The year 2004 is turning into a gangbuster year. There is so much going on and more to come. You’ll find various articles in this Newsletter about things that are happening within our Association, and I want to give you my perspective on a few of them.

Uppermost in my thoughts is our Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial, which is the most important and certainly the most inspirational and thought provoking project that our Association has ever undertaken. Our members voted to support this project with their ballots and pledges last summer. I have good news and I have bad news about the Memorial. The good news is that we have enough money to build our memorial. The bad news is that most of it is still in your pockets. That’s a bit of a joke that I got off the Internet, but it isn’t too far removed from our own situation. Our VP-2 Association membership pledged a whole lot of monetary support for donations in 2003. In round numbers, the 2003 donations fell 25% below the pledges. Donations for 2004 are also slow coming in.

As you’ll read elsewhere in the Newsletter, we’re still waiting for the city of Oak Harbor to approve our Memorial site, but we need to be collecting those donations now for the day when construction can begin. This project has my wholehearted support.

I hope that each and every one of you will buy and dedicate at least one brick to help build the Memorial. These donations are tax-deductible. Buy a brick this year and buy another next year for a tax deduction in each year.

We’re coming up on another reunion that will take place before we issue any more Newsletters. Let this be your final notice. George and Pat Jenista have planned a good time for all in San Antonio beginning September 28th. They have all sorts of activities planned and the setting of the Menger Hotel near the Alamo should be ideal. The most fun of a reunion is meeting up with old friends. The more of our old friends who show up, the more fun it will be. I’d like to see this reunion be the biggest and best ever. Bug your old friends and make sure they’re all planning to attend. Make your hotel reservations early to get the best room rate, and by all means send in your reunion registration form to the Jenistas as soon as you can.

I’ve got to make special mention of the great job that Bob Champoux is doing as our new Membership Chairman. Ever since Bob took over this new post, Marie can’t send out new member registration forms fast enough. It isn’t hard to convince people to join the VP-2 Association. The hard part is finding them, which Bob has been spending a lot of his time on the Internet doing. I know he is looking for volunteers to help him. Less than two years ago, we set a goal of reaching our 500th member. We’ve had such good luck recently in finding new members that we’re going to have to establish a new, higher goal… maybe 600… or 750. Who knows how far we can go? If you can, give Bob a hand with the membership drive.

If you have access to the Internet and haven’t yet or lately visited our own website at www.patron2.com then you’re really missing something. Doug Donohue has the website up and running and he is posting new pictures and information almost daily.
We want the website to be a visual history of VP-2, and we are all the historians. It is up to us to provide Doug with the photos and stories and anecdotes from our days in the squadron so he can put them on the website for the entire world to see. Look at every page and read all the articles to get an idea what you might be able to contribute.

Another new feature of our Association this year is the opening of our “Ship’s Store” where members can purchase memorabilia items, many of which are decorated with a VP-2 logo or the old VP-2 squadron patch that we all remember. One of our members, James Alsop, owns his own memorabilia business and is providing these products to us at excellent prices. This Newsletter contains an order form for this merchandise and there are descriptions of the items on the backside of the forms. I’m planning to wear the VP-2 sport shirt to the reunion and look forward to seeing many of you wearing them too. All the profits from the sale of this memorabilia will go to our own Association treasury. These items will be for sale the year ‘round, in addition to being introduced now in preparation for the reunion.

On a final note, I want to thank a dear friend, Marie Hart, for all the hard work she has done on the Association’s behalf for nearly twenty years. Marie is stepping down as the only Secretary/Treasurer this Association has ever had. Marie isn’t going anywhere; she will be staying active on the Executive Board as a Director. Marie, the entire VP-2 Association owes you a huge debt of gratitude for a job Well Done.

See you in San Antonio!

Floyd D. Palmer, Association President

From the Frying Pan into the Fire;

A Very Long Week on YC-08 and Then Some Liberty

Patrol Squadron Two was involved in Market Time flights out of Tan Son Nhut (Saigon) in ’67-’68. I was serving as a co-pilot and navigator on our P2V Neptune along with Larry Doyle on Crew 8. Market Time flights ran 9 – 12 hours and involved low altitude maritime and/or ELINT reconnaissance either around the west side of Vietnam up toward Cambodia or on the east side up into the Tonkin Gulf. We typically flew every other night until our flight time well exceeded the allowable maximum and then rotated back to Sangley Point (near Manila) for a few weeks.

There was always some grousing between the Ops officer and the Flight Surgeon concerning flight hours. Just to get even, the “Doc” would frequently ground flight crews for excessive flight hours the morning following their return to Sangley Point from Tan Son Nhut.

When “in-country”, our flight crews lived in a very small hotel in Saigon, not far from the Palace. The tap water would give you dysentery even if you used it to rinse out your toothbrush. (We had several cases of Mateus wine (25 cents per quart) stacked in the bathroom for such purposes.) The front door to the hotel was bunkered and we had a local Vietnamese guard who always said that if he didn’t show up in the morning that “Bad trouble would be a happening.”

One day he didn’t show up. It was the beginning of the ’67 Tet Offensive. We soon learned that the Viet Cong had mortared our maintenance line shack at Ton Son Nhut during the evening hours (fortunately no one was in it). We decided that it would be prudent if we took our airplane and crew back to Sangley. The runway had a big hole in it so we took off from the taxiway (love those big tires on a Neptune!).

Half way to “feet wet” at Vung Tau, the Air Force controller called to tell us that we were in the middle of an intensive artillery fire zone and directed us to immediately climb to 30,000 feet to clear! After we explained that YC-08 was an ancestor of the Truculent Turtle, he advised us to “hold present position” until the firefight was over …sure, circling, sitting Duck at 4,000 feet! Thanks, Air Force, but we’ll take our chances proceeding straight ahead with “two turning and two burning” at 305 knots indicated. So we said goodbye to Saigon and left for Sangley Point and a “for sure” grounding chit in the morning from the flight surgeon for very excessive flight time.
We got back at Sangley in time to unpack and have dinner. The officers retreated to the ‘O Club and the crew went in to Cavite. About two gin and tonics later, the duty officer found the officers and told us that we needed to round up the crew and “go flying.”

“But, but, but, ……we’ve been drinking”
“Doesn’t matter”

“We’ve got way too much flight time, we are going to be grounded by the Doc in the morning.”
“It isn’t morning yet”

“The crew is in Cavite, we’ll never find them”
“The Shore Patrol is already on it”

Where are we going?”
“Iwakuni”

Why?
“Don’t know why but it’s a DEFCON situation”

How long are we going to be gone?”
“Don’t know that either.”

What’s the weather supposed to be like?
“Snow showers!”
(We’d been flying in the tropics for months!)

A few hours later we were on the way to Iwakuni. It was wintertime and got colder as we headed north. We hadn’t used the heaters on the aircraft since we left Whidbey and they refused to work. Some of the crew popped parachutes to stay warm. Arrived in a snow squall at 0200 and were told to be back at 0530 for a briefing and a 0700 takeoff. We still had no idea of what was up.

After only a few hours sleep, we headed back to the airplane. When we arrived, we found rusty conventional depth charges already hung on the wing stations and the airplane surrounded by marines with M-16’s at the ready, guarding the weapon contents of the bomb bays. This was very, very, serious!

“Who has the check lists and who remembers how to use them?”

At the briefing, we learned about the capture of the USS Pueblo and that we would be the first maritime patrol aircraft on station in the Sea of Japan for ASW and Patrol operations. “Does anyone remember how to catch a submarine?”

We flew every day for about a week until relieved by P-3 squadrons from Moffett. The Ruskies cooperated and gave us a number of contacts to keep it interesting. Fortunately the flights were only about seven hours long because the bomb bay fuel tanks had to be removed to accommodate our “special” internal ordinance load.

From the frying pan of the Tet Offensive into the Fire of the Pueblo Offensive all in 24 hours and for the rest of the week!

P.S. The Doc hopped a flight to Iwakuni and grounded us for excessive flight time for the next week of very tough duty – R&R on per diem in Japan.

Recollections by Bob Champoux with help from Larry Doyle

Announcement – Changes on the Executive Board

The VP-2 Association Executive Board is pleased to announce that Doug Donohue has consented to replace Marie Hart as the Association Secretary and Treasurer as of October 1, 2004 when Marie is scheduled to leave that post.

Doug is currently filling a Director position on the Executive Board that was vacated with Dave Quindt’s resignation this past winter. Marie, who has been our Secretary/Treasurer since the dawn of time and since the Association was first formed, will remain on the Executive Board as a Director, filling Doug’s vacated seat.

We thank Marie wholeheartedly for her twenty years of service to the Association as its Secretary/ Treasurer, and we look forward to twenty more as a Director!

We also thank Doug Donohue for volunteering to take over as Secretary/Treasurer in addition to the great job he is doing as our Webmaster.
Memorabilia Sales

The VP-2 Association has recently entered into an arrangement with one of our long-time members, James Alsop, to sell memorabilia to our members at very favorable prices compared to what can be found elsewhere in the marketplace. James Alsop has his own memorabilia business and offers us his expertise and an outstanding pricing structure. Much of what is being offered to us has been customized with VP-2 logos or the squadron patch. An order form with descriptions on the back can be found in this Newsletter. This same product information is available on our website at www.patron2.com. An order form can be downloaded from the website and used whenever you wish to place an order. You have the option of ordering merchandise early this summer and having it delivered either to your home address or it can be delivered to George and Pat Jenista in Texas if you wish to take delivery of your order at the reunion. There is a 50% saving on shipping and handling charges if you take delivery at the reunion. Delivery to a home address will cost a little more, but may be what you want especially if you can’t make it to the reunion. If you want to order VP-2 wearing apparel or other items to have it available in time for the reunion, you must get your order and full payment in by August 1, 2004.

At present, our plan is to have some of these memorabilia items available for sale at the reunion. In particular, we will likely stock squadron patches, ball caps, sun visors, tee shirts, sport shirts, sweatshirts and coffee mugs, all with the VP-2 logo. We will not be able to stock all of these items in all the colors or sizes that you could order by mail. And the overall quantities of each item that we can put up for sale at the reunion will be limited, so it will be first come, first served. We are also planning to offer squadron plaques and travel alarm clocks with the squadron markings, plus some beautiful P2V-7 simulated oil paintings on canvas, all at surprisingly low prices.

To ensure that you can purchase those items you want to have, don’t wait for the reunion. Place your order now and have it available for you when you arrive in San Antonio or have it shipped to your home. It would be terrific to have everyone, including our wives, come to the brunch business meeting at the reunion wearing VP-2 sport shirts.

These memorabilia sales are not limited to just getting ready for the reunion. You can order these items any time. Wear a VP-2 tee shirt, sport shirt or sweatshirt year-round whenever you feel like telling the world how you served your country. In addition to adult sizes, look over the youth and infant wear that is being offered with the VP-2 logo embroidered on it.

Keep your grandkids in mind for these items for birthdays, Christmas or just to show them what Grandpa used to do in the Navy.

Memorabilia Sales at the Reunion

In the past, we have sold a few memorabilia items at each reunion… ball caps, coffee mugs, etc., and it was always the host’s responsibility to handle that. The host could usually ask a few other squadron-mates to help out during certain hours by taking turns manning the sales area in the Duty Office.

A full-scale memorabilia sales project is more than the hosts can handle, particularly since that takes time away from their other hosting responsibilities. This year, because we will be introducing a far greater inventory of memorabilia items for sale, we would like to set up a rotation of sales people who can man the sales area for much of the time that the Duty Office is open.

If we can get enough people to volunteer (ouch, there’s that ugly word) for sales duty, we can limit the duty times to maybe just a couple of hours for each person. When you check in on your first day at the reunion, tell George or Pat Jenista that you would be proud to assist with memorabilia sales.

If you don’t volunteer for memorabilia sales, you might get stuck with KP duty at dinner!!
Membership Musings

Thanks to a lot of help from many folks, our membership roles are rapidly increasing. At the time of printing, we are up to member number 487! This represents an increase of 18 members just since the last Newsletter.

My name is Bob Champoux. I was in VP-2 when it was decommissioned in 1969 and I was involved in the last two squadron deployments. I “volunteered” to accept responsibility for heading up the Membership program for our Association and, frankly, I’ve had a lot of fun doing so. With help from Vic, Doug and Marie, we’ve come up with a fairly simple process for adding to our rolls.

1. Using a cruise book, we came up with a list of full names including middle initials.

2. We then use an Internet web site to track down names and phone numbers in six different “search engines.”

3. A few phone calls are next. Sometimes we’re lucky and there is only one listing (e.g., Denny DeLear), and other times it is nearly impossible due to the great number of listings (more common names, e.g., Ed Cox).

4. Once we’ve located someone, we briefly introduce them to the Association (this is the fun part; it’s like old home week!) and tell them about the upcoming reunion.

5. We then ask that person who else they have kept in contact with, which usually results in several more contacts.

6. Once we have postal and email addresses, we email the information to Marie, who sends the prospect an information/registration packet.

7. Doug keeps track of their contact information on our master roster database.

Volunteers Needed!

I already have a few volunteers, but would like to expand the membership effort to include about ten additional members who could assist in tracking down folks using the above procedure. A group of fifteen names will be assigned to each person to process in about a six week period. If you are interested, please send me an email at: rchampoux@comcast.net.

New Members who have joined since the last Newsletter:

In addition to the sixty new members who joined the Association in 2003, the following have joined so far in 2004:

David and Eunice Au, Ralph and Joanne Chandler, Dennis and Ann Christ, Dennis and Marilyn DeLear, Richard and Sharan Growney, Robert Hallberg, Norm and Pat Huddle, Bill and Sharon Kraper, James and Nancy Luttrull, Douglas McGehee, Kent and Martha McKnight, Melvin and Roz Nelson, Gene and JoDell Offord, Robert and Elaine Ogrin, Verlyn and Kandyce Olson, Joseph and Mary Jo Soricelli, James and Danne Swartwood, Bruce and Larissa Webb.

San Antonio Reunion 2004

If you’ve just flown in from Mars or if you are a new member of the VP-2 Association, you may not be aware that our next biannual reunion will be held in San Antonio from September 28th through October 1st.

George and Pat Jenista have thoughtfully volunteered to host this event and are now putting the final touches on all the planning that goes into it. They have created a fun-filled schedule of events over a four-day span that will include a business meeting, several organized meals/parties and many choices of interesting tours and other activities. This will be our first reunion in Texas and we’re hoping that it will be the largest gathering we’ve ever had.

If you haven’t yet signed up to attend, take a look at the list in this newsletter of those who have already signed up. See what and whom you will be missing if you don’t join us.
VP-2 REUNION 2004

Tuesday, Sept 28 thru Sat, Oct 02, 2004 (Check out)

San Antonio, TX

Menger Hotel
204 Alamo Plaza, San Antonio, TX 78205
1-800-345-9285

COST: ESTIMATED COST $100.00 PER PERSON

The Duty Office stocked with coffee, tea, soft drinks, and snacks will be open all day and evenings unless a scheduled event is in progress.

Schedule as of now:

- **Tuesday, Sept 28** - Check-in/Registration. Check in time 3:30 PM Welcome reception in Hotel Ballroom 6:00PM. Dinner on your own. See Website: www.sanantoniocvb.com and click on “Attractions” then scroll to “Riverwalk” for suggestions.

- **Wednesday, Sept 29** - Brunch/Business meeting 9:00 AM to Noon. Afternoon: Golf, Tour Missions National Historic Park, Alamo, Riverwalk boat tours.

- **Thursday, Sept 30** - Tour of Fredricksburg TX Nimitz Naval Museum, George Bush WWII Naval Annex, Historical Fredricksburg, Wineries, Wildflower Farm etc. Busses will be available. Museum admission $5 or $3. More golf if desired.

- **Friday, Oct 1** - Optional touring, AM Bus Tour of Randolph AFB (Historical location of Air Force Flight Training) with lunch at O’club. Bus cost: $7.00/person. Lunch is buffet- pay as you go. A tour of the Steves Homestead located in the King William Historical District followed by lunch at the nearby Guenther House roof garden is suggested as an “on your own” event. Cost of the tour and lunch is approx. $16.00. Dinner/Western Barbeque at Fort Sam Houston Officers Club. Busses available @ $7.00 per person. Keg Beer and carafe of wine at each table. Buffet dinner served at 1930. Western attire, comfortable attire, cocktail dresses, sport coat optional. We will recognize shipmates that have passed on.

- **Sat, Oct 2** - Checkout and farewell. Checkout time 1200 Noon.

Additional Info: The city has a tourist trolley system that circles thru the downtown area at .50/ride and stops at all the tour sites nearby including the International Market with its interesting Mexican Restaurants and shopping. Cabs are available @ about $5.00 to most downtown locations.

Hotel Information:
Reservations must be made soon. Committed Guest rooms will be held only until August 26, 2004, at which time they will be released. Reservations received after the deadline will be accepted on the basis of availability. Single/Double $85.00 plus Tax. Parking is available in the rear of the hotel in the parking garage. Hotel Valet Parking is $17/day. Airport shuttle is $9.00 one way/ $16.00 roundtrip. A limited number rooms may be reserved from Sunday, Sept 26 and will be available until Oct. 3 at the VP-2 rate for those who wish to arrive early and/or depart later.

Please note your wishes when making your reservation. Reservations may be made on their toll-free number 1-800-345-9285 and identify yourself as a member of VP-2. The event booking number is #7430.
Please Complete and Mail Back by July 1, 2004

YES, WE ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND
THE VP-2 REUNION IN SAN ANTONIO

COST $100.00 PER PERSON (Less Deposit)

Name(s) __________________________________ and ____________________________

Date Arriving _______________ Number _____ attending x $100.00 = _______

Bringing a Car? Yes___ No____ Renting a Car? Yes___ No____

Wednesday, September 28th

Brunch/Business Mtg : # attending ________

Thursday, September 29th

Fredricksburg Tour and Nimitz Museum
# Attending ________ Bus to Fredricksburg @ $7.00 each = ______

Friday, September 30th

Bus tour of Randolph AFB & Lunch @ O’Club
# Attending _____ Bus @ $7.00 ______

Sam Houston Club Banquet # Attending_____
# Attending _____ Bus @ $7.00 ______

Total Amount Due ________________
Less Deposit ________________
Amount Enclosed ________________

Make Checks payable to: VP-2 Reunion 2004
C/O George & Pat Jenista
710 Aqua Vista Dr
Granbury, TX 76049-1640

Phone: 817-279-7259 Fax: 817-573-6146 E-Mail: george-pat@itexas.net

Golfers: Please contact Jim Welch, 2004 Golf Coordinator
Email Address: JapWelch@GBRonline.com
Mailing Address: J.M Welch, 8601 Terrell Dr., North Richland Hills, TX 76180
Phone Number: (817) 788-2204
Look Who is Attending the Reunion!

Following is a list of those whose reservations were received by the time the newsletter started into production:
If you don’t see the names of some old friends from your days in the squadron on this list, call them and find out why:

Balchunas, Charles & Amelia  Banister, Herbert & Ella  Barker, William & Charlotte
Beam, Verna  Bender, Bob & Carol  Birchfield, William & Joan
Bolender, John & JoAnn  Boswell, Edward & Leta  Bowden, Jack
Bowen, David & Connie  Bowman, Wayne & Arlene  Brown, Betty J.
Brown, Charles G.  Brown, John & Muriel  Brown, Joseph & Ester
Budd, James  Carleton, Bob  Carpenter, Jack & Rosalind
Champoux, Bob & Myrna  Chruma, Joe & Elizabeth  Cordell, Patrick & Virginia
Cowen, Wayne & Shirley  Crippen, James & Jo-An  Czap, Paul
Davey, Daniel & Juana  Davis, Jerry & Dianne  Davis, John & Theresa
DeBoer, Ken & Cathy  Dodson, Jack  Dombrowski, Rick & Sue
Dorrheim, Milton & Nylarace  Eason, Bill  Eaton, Helen
Edwards, Frank & Barbara  Emele, Vernon & Gayle  Engle, Donald & Florence
Erickson, Neil & Patti  Estep, Hubert & Ann  Farwell, Warren & Pat
Fish, Wesley & Molly  Flynn, Maynard & Gail  Forseth, Skip & Kathy
Foster, Bill & Lorraine  Gleason, Joseph & Joan  Gordon, James & Carolyn
Gulliver, Vic & Pat  Guter, Richard & Barbara  Hamilton, Arley & Ann
Hanson, Don & Fay  Hart, Frank & Marie  Henry, Glen & Judy
Henry, Janice & J.T. Morgan  Hinman, Barbara  Hinman III, Jack
Hoit, Ed & Elsie  Howard, A.W. (Bert) & Mary Anne  Isaacson, John & Dottie
Jenista, George & Pat  Juarez, John & Joan  Kosakoski, Bob & Rosemary
Kosbab, Neil & Linnea  Krogh, David & Phyllis  Lapham, Joe & Mae
Leis, Jack & Bea  Lenson, Bob & Raye  Loberger, Jim & Bev
Lofgren, Earl & Lucille  Luther, Sherwood & Barbara  Luttrull, James & Nancy
Lyford, Howard & Bonnie  Manning, John & Lynn  Manning, Richard & Iona
Massey, Luther & Linda  McKnight, Robert & Nancy  Melton, Don & Evelyn
Michel, David & Dorothy  Millar, Doug & Anne  Mills, Dennis & Daisy
Moby, Darrell & Jan  Moran, Tom & Nancy  Nash, Joe & Marilyn Flores
O’Gara, Mike & Barbara  Paine, Forrest & Evelyn  Palmer, Floyd & Lois
Porterfield, Gary & Lynda  Preston, Red & Vivian  Pugh, Jim & Betsy
Radzilowski, Clement & Rose Marie  Rice, Bernard & Genie  Rogstad, Allen & Shirley
Rose, Richard & Donna  Rosnes, Bruce & Phyllis  Ruppelius, Jerry & Betty
Rushin, John  Russell, Jerry & Sharon  Ryan, Joseph & Joyce
Samuelson, Kenneth & Babe Libenguth  Satterwhite, Bob & Marilyn  Scanlan, Don & Linda
Schneider, Ed & Jane  Seebald, John & Suzanne  Seng, Dick & Sandy Ogden
Smith, Bill & Sandra  Sommer, Marvin & Carolyn  Stark, Richard & Candace
Stewart, Dorothy  St John, Anne  Swearingen, Thomas
Tate, Tom & Juanita  Terry, Ron & Kathy  Tucker, Joseph & Rosemary
Vaccaro, Al & Joy  Veatch, Phil & Ruth  Vlahakis, Dino
Walker, Bruce & Marge  Welch, Jim & Pat  Wells, Robert & Sandra
Wheeler, O.V. & Ginger  Wiggins, Theresa R.  Wolf, Ron & Jeanette
Wolfe, Robert & Pat
We Need to Pick the Next Reunion Site!

Now that Joe and Elizabeth Chruma are no longer planning our fantastic reunions and traveling all over the country to do so, we have come to the conclusion that each future reunion site chosen must have a member-volunteer in that town (or nearby) who will volunteer to plan and host the reunion as George and Pat Jenista are doing for us now in San Antonio.

We have heard from members who would like to see future reunions held in such places as Las Vegas, Pensacola, San Diego, San Francisco (bay area), and again in Oak Harbor. Other locations can also be considered. But, the need for volunteers in the city chosen will likely determine where we go in 2006. Working as a reunion host involves a lot of advanced planning and legwork. It’s not an easy job. The job can be made easier if there is more than one member-couple involved in sharing the workload.

Be thinking about where you would like to go for the 2006 reunion, and be thinking about whether we have members living in that city and whether we can convince them to volunteer to be hosts. The decision on where to go in 2006 must be made at the business meeting in San Antonio this fall.

If you live in or near a city that would be an appropriate site for our reunion, please consider volunteering to host our 2006 get-together. If you wish to volunteer for 2006, even if you can’t make it to the San Antonio reunion, give Floyd Palmer a call. We would like to have a handle on our 2006 reunion options before we go to San Antonio.

E-Mail Addresses

We now have email addresses on file for more than half of our members.

We suspect that some of you haven’t told us your email addresses and that some will acquire an email capability at some point in the near future. If your email address is not now shown on the website and/or in the printed roster that was mailed to you, contact Doug Donohue at nvsoar@charter.net or Vic Gulliver at viegulliver@comcast.net with the details.

Email is a quick and easy way to get the word out. The more of our members who have that capability, the easier it is to keep everyone informed of important events.

The Official Patrol Squadron Two Website

If you haven’t yet visited the VP-2 website at www.patron2.com you are in for a real treat. Doug Donohue has worked tirelessly to build up the website with as much information about VP-2 and its people as he could gather.

There are a growing number of photos, interesting stories, family remembrances, official and unofficial notices of interest, cruise book pictures, the roster of our whole Association, a history of the squadron, a listing of those who died in VP-2 service, and much more. Doug has done a beautiful job of putting this all together, but he isn’t a magician. He can’t recreate your memories or post imaginary photographs. He needs our help in providing the material that should be on the website.

Our intention is to have a website that will be a repository for information about the full history of VP-2. Everything that every one of us did in the squadron is part of that history.

Your photos and your sea-stories and the memories of your family members are important to making the website what it ought to be.

Look at the website if you haven’t done so recently and see where we’re trying to go with it. Then help us out by contributing photos or stories or whatever you’d like to see displayed.

Send your stuff to Doug Donohue at nvsoar@charter.net or to Rick Dombrowski at rmdeez@aol.com.
In the last few months many of us have seen the film "The Passion of Jesus Christ," a movie which depicts the last 12 hours of Christ's life before His crucifixion. Some of us liked it; some of us did not. Some thought it was anti-Semitic; some thought not. Others thought it was anti-Roman, while many complained that it over portrayed the violence of the event.

The significance of the film is not what we think of it, but rather the message of the film itself. What is the message of the film? The message is that not only the Jews or the Romans are responsible for Christ's crucifixion, but each of us is also partly responsible for the death of Christ. You see the Bible, as well as the film, teaches us that Christ was not murdered or executed for the charges that were trumped up against Him. Rather, He willingly gave up His life for all of us. In the New Testament book of John, chapter 10, verse 18, Christ says, "... the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from me, but I lay it down on my own initiative."

Why would Christ lay down His life for all of us? In Peter's book, chapter 3, verse 18, he says "Christ died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He (Jesus) might bring us to God."

None of this would have had much significance if Christ had remained dead in that sealed tomb. However, He did not! He took His life back up again three days later and was seen by literally hundreds of people in Israel during the next 40 days or so. This is a well documented fact of history - not only documented in the Bible but also by secular historians of the time, one being Flavius Josephus whose writings are available to us in bookstores right now. In Saint Paul's letters to the people of Corinth Paul names some of those who had seen Christ and then says, "After that He (Jesus) appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time."

Better yet is the fact that Jesus Christ still lives today, in Heaven as well as in the hearts of mankind. Saint Paul writes in his letter to the Romans, chapter 8, verse 34 "Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, and who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?"

This is good news! Don't overlook it. It is news of eternal significance for each of us.

In Memoriam

The following have passed away since our last newsletter: Jerome Shepherd (October 03)

Please keep this family in your prayers.

If you know of the passing of any of our former VP-2 Personnel, please advise Marie Hart.

For Sale: AC Wings

Available now in Av Green, Khaki, Black and white, and authorized, per Navy Uniform regs, on Working Khaki, Av Green, Indoor Duty White, and Winter Working Blue. I have gold bullion embroidered in all these colors. Normal price is $10.00 retail. Sale Price: $5.00 each, 3 for $12.00, shipping included.

For an online picture, go to: http://www.vpnavy.org/associate_wings.html


“The Day Our Squadron Was Arrested”

While stationed at NAS Whidbey Island, in January 1956, we were sent T.A.D. to NAS North Island, San Diego.

When we were returning from the Chow Hall, some Shore Patrol/security people, arrested the four of us and escorted us to our barracks, which was filled with our VP-2 Shipmates.

They would not tell us why we were restricted.

About an hour later, we got the scuttlebutt. It seems the base commander’s wife was giving a tea party at their home and a smoke bomb came through the ceiling and filled the house with heavy white smoke.

Naturally, we were the strangers, and we were guilty.

Later, after some plane/position research, it was discovered a North Island P-5M (brand-new ordnanceman) had hit the pickle, which dropped the smoke bomb. So, VP-2’s reputation was preserved.

Submitted by Dan Melton, VP-2 Aviation Electronics Guy
We are up and running. Not full speed, but we’re making waves. We have reached one milestone, and we are pressing for the next. But first, let’s review what our planned memorial looks like. As you can see in the picture below, the focal point of the memorial is a life-sized bronze statue of a VP crewmember representing all Whidbey airmen. Our “Lone Airman” is attired in flight suit, Mae West, and parachute harness and wearing a baseball cap. He’s holding a flight helmet in his right hand. The statue stands on a brick patio. A few feet behind the airman, and at the edge of the patio, is a three-paneled granite wall, about four feet high and totaling about eight feet wide. On the center panel just above the etched words of dedication is an etched depiction of a P2V-7 Neptune. On the two granite panels on either side of the main panel will be placed the names of 85 servicemen who lost their lives in Whidbey P2V operations. The names will be cast on two bronze plaques that will be permanently attached to the outer granite walls.

Two attractive granite benches matching the granite of the memorial walls are located in front of our Lone Airman. Donation bricks surround the patio floor and the walkway leading in from the city sidewalk. This sidewalk runs from downtown Oak Harbor to the yacht club and on to the Seaplane Base. The bricks will be etched with names or dedications generated by donors who purchase the bricks.

We’ve had two major setbacks in our efforts to get a memorial erected on Whidbey. First, we wanted to get a real P2V as a “gate guard” at the Ault Field main gate as our memorial. It would have complemented the P-3 Orion which stands on a pad in the center of Ault Field. But after the 9-11 attack, security regulations at NAS tightened in accordance with the new Homeland Security Regulations. The Navy no longer welcomed our Neptune aboard Ault Field (NAS Whidbey Island). That, coupled with strong guidance from our membership during the 2002 reunion to seek something other than a real aircraft, we switched to a more traditional type memorial to be located off base.

Secondly, we’ve had to modify our design for the memorial. The original design had two more statues; a woman and a child. We had an estimate of $150,000 for completion of this project. Based on past experience, it was decided that we needed to get 50% of the funding and support from within our own association. Further, to get some feel for success before “going public”, we asked for pledges from our VP-2 people. We received pledges for $55,000. As a result, we reduced the funding required to $105,000 by eliminating the statue of the woman and child. These statues can be added to the memorial at a later date if and when funding becomes available.
We are now working on two fronts. We've recently sent out letters to those who pledged but have not yet sent in their money. We're also seeking further donations from within our VP-2 Association. And, we are working with the City of Oak Harbor to get a favorable site for the memorial. Our reminder letters requested those who pledged to please send-in their money so we can achieve the 50% funding milestone. Should the memorial fail to materialize all monies will be promptly refunded to donors. This is one of the reasons why we are not yet seeking funds outside of our association.

We are currently working with the Oak Harbor Parks Board and City Council for favorable endorsement for erecting our memorial in the small Veterans Memorial Park, (the old Catalina Park), between downtown Oak Harbor and the Seaplane Base main gate. This process has been complicated by the city wanting to do a “comprehensive review/design” of the whole harbor and water-front area from the tip of Maylor Point Navy Housing, through the marina, yacht club, and City Beach, to the base of Scenic Heights (Blowers Bluff). We’ve made our proposal, and we keep our plan on their mind by attending city council and parks board meetings and interacting with their people. We have recently learned that Paul Brewer, a retired Navy Master Chief and friend of our project, and member of the City Council, has been assigned as the city council liaison to the Parks Board.

The bureaucratic process is not fast, but our odds are increasing. We have decided that we must get an acceptable site for the memorial in order to go forward. There are many little parks scattered throughout the Oak Harbor area, but basically none that are as acceptable or that catch one’s eye like the Veterans Memorial Park.

So, where are we today? Pledge money is coming in, and we take every opportunity to make our project known to the city powers-that-be. What can you do? Plenty. First, make a donation; buy a brick, even several bricks. Make them miniature memorials to a shipmate, your old crew, yourself, or anything/anyone you desire. Secondly, you can help the project by offering to assist our memorial committee, especially our fund-raising chairman, Al Hall. A real help would be, when we begin soliciting outside of our association, if you would represent our memorial efforts to your organization, be it the Lions, Elks, Rotary, VFW, American Legion, or any of the many fine organizations where you live. When we begin soliciting from the general public they can donate and purchase bricks. Also, you can help with our fund-raising by suggesting potential donors, be they squadron reunion organizations, foundations, industries, or any other prospective donors. We are a non-profit organization, therefore donors can declare all contributions as federal tax deductions for the year in which the donation was made.

A memorial brick order form is printed in this newsletter. If you need additional brick order forms feel free to duplicate the form on a copy machine. All donations and brick order forms should be mailed to Vic Gulliver, 1900 Franklin Drive, Glenview, IL 60025-1076. All checks should be made payable to VP-2 Association.

Your VP-2 Association memorial committee members are: Don Hanson, chairman; Dave Bowen; Al Hall; Wayne Bowman; and Don Grove.

Painless Reminder!!!!!

For those who have yet to remit, please remember that the regular $20.00 (tax deductible) donation toward the operating expenses of your association are due in January of the even numbered years. Thanks!!!
Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial
Donation and Brick Order Form

Name ____________________________________________________
(Please print)

Mailing Address __________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Please send your contribution to:

Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial
c/o Vic Gulliver
1900 Franklin Drive
Glenview, IL  60025-1076

I have enclosed my check for $______________________________

Please make checks payable to VP-2 ASSOCIATION

Brick inscription*

Up to 20 characters (including spaces) per line, 3 lines maximum

If you have ordered more than 1 brick please copy this form

*The committee reserves the right to edit objectionable or libelous brick inscriptions
Honor the service and sacrifice of Cold War Veterans

"We have a patrol tomorrow that takes us across the Bering Straight and around the Russian coast as far as we can go."

"I certainly don't look forward to them 'cause flying conditions here are absolutely terrible."

NAVY LT JESSE BEASLEY IN A 1953 LETTER TO HIS WIFE

LT JESSE BEASLEY RETURNING FROM THE RUSSIAN PERIPHERY, WINTER OF 1953 LT Beasley and his crew were lost on a mission over the Yellow Sea January 4, 1954

Courtesy Satch Beasley and Bruce Berger

FYI

Here is an example of the Cold War Memorial Calendar, which features Jesse Beasley and his aircraft on the cover for the month of December. Each day of the calendar is labeled with a note on who was killed and where on the day throughout the Cold War. Each month shows a picture of some aircraft or ship that was lost during the Cold War.

LT Jesse Beasley, who was killed in a VP-2 P2V off Korea in 1954 was the father of Satch Beasley, as Association Member.

For more information: www.coldwarveterans.com
VP-2 Association Officers
and Appointed Personnel

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VP – 2 Website
www.patron2.com
Looking to Share Information in the Neptune Newsletter?

If any of our members would like to contribute news, thoughts, experiences, etc., please email Floyd D. Palmer at: plmf01@mctcnet.net

Membership Dues Update

Today is your day to send in your membership dues if you have not already. Please take the time to support our terrific organization! Since our last reunion, our membership is over 400 members. Our goal is to reach 500 members by our 2004 Reunion. If you know of any former VP-2 Personal, who are currently not members, please provide Marie Hart with their name and address so that she can get a membership packet to them. Besides being the most famous Patrol Squadron in the Navy, their membership will provide them with a host of great opportunities! If your spouse, who was a member of VP-2, passes away and you would like to cancel your membership, please let Marie Hart know. You are welcome to stay a member too! If you move, please forward your new address to Marie Hart too! You can contact Marie Hart at: 1261 Patricia Drive, Yuma, AZ 85367, phone her at (928) 342-3660 or email her at: fm12621@aol.com.

Floyd D. Palmer  
VP-2 Association President  
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June 2004 VP-2 Newsletter