit window of the model. I also have his squadron wall plaque hanging proudly on my own wall now. It reminds me of when I was a kid hanging around my Dad's office and looking at the squadron emblem, always my favorite because it was so different than all the other RCAF ones. It's the only one I kept.

He's 84 now and his health is failing, but now and again I mention your newsletters and I can see a glimmer in his eyes, so I know he's thinking back with fond memories!

Thanks again Gene for all your hard work keeping the spirit of the Golden Pelicans alive and well!



Pete Van Ek, Lieutenant Commander, Royal Canadian Navy.
(Honorary Squadron Mate)

Mariner/Marlin Association

Gene,

First I must congratulate you on your website. Lots of great info on it!

Second as a fellow seaplane sailor and President of the [Mariner/Marlin Association](#) I would like to invite you to consider teaming with us on future reunions. We as seaplane sailors are an ageing group and need to work together to keep our associations alive and active for our members as long as possible. The MMA is now down to about 530 members and I assume VP 44 members are down

also. We just met in New Orleans and had a great time. Our next reunion (2016) will be in Tucson where the PBM is located. We would like for any of your members to attend as guest of the MMA and to consider joining us for the newsletters if desired. I did not see a link to the MMA website on your site, I request you place a link to us if possible. Also, if I can assist your group in any way please let me know.

Thanks for your consideration.

Doug Miles - President Mariner Marlin Association

VP 50 1965 -1967

Ph-205 706 6444

ADM Harry B. Harris, Jr.

Gene -- terrific edition of the VP44 Newsletter. I enjoyed Gerry Zell's license plate...attached is a copy of mine...though, truth be told, the "FLY" should be "FLEW". I've had the plate since 1999; Virginia and now Hawaii, allows me to keep it as long as I keep buying stickers. Thanks for all you do keeping all of old Golden Pelicans informed. All the best,

Harry

ADM Harry B. Harris, Jr.
Commander, US Pacific Fleet



PBY Catalina Foundation

Hello Gene,

Yesterday I spoke with one of our founding members Richard Watson. He suggested I get in contact with you regarding some of our up-coming projects

Our website is www.pbycat.org and we are on Facebook as PBY Catalina Foundation.

We are wanting to connect with your organization to network your people to the projects we are working on, such as Guardian Angel – A True Story. It is about a PBY rescue, 12/30/1941, from Pearl Harbor that faced 40 foot waves and 20 knot winds to rescue 9 Army crew from a B-17 that had been lost for 4 days. Details can be found on our website. We are putting this story into a movie script.

It has been difficult to raise funding from our beginning in 1992. We have provided two memorial services that flew ashes out to sea in a PBY and a convention. Otherwise we have been doing MIA work and various research. It is expensive to buy aircraft, build a museum, and collect PBY history for the future generations. This is why we are going for a movie. I believe we can do this with help.

Is there a way to get our info out to your people to connect with anyone that is interested in our projects? I look forward to any guidance you can give us plus any contact groups you think might be and can contribute history to our projects.

Thank you for your time.

Allen L James
President
PBY Catalina Foundation
707-769-0575 O
707-364-0575 C

"People will forget what you said; People will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

"There is only a hairline's difference between a Navy Cross and a general court martial."

LT. General Lewis B. Chesty Puller, USMC

Five-Time winner of the Navy Cross

"As democracy is perfected, the office of the President represents, more and more closely, the inner soul of the people. On some great and glorious day the plain folks of the land will reach their hearts desire at last and the White House will be adorned with a downright moron."--H.L. Mencken

"Men who have offered their lives for their country know that patriotism is not the fear of something, it is the love of something."

Adlai Stevenson

Maritime Patrol Association

August 5, 2015

Dear Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Reunion Group,

On behalf of the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force (MPRF) and the Maritime Patrol Association (MPA), it is my honor to invite you to our annual Maritime Patrol Association Symposium scheduled for 11-15 April 2016 on board Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida.

The focus for this year's MPA Symposium is "**Heritage**", which will highlight the decades of our community's critical role within the U.S. Navy. Our goal is to have several of the older squadron associations join us for this celebration of our history and have them share their experiences with current members of our MPRF force. We would like to take this year's Symposium and allow for these groups to come together and be recognized for all of their achievements in the VP Navy.

Included in the week's events is the Heritage Dinner where both past and present, American and Allied maritime patrol aviators will join us in commending not only our active Aircrewmembers and Maintainers, but also the newest members of our MPRF "Hall of Honor." Further, the scholarship golf tournament, 5K, spouse symposium, and flight suit social offer many other opportunities to reconnect with colleagues and former shipmates.

We are extending invitations to all of our known VP Reunion groups. If your group would like to participate in our events and be a part of this **Heritage** celebration, please let us know. If you know of any other VP Reunion Groups that would also want to participate please send us their information.

If you have any questions and would like to attend please contact Kristen Heimerle, MPA's Director of Finance, at (904) 318-8800 or via e-mail: info@maritimepatrolassociation.org.

Very respectfully,



CAPT Anthony Corapi, USN
President
Maritime Patrol Association

I will try, again, to get a reunion for 2016 at NAS JAX along with the MPA Symposium. More info at the first of the year keep the dates of April 11-15 in mind with firm days falling during that week.

Pelican Shop

The pelican Shop is restocked with missing sizes and hats, we have the following available:

White T-shirts sizes with pelican logo on left side: Small to 3X

Grey T-shirts sizes with pelican logo on left side: Medium to 3X

White polo shirts with pelican logo on left side: Medium to 3X

Navy Blue polo shirts with pelican logo on left side: medium to X-large

Hats all are Navy Blue with VP-44 on the front:

Regular baseball, web back, visor, watch caps

AW VP-44 on the front, wings on the side

AC VP-44 on the front with wings underneath, both regular and web back

AC VP-44 on the front with wings on the side

PC VP-44 on the front with wings on the side (only one left)

PC VP-44 on the front with wings underneath

NFO VP-44 on the front with wings on the side

Patches:

Marlin

King Neptune

Pelican "Bud Man" with cigar

Pelican "Bud Man"

Golden Pterodactyl

Coins 1 & 3/4"

Pelican lapel pins 7/8" (only 8 left)

Pelican all weather decals 2 & 1/2"

Pelican Coasters 4" x4" "SALE TILL 2016: buy one second one free, whatever your order is we will double it. They come in sets of 12.

NOTE: The wife and I will take a long time goal cruise through the Panama Canal over the holidays of Christmas and New Year. If you want that something different gift for yourself or another Shipmate please order by the first part of December 13th week. You can see all items on the Pelican Shop http://www.vp44goldenpelicans.com/PelicanShop_JD.htm If you have no web access please contact me and I will be glad to help you with your order. Thanks.

Gene

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