

# Pelican Poop Sheet

Volume 27

July 12, 2013



**New on the roster:** Jack Hager Jr (AN 1966-1967); Ted Jacobs (1971-1973); Jack Frye (ADJ3 1969-1972); Mike Cantin (AW1 1982-1987); Don Frost (ADJ2 1966-1969); AW1 Tommy Kitch, USN(ret) (AW1 1979-1985); LCDR Dennis Rosynek, USN(ret) (LT 1975-1978); James Carpenter (AO2 1970-1971); John Hubbard (AMS3 1971-1974); Bob Gurkin (ADJ3 1984-1986)

**Lost contact:** CAPT Tyrone Payton; Dana Vandiver AT1 USN(ret) 1985-1988; Breanna Holzem;

**Taps:** Eugene Vario (AT2 1959-1962); Bob Casto (ADAN 1955-1959); Blair Snyder (ATN2 1961-1964); Fred Busler (1958-1961); Cecil Simmons (AE1 1990-1991)

## Adak

Captain Andy Jampoler, USN(ret) (LTJG 1964-1967) has his book "Adak" now on audio tapes and e-book format. It is excellent reading about VP-9's ditching of their P3C and their rescue story.

Thanks for sending me the newsletter. I was wondering if there are any photos available when the squadron decommissioned. I was there from 1988- to the last day in 91 and then went to VP-8 To finish my sea duty tour. Thanks,  
Steve Norris FE AMCS USN(RET)

## Ray Beck

Now that Jim Dunlap has taken over the web site (please take a look at the changes) all of us need to give a huge thank you to Ray Beck. He started the web site back in August 2000 after meeting with Val Brynteson (*who proposed the first reunion*) and it has been growing ever since. He spent many hours building and maintaining the site at no expense to the reunion fund, it was a true labor of love. Hopefully we can get him to one of the upcoming reunions and honor him in proper fashion. In the mean time please join me in saying thanks for keeping VP-44 alive in our memories.

"Guns are a lot like parachutes. If you need one and don't have one, you'll probably never need one again." --Unknown

## **VP-44 Early Years**

I got this request off the web site and many thanks to Mr. Richard Watson.

Mr. Toffolo – I am the son of a pilot of Plane 4 in VP44 from November 1942 till May of 1945. My son and I are soon to make a trip to the Solomon Islands and are interested in retracing in part his path there. I am unable to locate his flight log and am trying to get more information. His good friend and co-pilot was David A. Black, LT. I have several books including the Blue Catalinas of World War II by James C. Mills. I have been unable to locate the book by his squadron Gerald Bogart – The Black Cats of Green Island. I would like very much to contact Dave Black's family to try to obtain copies of parts of his flight log. I would like very much to get a copy of Commander Bogart's book. Any help that you can give me would be greatly appreciated. Incidentally, my father died on 13 January 2007. He was a fabulous guy. Thank you so much for your help. Sincerely Lindsey de Guehery.

Hi Lindsey,

I was in the squadron the same time that your dad was, I was Gerry Bogart's plane captain from the time that we reformed the squadron in September of 1943 until December of 1944. We departed NAS North Island on January 30 1944 and landed in NAS Kanehoe 19.9 hours later. We trained there until March and crew 1 left March 6, 1944 for NAS Lugan Field on the Island of Espiritu Santos, there we had more training along with flights to Guadalcal, Munda in New Georgia. We were gone most all of April taking the chief of staff for RADM Gunther, COMAIRSOPAC for a tour of all the forward combat zones. The squadron continued training at Luganville until July 1944. In June we kept 3 planes at Nausori, an Australian field in the Fiji Islands not too far from Suva. Probably your dad saw some duty there. In June the squadron went to Green Island and began night ops with PT boats. When I left the squadron they were still flying night interdiction but I understand after that they were split up all over the South Pacific.

I would be happy to talk to you at anytime, I don't remember your father, I knew I flew with him in November of 1943 on a training hop.

I know the skipper was working on a book and I have found out that there is a copy in the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation in Pensacola and I am going to get a copy of it as I am a member of the foundation.

Hope this helps you out a little. My phone number is 208 629-1596 if you would like to talk.

Best regards,

Dick

## **Aviation Training Jackets at Museum**

The National Naval Aviation Museum has custody of Aviation Training Jackets for individuals who went through the pilot program in Pensacola, Florida from the early 1920s to the late 1950s. If you think your record or records of a loved one is included in these, send a written request to Frank Matson, 1750 Radford Blvd., Suite C, NAS Pensacola, FL 32508 or email him at

[frank.matson@navy.mil](mailto:frank.matson@navy.mil). Be sure to include full name of individual, date of birth, hometown where joined, and whether served during WWII or Korean Conflict time frame.

### Lunch in Old Town Alexandria, VA



Left to Right: Patrick Duffy (AW3 1972-1974) He recently retired as Clerk of Court of the United States District Court for the District of Montana and held the position for the last 12 years. RADM P. D. Smith (CO 1973) & Captain Ronald Stevens (LTJG 1972-1975)

“Captain Brown Word suggested that since our old shipmate became a lawyer after having been a P-3 ‘Airedale,’ it’s arguable whether or not he stepped up. Now, had he been an attorney first and THEN matriculated into the P-3, there would be no question he was on his way to gaining self-respect.”

### VP Association Reunion

September 21, 2013, Weymouth Elks Hall at 1197 Washington Street in Weymouth, MA.

Contact Bill Hanigan, Email: [haniganwilliam@gmail.com](mailto:haniganwilliam@gmail.com); [www.vpassociation.org](http://www.vpassociation.org)

I also have information on reunions for VP-4, VP-6, VP-7, VP-8, and VP-19 thanks to the MPA. If you would like contact and date info let me know and I will be glad to help.

*"I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts, and beer."*

*A. Lincoln*

## Navy Rating Shirts

I sent for one of these t-shirts and thought you may want to look at them, check it out at:  
[http://www.hullnumber.com/79 US Navy Ratings.php](http://www.hullnumber.com/79_US_Navy_Ratings.php)

## VP-44 Web Site

Now that we are paying to maintain the web site for the future you can help by buying something from the Pelican Shop. Of course we would take donations but why not get something for your money from your time in VP-44. I will be restocking a few items this summer and always open to suggestions or ideas for new items in the Pelican Shop. **Note: We will have Pelican coasters by the end of the month.**

## Historic Aviation

Thanks to Bill Teeter (ADR3 1962-1965) (Keeper of Pete the Pelican) for bringing this to my attention:

Historic Aviation Magazine has a model P3C Orion now on sale in limited edition to honor those men that flew the PBY that spotted the Japanese Fleet at Midway. The 1/200 scale cast iron model that is 7" long and painted with a special scheme created by the Navy in 2011. It is modeled after the same plane at the 2011 MPA Symposium held at NAS Jacksonville. You can go online at [www.HistoricAviation.com](http://www.HistoricAviation.com) or call 1-800-225-5575 item #89649N to view the model.

## Possible 2014 Reunion

AX1 Gerry Zell, USN(ret) (AX3 1964-1966) is checking into a possible VP-44 reunion in Philadelphia, PA next year latter half of 2014 time frame. We would very much like your input and if you think you would attend for planning purposes. He will research the best deal for hotels so if any of you have any information please pass it on. You can contact me or Gerry, his email address is [vivapuccini@verizon.net](mailto:vivapuccini@verizon.net) or home phone 610-876-3711.

## Stars for former Pelican

Thanks to AFCM Bob Sass, USN(ret) (1990-1991) for passing the below article from Pensacola, FL:

Pensacola becomes the home of lots of military brass, and this area also produces its share of high-ranking officers. Harry B. Harris Jr. (LT 1980-1983,) a 1974 graduate of Booker T. Washington High School, has been nominated by President Barack Obama for his fourth star as

a Navy admiral, the Pentagon announced on Tuesday. With the promotion, Harris, a vice admiral who is now assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is scheduled to be assigned to command the U.S. Pacific Fleet, the Navy said.

As commander of the Pacific Fleet, Harris will oversee the world's largest sea operation, encompassing more than half the Earth's surface and including about 1,100 aircraft, 200 ships and submarines and roughly 140,000 military and civilian personnel. Harris, 56, is the son of a Navy enlisted man and a Japanese woman who worked for the military as a civilian translator. Escambia County Judge Tom Dannheisser was a high school classmate. "If you were going to create a person to entrust with all that authority, it would be someone just like Harry Harris," Dannheisser said Tuesday.

Dannheisser recalled Harris in high school as "humble, someone who leads by example and smart but not just an intellectual." "He's a really good guy who was on the track team and in JROTC," he said. According to the Washington High year book, Harris also was in the Chess Club, the Math Club and in the Honor Society. Further, Dannheisser said, he and Harris were members of a four-person team that ventured to Mobile to appear on a TV game show called "High School Bowl" back in 1974. Dannheisser couldn't remember any of the questions, but he said that Harris "answered more than I did." Born in Japan, Harris lived in Pensacola from age 8 to 18, when he entered the U.S. Naval Academy. He moved to Pensacola with his parents in 1968 and attended Clubbs Middle School on 12th Avenue before going to Washington High. Harris' mother, Fumiko Ohno Harris, died in 2008 in Pensacola. His father, Harry B. Harris, a chief petty officer, predeceased her.

On Tuesday, Harris declined a request to be interviewed by telephone, telling a subordinate that he preferred to wait until his promotion is confirmed by the U.S. Senate, which could take several weeks. His career includes a stint as a Navy flight officer stationed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga. Interviewed by the News Journal in 2008, when he received his third star, Harris said, "I was always interested in flying," remembering trips to Pensacola Naval Air Station and seeing the Blue Angels.

Over the years, Harris has been involved in military operations that included Libya, Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In the 2008 News Journal interview, Harris said he hadn't really aspired to be an admiral; he just wanted to fly.

**Note: I got this email from VADM Harris;** Cheers Gene. Honored by the opportunity, should I be confirmed by the Senate. It all started for me in VP44, serving under Skippers Avery, Goolsby (RIP), Folsom and Fuller; DHs LCDRs Kozuch, Caruso, Eubanks, Barger, Foshay, Goodwin, and Sinz; awesome CMC Master Chief Morrissey and Division Chief Ghezzi, and 3 years with CAC-8: Mighty Crew Chief AWC Kirby Jones and crewdogs then-AX2 Mike Dence, AW2 Compeau, AW2 Patterson, AW3 Wierzbicki, AW3 Reid, AO1 Adkins, FEs Williams, Sarkisian, Anderson, Bramer, and Os LCDR Bernie Kozuch, LCDR Barry Trudeau, LTs Ed Fitzgerald, Cowboy Powers, Dave Elliott, Mike Kalnoske and Bill Sanford. Good memories, good beginnings...got me off on the right foot for sure. Golden Pelican for life!

Best,  
Harry

**Also Nominated:** Thanks to Captain Brown Word for giving me notice that RADM William Moran (LT 1983-1986) is awaiting selection by the Senate to VADM. If confirmed his next assignment will be Chief of Naval Personnel.

### Fallen List

Attached along with the newsletter is the current list of Fallen Shipmates from VP-44. It's not a list we want to be on, but we want to honor those who served with VP-44. We still have a lot of blanks to fill in, if you have any information on those listed please help us out. Also if you know of somebody not on the list let us know and we will so honor them.

#### Roll Call for the Absent

Softly call the muster  
Let comrade answer, "Here"  
Their spirits hover round us  
As if to bring us cheer!  
Mark them "present" in our hearts  
We'll meet some other day  
There is no death but life eternal  
For old friends such as they

by Dr. John Ashton

Gene R. Toffolo, AX2, December 1965 - April 1969, Crew Two, Five & Six  
1016 Egret Way  
Lake Park, GA 31636-2759  
home 229-559-7959  
cell 317-201-4261  
email: genejanjay@aol.com  
Pelican Shop: vp44paxmd@aol.com  
URL: vp44goldenpelicans.com

**MEMORY LIST of 06/28/2013**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>SQUADRON RANK</b>	<b>SERVED</b>	<b>DUTIES</b>	<b>LIFE</b>	<b>RANK ACHIEVED</b>
Adopolis, Joe	LCDR		Pilot		
Aikins, Roy	AO3		Ordnance		
Backenstose, William	AO3	1956-1959	Ordnance		
Ball, James L.	CDR	1963-1964	XO/CO	1920-2006	CAPT
Bradberry, William	CWO3	1958-1969	Avionics Nite chk	1939-2006	ATC
Bremus, Marty	CDR	1959-1961	Pilot, Maint Ofcr	1926-2002	CDR
Baers, Rick					
Bircher, Donald	AM?	1963-1966			
Bohner, Jack					
Brown, Clifford	YNM(AW/SW)		Admin		MCPO
Bush, Curtis	AT3	1962-1965			
Busler, Fred	AT3	1958-1961		1940-2013	
Brynteson, Val	ATC		Electronics	1935-2007	ATC
Cannon, T. J.	ADJC	1959-1963	Plane Capt LM9		
Carr, Joseph	AO3	1959-1963	Ordnance		AO3
Cassel, Bill	AT3	1959-1961	Avionics Nite chk		AT2
Casto, Bob	ADAN	1955-1959		????-2013	ADAN
Cheek, Manson	LT	1970-1972	TACCO	????-1972	LT
Chittick, Blair				1935-2008	
Comeau, Louis B.	AE1	1970-1972	Flight Eng.	????-1972	AE1
Coulter, Glenn	LTJG	1960-1964	Maintenace Ofcr	1928-2010	LCDR
Craig, David L.	LCDR	1971-1974	TACCO/Admin Ofcr	1940-2010	CDR
Crapps, Thomas					
Crawford, Douglas	CWO4		Maintenance		
Croker, Jarrel F.	AW2	1970-1972	SS1	????-1972	AW2
Culhane, Bill	CDR	1973-1975	XO/CO		CAPT
Curtis, Larry	LCDR	1975-1979	Dept. Head	????-2008	???
Cutitta, John	LT	1962-1965	Pilot	????-1999	
D'Auteuil, Thomas Peter	E-3	1962-1965		1939-2012	E-3
Davenport, Robert	LT	1973-1977	TACCO	1950-2010	LCOL USAF
Demers, Leo M.	ADC, ADCS	1985-1989	FE Instructor	1952-2009	ADCS
Doherty, William J.	ADC	1971-1974		1936-2005	ADC
Dorsett, Ralph	LT	Unknown	Unknown	????-2006	CDR
Dumont, Dewey	MCPO	1960-1963			MCPO
Emmanuelli, Ivan	AZ2	1980-1984	In-Flight Tech	????-2013	AZ2
Englehardt, Fran	AMH3	1952-1953		1931-2012	
Estes, Billy					
Estes, Albert Ray	LT	1961-1964	TACCO	1926-2009	LCDR
Fedes, Jay	LT	1972-1975	Pilot		LT
Fish, Richard		1971-1974	Flight Eng.		
Fitzpatrick, Patrick A.	AMM2c	1941-1943	Mechanic	????-2011	
Frese, James					
Giouard, Lyle	AO		Ordnance	1932-2012	USA (Ret)
Godin, Geoff	LTJG	1975-1976	Nav/CMS Custodian	????-1976	LTJG
Goolsby, R. E.	CDR	1979-1981	XO/CO	????-2013	
Grund, Paul W				1924-2009	
Gustwick, Paul	ATC	1959-1963	Electronics		ATC
Hall, Jim					
Hagberg, David					
Hanson, Claude	LT	1937-2011	Pilot	Unknown	CDR
Hautzenroder, Joseph	PRCM		Leading Chief		MCPO
Hawley, Neil T.	LT	1983-????	Pilot	1961-2010	CDR
Heald, John	PR3				
Hodges, Dan	ADR1	1961-1964	Plane Captain	????-1979	CPO
Hofmann, Louis					
Holloman, Floyd (Bill)	LT	1961-1964	TACCO	1930-2008	CDR
Holmes, Robert					
Hurley, Jim					
Janssen, James S.	AE3	1970-1972		????-1972	AE3
Jones, Marvin					
Joy, Chris	Chief			????-1988	
Kayes, Bob	CDR	1959-1961	Ops. Officer	1922-2009	CDR
Keneman, Harry					
Kiley, Thomas J.	AZ2	1970-1972		????-1972	AZ2
Kobziak, Ted	AMCS	1973-1976		????-2011	AMCS

## VP-44 Fallen Shipmates of 28 June 2013

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SQUADRON RANK</u>	<u>SERVED</u>	<u>DUTIES</u>	<u>LIFE</u>	<u>RANK ACHIEVED</u>
Lambert, Larry	AE2	1962-1966		????- 1960s	
Laming, Clarence					
Lloyd, Gary	LT	1959-1961	TACCO		
Maliczowski, William				????-2010	
Marrack, Richard	LT	1960-1964	Pilot	????-1987	
McKiddy, Marion					
Mendenhall, Robert L.	LCDR	1970-1972	Pilot	????-1972	LCDR
Miller, Charles					
Minnerly, Bob	LT	1958-1962	Pilot	1935-2010	
Morgenson, James					
Morton, Tom	LT	1972-1975	Pilot	1948-1980	LCDR
Naylor, Bill	AO1	1972-1975	Ordnance	1948-1981	LCDR
O'Conner, John E.	LT	1960-1961	Pilot		
Ogara, Gene	AMH3	1977-1980			
O'Laughlin, Francis Michael Jr.	CPO	WW II	Pilot	1920-2004	
O'Leary, Patrick	LT	1958-1961	Pilot	1938-2004	
Olson, Clarence					
Pappas, Peter	LT		Pilot		
Patton, Jerry	AE2	1961-1964			
Peterson, Stephen K.	AW3	1970-1972	SS2	????-1972	AW3
Pierce, Robert	CDR	1961-1962	XO/CO	????-2001	CAPT
Pochyla, Gerald				1931-2007	
Poole, Tom	LT	1970-1973	Pilot		LT
Porter, Ken	LCDR		Tacco		
Pratt, Gene	ADJC	1965-1968	Flight Eng.		
Prince, John E.	Unknown	Unknown	Mechanic	1930-2011	AFCM
Pyle, Roger G.	LT	Unknown	Pilot	1933-2011	CDR
Reeves, David	AO2	1959-1962	Ordnance		
Reid, Jack					
Russell, Scott P.	AMS1	1970-1972		????-2012	AMS1
Ryan, Michael E.	AO3	1970-1972	Ordnance	????-1972	AO3
Sammaripa, Ricardo				1963-2007	
Sayre, E. D.				????-2012	
Schoenberger, Jim	ADJ1	1957-1960	Flight Eng.	1933-2003	
Sebring, Jim	AT1	1953-1955		1933-2006	
Shaw, Robert	ADJ	1971-1974	Flight Eng.	1935-2002	ADJC
Shepard, Dudley		1952-1953			
Simmons, Sam		1964-1967	Crew 6		
Slusser, Richard	LCDR	1959-1962	Pilot		CDR
Smith, Fred	LT	1962-1964	NFO/TACCO	????-2006	
Snyder, Blair	AT2	1961-1964		1941-2013	AT2
Sopko, John E.					
Standley, Robert E.	AWAN	1970-1972	SS3	????-1972	AWAN
Steele, Harry	AT1/AX1	1959-1962		????-2012	AXC
Steinmeyer, Jack Winton	AT2	1952-1954		1930-2010	
Stewart, Lowell					
Stoddard, Paul	AE3	1959-1962	AE3		
Stutts, Jim	LT	1970-1973	Pilot	????-1973	LT
Swan, Robert A.	LT	1941-1943	Pilot	1919-2009	CDR
Theron, James					
Thompson, Champ	CDR		Pilot	1918-1983	
Thune, Don	LT	1958-1962	Pilot	1934-2004	
Titcomb, Edmund B. Jr.	LTJG	1970-1972	Pilot	????-1972	LTJG
Totser, Barry L	AT2	1959-1963	Radio LM 11		
Vario, Eugene	AT2	1959-1962	Radio	????-2013	
Vermillion, Danny	CPO	1958-1963	Line Chief		CPO
Vine, Vick	LT	????-1963	Pilot		
Vogenitz, Jesse					
Whittig, Michael J.	LTJG	1970-1972	Pilot	????-1972	LTJG
Whitman, Robert S. Jr.	LTJG	Unknown	Pilot	1916-1942	LTJG
Williams, Irving (Buck)	LCDR	1961-1963	Pilot/Maint. Off.		LCDR
Wilson, Chick	LT	1961-1963	Pilot		
Wilson, Stan		1959-1961	Pilot	????-2010	
Wyrick	CPO				CPO
Young, Charles S.	LT	1974-1977	NFO/TACCO	1951-2011	CDR
Young, Mickey	AO	Late 1950's	Ordnance	1940-2011	