

December 2019

## Special Points of Interest

- Passing of CO Bruce Campbell
- Scholarship Updates
- Wings of Gold article by Vic Gulliver
- VP 2 Reunion 2020
- Reunion Tours
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## Officers

**President –**  
*Greg Kelley*

**1<sup>st</sup> VP –**  
*Dino Vlahakis*

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP –**  
*Bill Klett*

**Director –**  
*Vic Gulliver*

**Director –**  
*Nick Niccum*

**Director –**  
*Floyd Palmer*

**Secretary/  
Treasurer**  
*Bob Behrend*



# VP-2 THE NEPTUNE

## A Message from the President

I hope you all are having a good winter and thinking about our next reunion in Jacksonville. This newsletter is later than usual as we are putting the finishing touches on the plans with Armed Forces Reunion, our reunion planner. We have contracted with a great hotel in downtown Jacksonville. Optional tours to NAS Jacksonville and nearby St. Augustine, Florida are planned. Details are later in the newsletter along with hotel reservation information and the reunion registration form.

While Jacksonville and the tours are interesting, I believe the most important part of the reunion is the opportunity to visit with shipmates and share our experiences. We are an extraordinary association. While Patrol Squadron 2 was disbanded over fifty years ago, we have a strong bond of brotherhood and the wives are a big part of this. As we continue to be an aging organization, let's take this reunion as a chance to visit and share memories. Make sure that October 15-19 are blocked on your calendar and plan to attend.

Hullnumber.com is a website for Navy folks. Some of our members have signed up. The link to the roster is <http://www.hullnumber.com/crew1.php?cm=VP-2>. I encourage you to look at this site and consider adding your name. We are also able to add reunion contact information to this site.

There are a number of articles of interest in this newsletter: I encourage you to read it all.

The vacancy on the Executive Board following the passing of Jim Welch has been filled by Bill Klett. This was by appointment by the Executive Board and will be ratified by the membership at the reunion. The Executive Board oversees the operations of the association in-between the business meetings held at each reunion. The current members are shown as Officers in the column at the left.

Sue and I wish you all a great Spring and look forward to seeing you in Jacksonville.

Greg Kelley, President, Patrol Squadron Two Association.

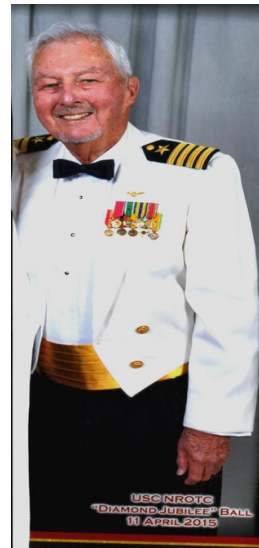
## A skipper gone west.

Richard Bruce Campbell passed on August 7, 2019. He would have been 92 in November. He reported to VP 2 in January 1966 and assumed command on January 22, 1967.

His initial entry into the Navy was in 1945 where he became a flying midshipman. He was commissioned in 1949. His entire flying career was in Patrol aviation. He finished his career as Commodore, commanding Reserve Patrol Wings Pacific. He attended many VP 2 Association Reunions. We will miss him



Assuming Command from  
CDR Ragsdale.



### A note from an MOAA Scholarship recipient

My name is Camille Petersen, and I was notified last night by the MOAA Scholarship Fund that I am a recipient of the Patrol Squadron Two Association, sponsor of the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial scholarship for \$500. I want to thank you for this scholarship; it will be so helpful to me as I continue in my third year at the University of Virginia. I am majoring in Public Policy at UVA's Batten School, and minoring in Spanish.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

~~~~~

Camille Petersen

The following article was published in the Association of Naval Aviation's magazine, "Wings of Gold" Oct 2019

# The VP-2 Association

article submitted by Captain Victor S. Gulliver, USN (Ret), photo courtesy VP-2 Association, [www.patron2.com](http://www.patron2.com)

Patrol Squadron Two (VP-2) came into being during World War II. It began as VPB-130 in Deland, Florida, flying the PV-1 Ventura and then the PV-2 Harpoon. The squadron underwent several name changes through the war years, and in 1946 was the first squadron to receive the new P2V Neptune, flying from NAS Whidbey Island, Washington.

In the last fifteen years of VP-2's existence, the men of VP-2 endured numerous lengthy deployments to Alaska, Japan, Vietnam and the Philippines. Family separations were a matter, of course. Those long separations created lasting bonds of loyalty and friendship among the men and among the wives at home.

The squadron was disestablished on September 30, 1969. For most squadrons, that might have been the end of the line. But, VP-2 lives on today.

More than a decade after VP-2 was disestablished, several veterans of the squadron who had retired in Oak Harbor, Washington, decided it would be a good idea to gather together veterans of the squadron for a reunion. Word-of-mouth publicity brought in

new members, and the first reunion was held in Oak Harbor in 1984. In the years that followed, membership grew by leaps and bounds. Today, fifty years after the squadron closed its doors, the membership in the Association has grown to more than 600 veterans and their families.

The VP-2 Association does more than just hold biannual reunions. In 2004, after a considerable amount of preparatory work, the membership voted to create a memorial dedicated to those who perished in Whidbey-based VP squadron operations. Over the next two years, the Association raised more than \$130,000 in donations to build the memorial. After exhaustive research and planning, the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial was dedicated in Veterans Memorial Park in Oak Harbor in 2006.

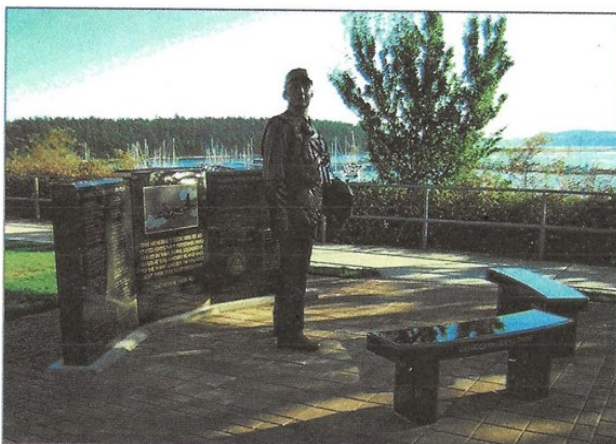
At the 2010 reunion in Pensacola, Association members noticed the most famous patrol aircraft in anyone's memory, the record-setting P2V, known as "The Truculent Turtle", corroding on the Naval Aviation Museum's outdoor flight line. In 1946, The Turtle set the long-standing record for non-

stop, unrefueled endurance when it flew from Perth, Australia to Columbus, Ohio in 55 hours and 18 minutes, covering a distance of 11,234 miles. At that Pensacola reunion, Association members determined that The Turtle deserved a better fate, and

vowed to raise the \$50,000 it would take to renovate The Turtle and to provide funds for lifetime preservation as an indoor display. At the following 2012 reunion in Fort Worth, the Association presented a check for \$50K to a representative of the museum. Today, The Truculent Turtle is proudly on display in the indoor Hangar 1 area of the museum.

The VP-2 Association holds biannual reunions where VP-2 veterans gather to remember and honor their squadron-mates, to share war stories and tall tales, and to relive the pride of life-long memories of arduous and hazardous duty in the service of their country. The next reunion is planned for Jacksonville, FL from Oct 15-18, 2020.

The VP-2 Association website at [www.patron2.com](http://www.patron2.com) contains hundreds of pages of photos, stories, remembrances, history, and member information. The Association has funded seven college scholarship endowments intended to benefit veterans and their families, and is now investigating a potential eighth endowment. New members of the VP-2 Association are always welcome, and those interested in joining can get started by contacting the Association's Secretary, Bob Behrend, at [behrendOOJ@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:behrendOOJ@hawaii.rr.com). The Association membership is getting on in years, and it is inevitable that the Association cannot continue forever. But for now, the brotherhood of VP-2, and the good work of its veterans, live on.



*The Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial; Oak Harbor, WA*

## VP 2 Reunion

VP 2 is having a reunion and we want you there. This is an opportunity to meet with your shipmates and relive the old times and update on current happenings. Tours are good, but fellowship is better. The reunion dates are 15-19 October 2020 and we hope this is already on your calendar

Here's what you need to know. We've picked a first-rate four-star hotel in Jacksonville to host our reunion. The Doubletree by Hilton Riverfront is located in the city center. We've negotiated a favorable room rate of \$129 plus tax per night (single or double) with a buffet breakfast for two included in the rate. You may upgrade to a Riverfront room for \$139 or Riverfront Jr. Suite for \$169. Members must make their own hotel reservations by calling Doubletree by Hilton Worldwide reservations at 800-222-8733 and mentioning VP-2 Association or group code VPA to get our preferred rate. Members can also book their hotel rooms online

at [http://group.doubletree.com/VP-](http://group.doubletree.com/VP-2Association)

[2Association](http://group.doubletree.com/VP-2Association) . HERE'S AN IM-

PORTANT NOTE: The hotel will only honor our \$129 room rate until September 25, 2020. After that, a higher

rate will apply depending on their remaining room availability. The hotel will require a credit card to book your room. The deposit is one night's room plus tax. With balance due at check-out. You can cancel your reservation without penalty up to 48 hours before the reunion. So, it is smart to

book your room now even if you aren't 100% sure of attending. For those who wish to extend their stay in Jacksonville, our hotel has agreed to offer the \$129 room rate to our members for three days before and three days after the reunion. Our hotel has all the amenities we would expect. There is an on-site fitness/exercise center plus an outdoor pool. There is an ATM in the lobby, and free WiFi in all the rooms and most public areas. The St. John's Provision Company Restaurant provides ten percent discount on food. There is also a Ruth's Chris Steak House in the hotel. . There is also in-room dining service available. Hotel check in is at 4:00 pm; check out by 11:00 AM. For those who arrive before the check in time, luggage storage is available. Car parking for our members staying at the hotel is complimentary.. Yes, of course, there is a bar.

If you are arriving by air, Super Shuttle and Uber are two good possibilities for transfer to/from the hotel. The airport is about 16 miles from the hotel and the trip is about a half hour. Super Shuttle currently \$28.80 for the first person and \$10 per additional person. Phone 904-765-9999 or 800-258-3826.

**Abbreviated schedule** Check in October 15. Free time and welcome reception and dinner in the evening. October 16, optional tour NAS P8 flight line and free time all afternoon. Plan to spend some time in the Ready Room. October 17, optional tour to St Augustine and free time late afternoon and evening. October 18, Chapel and Business Meeting in the morning. Free time in the afternoon. Banquet in the evening. October 19 Breakfast and checkout. There is a Ready Room available throughout the reunion..





### An opportunity for conversation and camaraderie.



There is a lot of free time You can use this time to visit with old friends or find new ones. What a chance to reminisce and relive old times. The Ready Room will be open nearly all day every day. We will need volunteers to help..

## Tours

All tours are to be paid for in advance.



Friday will be a tour of the VP Flight Line at NAS Jacksonville. We will be hosted by one of the assigned VP squadrons.



9:00am board bus, 1:00pm back at hotel.

Saturday will be a tour to St Augustine.



Aboard private trolleys, learn how St. Augustine became the "Oldest Continuously Occupied City in the United States." Listen to stories of Magnolia Street, known as one of the most beautiful streets in America. You will hear of Henry Flagler and his three wives and see many of the buildings that Henry had built. Marvel at the Spanish architecture and many historical sites. You're sure to enjoy this fully narrated tour of St. Augustine, covering more than 100 points of interest and over 500 years of history. Not only will it be educational, but entertaining as well! After the tour, stroll down the restored St. George Street, lined with quaint shops, art galleries, and restaurants. You're also free to tour some of the historic buildings you

saw on the tour (admissions on your own). You may want to see Castillo de San Marcos, a fort built by the Spanish over 300 years ago. Enjoy free time on your own for shopping, lunch, and exploring before returning to Jacksonville.

9:00am board bus, 2:30pm back at hotel

*Driver and staff gratuities are not included in the tour prices. Please plan to be at the bus boarding area at least five minutes prior to the scheduled time. Register online at [www.afr-reg.com/2020VP2](http://www.afr-reg.com/2020VP2)*

**PATROL SQUADRON 2 ASSOCIATION (VP-2) – OCTOBER 14-18, 2020**

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at [www.afr-reg.com/2020VP2](http://www.afr-reg.com/2020VP2). AFR accepts Visa, Mastercard, and Discover cards and all credit card payments are subject to a 3.5% convenience fee. All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before Sept 14, 2020. After September 14, 2020 reservations will be accepted on a space available. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

**Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.**  
**322 Madison Mews**  
**Norfolk, VA 23510**  
**ATTN: VP-2**

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inputted \_\_\_\_\_ Nametag Completed \_\_\_\_\_

| <b>CUT-OFF DATE IS 9/14/20</b>                                          |  | <b>Price<br/>Per</b> | <b>#<br/>People</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| <b><u>TOURS</u></b>                                                     |  |                      |                     |              |
| FRIDAY 10/16: NAS Jax Tour                                              |  | \$31                 | #                   | \$           |
| SATURDAY 10/17: St. Augustine Tour                                      |  | \$58                 | #                   | \$           |
| <b><u>SUNDAY: FAREWELL BANQUET</u></b>                                  |  |                      |                     |              |
| <b><u>(Please select your entrée. Price is included in package)</u></b> |  |                      | <b># People</b>     |              |
| Roast Sirloin of Beef                                                   |  | #                    |                     |              |
| Chicken Marsala                                                         |  | #                    |                     |              |
| Chef's Catch of the Day                                                 |  | #                    |                     |              |
| Vegetarian Option                                                       |  | #                    |                     |              |
| <b><u>PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEE – BEFORE 5/1/20</u></b>               |  |                      |                     |              |
| Covers various reunion expenses, including Sunday's Farewell Banquet.   |  | \$125                | #                   | \$           |
| <b><u>PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEE – AFTER 5/1/20</u></b>                |  |                      |                     |              |
| Covers various reunion expenses, including Sunday's Farewell Banquet.   |  | \$135                | #                   | \$           |
| <b>Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.</b>              |  |                      |                     | \$           |

**PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WANT YOUR NAMETAG TO READ**

VP-2 ASSOCIATION MEMBER FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Years in VP-2 (i.e. 1960-1964): \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST NAMES \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS OF VP-2 ATTENDEE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PH. NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

IF YOU NEED A NEW VP-2 REUNION BADGE, WRITE NAME HERE: \_\_\_\_\_

IF YOUR SPOUSE NEEDS A NEW VP-2 REUNION BADGE, WRITE NAME HERE: \_\_\_\_\_

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS \_\_\_\_\_ (Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly with hotel)

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS?  
 (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY). ☐ YES ☐ NO

For refunds and cancellations refer to our policies outlined at the bottom of the reunion program. **CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-4:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays).** Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion.



## Treasurer's Notes

*By Bob Behrend*

A big thanks to all of you that have kept your dues current, or in many cases paid in advance. 2020, an even numbered year is when dues come due if not already paid in advance. If you wish to check your dues status, you can reach me using the contact information below, or log into the Association website at [www.patron2.com](http://www.patron2.com), select roster from the menu and find your name. The due date for dues payment is listed opposite your name. Dues are \$20 and cover a two year period.

[behrendr001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:behrendr001@hawaii.rr.com)

VP-2 Association  
98-1820 P Kaahumanu Street  
Pearl City, HI 96782-1882

Dues checks should be made out to VP-2 Association

Please maintain current contact information with the Association. If you have moved or changed some other part of your current contact information, let me know by the email address above, or call 808-455-7670.



## Refund Policy

### **CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.**

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date (9/14/20), Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less the non-refundable AFR and group registration fee (\$10 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the non-refundable AFR registration fee. **Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 5:00pm Eastern Standard Time, excluding holidays.** Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities.

## Chaplain's Corner *by Doug Millar*

A few years ago I was wandering through a large shopping mall in Seattle in early December. The mall was all decked out in Christmas decorations and in the center of the mall was a life sized display of a frozen lake with ice skaters, horse drawn sleighs, Christmas carolers, bonfires, trees trimmed for Christmas with wrapped packages all around, and a stage off to one side for live performances which were scheduled throughout each day until Christmas. It was all very reminiscent of those beautiful Currier & Ives paintings that I enjoy so much.

As I stood in the crowded mall with hundreds of shoppers hurrying past me, I was somewhat mesmerized by the beauty and tranquility of the scene. Two young women walked up beside me. Being totally unaware of my presence they stopped for a moment to view the scene, reflected to themselves, and then one of them said to the other "What is Christmas all about anyway?" Her friend replied, "I don't know. I guess it's about Santa Claus, presents, and lots of parties!" With that, they moved off into the flow of humanity towards the nearest Department Store.

How sad. In our society today our government has done a great deal to remove Christ from our schools, our public events, and our consciousness. Many have tried to get rid of the word Christmas altogether and instead call the celebration "Winter Holiday."

What is Christmas all about anyway? It is about the love of God for the human race and God's desire to draw each human being back to Himself. God took on human flesh in the form of Jesus Christ so that He

might ultimately be put to death on Roman cross as the pure and perfect substitute for every human sinner. According to the Scriptures the penalty for sin is death, and Jesus Christ paid that price in order that we might go free. It is a freely offered gift to each of us. But like any gift it is of no value to us unless we are willing to accept it. Have you ever accepted this gift of God? If not, why not stop right now, invite Christ into your life and thank God personally for what he has done for you? Then you too will personally benefit from the true gift of Christmas.

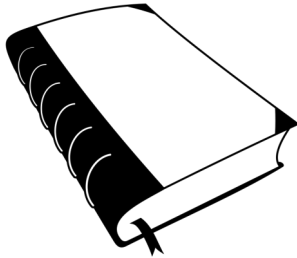
During this Christmas season, may we all take time to meditate on the truth of the following verses, which are about Jesus Christ, found in Isaiah, chapter 53, verses 3-6, **"He was despised and rejected – a man of sorrows, acquainted with bitterest grief. We turned our backs on Him and looked the other way when He went by. He was despised, and we did not care. Yet it was our weaknesses He carried; it was our sorrows that weighted Him down. And we thought His troubles were a punishment from God for His own sins! But He was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace. All of us have strayed away like sheep. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on Him the guilt and sins of us all."**

This is the true gift of Christmas! Accept it, along with the forgiveness of our sins, and this will be the happiest Christmas that you have ever experienced.

*(Reprinted from Chaplain's Corner, December 2003)*



## Chaplain's Corner (continued)



## In Memoriam

We have learned of the loss of the following Association members and non-members since our last newsletter:

Ray "Lou" Noonan (squadron 64-67)

May 19

Lowell Ray Honey Jr. (squadron 65-69)

Jul 19

David Peter Michel (squadron 58-62)

Jul 19

ADM James K. Summitt ((squadron 56-59)

Jul 19

Commodore Richard Bruce Campbell (squadron 66-67)

Aug 19

Capt. Robert "Billie Dell" Johnson (squadron 66-67)

Sep 19

Herbert Banister (squadron 48-52)

Sep 19

### In Memoriam (Continued)

Dan Tabizon (squadron 68-69)

Sep 19

Eileen Summitt (wife of ADM James Summitt) (squadron 56-59)

Mar 18

Carol Lewis (wife of Capt. Mardy Lewis) (squadron 61-64)

May 19

Faye Hanson (wife of Don Hanson) (squadron 58-61)

Oct 19

If you know of the passing of any of our former VP-2 personnel please advise by email Bob Behrend at [behrendr001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:behrendr001@hawaii.rr.com)

or Doug Donohue at [nvsoar@charter.net](mailto:nvsoar@charter.net)



# Just for laughs



Thoughts by Bob Hope (who lived to 100.)

ON TURNING 70-" I still chase women, but only downhill."

ON TURNING 80-"That's the time of your life when even your birthday suit needs pressing."

ON TURNINNG 90-:You know you are getting old when the candles cost more than the cake."

ON TURNING 100-"I don't feel old. In fact, I don't feel anything until noon. Then it is time for my nap."

ON GOLF-"Golf is my profession. Show business is just to pay the green fees."

ON HIS SIX BROTHERS-"That's how I learned to dance. Waiting for the bathroom."

ON GIVING UP HIS EARLY CAREER (BOXING)-"I ruined my hands in the ring. The referee kept stepping on them."

ON RECEIVING THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL-"I feel very humble, but think I have the strength of character to fight it."

## VP-2 Association Officers & Appointments

|                                    |                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>President</b>                   | Greg Kelley<br>274 Plantation Rd. Houston, TX 77024<br>713-419-5799 gregnsue@sbcglobal.net                    |
| <b>1st Vice President</b>          | Dino Vlahakis<br>54 Westview Lane, Lebanon, NH 03766<br>603-448-3729 cg601@comcast.net                        |
| <b>2nd Vice President</b>          | Bill Klett<br>9905 Hidden Trail Ct. Fairfax, VA 22039<br>703-569-2715 flyboynmate1960@verizom.net             |
| <b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>         | Robert Behrend<br>98-1820 Kaahumanu St. Apt P, Pearl City, HI 96782<br>808-455-7670 behrendr001@hawaii.rr.com |
| <b>Director</b>                    | Vic Gulliver<br>1900 Franklin Drive, Glenview, IL 60026<br>847-296-6907 vicgulliver@comcast.net               |
| <b>Director</b>                    | Nick Niccum<br>18821 185th Ave. NE, Woodinville, WA 98077<br>425-788-9834 nickniccum@hotmail.com              |
| <b>Director</b>                    | Floyd D. Palmer<br>213 Woodhill Ct., Mankato, MN 56001<br>507-327-6761 floydp@palmerbusservice.com            |
| <b>Website Coordinator</b>         | Doug Donohue<br>PO Box 2894, Gardnerville, NV 89410<br>775-781-3737 nvsoar@charter.net                        |
| <b>Association Chaplain</b>        | Doug Millar<br>12515 Maple Street, Leavenworth, WA 98826<br>509-888-1910 dna@dnamillar.com                    |
| <b>Association Historian</b>       | Skip Forseth<br>2319 Brewster, Redwood City, CA 94062<br>650-365-2806 p2flyer@pacbell.net                     |
| <b>Association Parliamentarian</b> | Bob Bender<br>197 Mill Pond Drive, Middleville, MI 49333<br>616-450-6790 bobender@yahoo.com                   |
| <b>Membership Chairman</b>         | Bob Champoux<br>286 145 <sup>th</sup> Place SE, Bellevue, WA 98007<br>425-502-9883 rchampoux@comcast.net      |

**LOOKING TO SHARE  
INFORMATION  
IN THE  
VP 2 NEPTUNE  
NEWSLETTER?**



If any of our members would  
like to contribute news,  
thoughts,  
experiences, etc.,

Email:  
Greg Kelley  
[gregnsue@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gregnsue@sbcglobal.net)



**See you in Jacksonville  
Reunion 2020  
October 15-19**

**Patrol Squadron Two Association**  
98-1820 Kaahumanu St Apt P  
Pearl City HI 96782-1882



We're on the Web

<http://www.patron2.com/>