



The Neptune

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Volume Number 14, June 2007

“Adamante Semper Parato”

www.patron2.com

A Message from the President

First of all, our prayers and best wishes continue to go out to our military men and women who serve our country with distinction. Many of them have been on duty and away from home for far too long. Our hope is that those who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan can finish the job soon and come home to a warm welcome from their friends and loved ones.

Now that the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial has been dedicated and stands proudly in Veterans Memorial Park in Oak Harbor, there doesn't seem to be as much for us to talk about in our Newsletter. Don Hanson reports that a project is underway to run electrical wires so that the Memorial can be illuminated in the evenings. Also, the bricks that were ordered too late to be on display at the dedication will soon be inscribed on site. When those projects are finished, the Memorial will officially be done.

Soon, we'll be directing our thoughts toward the next reunion, which is planned for September 2008 in San Diego. Dave Krogh is heading up the 2008 reunion committee, assisted by Dave Au. Dave and Dave are still looking for additional volunteers who live in the San Diego area who can help with the reunion planning and arrangements. If you'd like to help, contact Dave Krogh whose numbers appear on the last page of this newsletter.

I've saved a spot in my newsletter message to repeat something that we have had on the home page of our website for several months. Dino Vlahakis came across this quotation somewhere and forwarded it on to some of our members. I could not agree more with what the author had to say:

The Brotherhood



“I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted at their best; men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped of their humanity. I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another. As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades... Such good men.”

--Author unknown.

Beautifully said.

Lois and I wish you all a bright and sunny summer, good health and good times. Remember that growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional!!

All the best, *Floyd D. Palmer, Association President*

Here's a Tough Question We Need to Answer!!

by Vic Gulliver



Before I ask the question, a few words describing the situation: As you all know, the Memorial committee left no stones unturned in raising funds for the building of the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial. At first, the committee had some doubts about how successful they might be at fundraising since most of the members had never been involved in a fundraising effort of the scale needed to build the Memorial. So, the committee worked overtime to ensure that they could raise the funds needed to pay the bills. As it turned out, more money was raised than actually needed to cover the cost of the Memorial, including the cost of the grand dedication ceremony that many of us witnessed last September. Unknown to the committee at the time that they were estimating the costs to build the Memorial, much of the labor and even some materials that had been programmed into the expense column turned out to be donated by the good citizens of Oak Harbor. Plus, the donations from our own Association members and from VP veterans from other squadrons far exceeded the estimates of the committee. "So, how much more was raised?" you ask. Well, a whole lot more! When all was said and done, and accounting for the expected costs to have the Memorial illuminated this Spring, we have about \$35,000 of Memorial money sitting in our VP-2 Association treasury. Now, here is the question: What should be done with that money?

I can hear some of you saying, "We have too much money? What's the problem? That sounds like a good thing!!" It isn't a bad thing. It is far better than owing money at the end of a big project! But, we do have a legal responsibility to see to it that the money raised in the spirit of a charitable cause is used wisely and correctly. Let's keep in mind that most of the total amount raised for the WPSM came from outside our Association. And the people who donated it, did so with the belief that the money would be used in the charitable work surrounding the building of the Memorial. Also, our relationship

with the IRS in allowing tax-deductible contributions specifies that money raised must be used in a charitable fashion. We can't just have a free reunion or a big party, for instance, to use up the money. So, what should be done with that money?

The VP-2 Executive Board has discussed this issue and has concluded that:

- 1) there is no need to hurry in deciding what to do,
- 2) there are no big anticipated maintenance expenses for the Memorial since the city has taken over custody and maintenance of the site,
- 3) the money should not be spent on anything that only benefits the VP-2 Association,
- 4) the money must be used to support some bone fide charitable cause,
- 5) our Association members should have a voice in deciding what to do with the money.

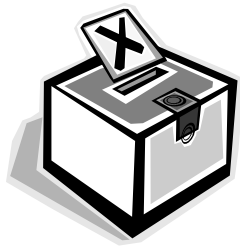


One charitable cause that was discussed among the Executive Board is the MOAA (Military Officers Association of America) scholarship program. A donation to the scholarship program in the name of the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial could create a perpetual college scholarship awarded annually in the name of the organization. There are undoubtedly other ideas that our members might suggest, and probably some other worthy scholarship programs.

Regarding the MOAA Scholarship Fund - For info Established in 1948, The Scholarship Fund has helped more than 8,500 college students from military families attain a college education. The Scholarship Fund supports MOAA's Educational Assistance Program, a program that provides interest-free loans and grants for up to five years of undergraduate study to dependents of active duty, reserve, National Guard, and retired officers and enlisted personnel. The Scholarship Fund is supported by donations and bequests from MOAA members, their spouses, and others. MOAA administers this program without deducting any operating expenses whatsoever from donations.

100% of contributions are used for loans and grants. MOAA's General Fund, not The Scholarship Fund, pays all administrative expenses - salaries, office expenses, marketing costs, and other non-educational support. The Scholarship Fund, a public charity exempt from federal income taxes under 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, supports MOAA's Educational Assistance Program.

More info at
www.moaa.org/about/about_scholarship/index.htm



Here is how we would like to proceed: Doug Donohue (our treasurer) would like to have all members with an opinion on this subject contact him either via email (the easiest way) or via a letter or phone

call. Let Doug know anytime before the end of July 2007 what you think we should do with the money. You can vote for the MOAA scholarship donation, or put a good word in for any other legitimate use that comes to mind. At the end of July, we'll tally the inputs to see if there are any other popular ideas that we might want to put to a vote of the members. If there is broad support for the MOAA idea, then we can move in that direction. But, this involves everyone in our Association. Let Doug know your thoughts. And you can start right now while the subject is fresh in your mind. The only way we'll know if our members support this idea is if YOU voice your opinion.

Living in Chicago, I'm tempted to say "vote early and vote often," but we ask that you limit yourself to one vote per member. Doug's contact information is on the last page of the Newsletter.

*"War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself."
--John Stuart Mill-*



2008 San Diego Reunion

Dave Krogh reports that planning is now underway for the VP-2 Association reunion in San Diego running for four nights and beginning on Monday, September 22, 2008.

Hotel and other negotiations are now in progress and would likely include:

Monday- Afternoon registration and Welcoming Reception from 4-7pm;

Tuesday- Association business meeting and luncheon; free time in the pm;

Wednesday- Optional tours, harbor cruise, zoo, Balboa Park museums (including Air & Space Museum), Wild Animal Park, golf outing;

Thursday- Continuous shuttle bus to and from the USS Midway Carrier Museum for self guided tours ending at 5pm; shuttles begin again at 6:15pm for evening social hour (no-host bar) and banquet aboard the USS Midway. Shuttle bus back to hotel until 11pm.

Friday- hotel check-out/departure.



This information is provided so that Association members can mark their calendars. Reservations and money collection won't begin until early in 2008.

Dave Au has volunteered to share the workload of planning/executing the reunion. The two Daves are looking for additional volunteers who live in or around San Diego to assist. Dave Krogh's contact information can be found on the last page of this Newsletter.

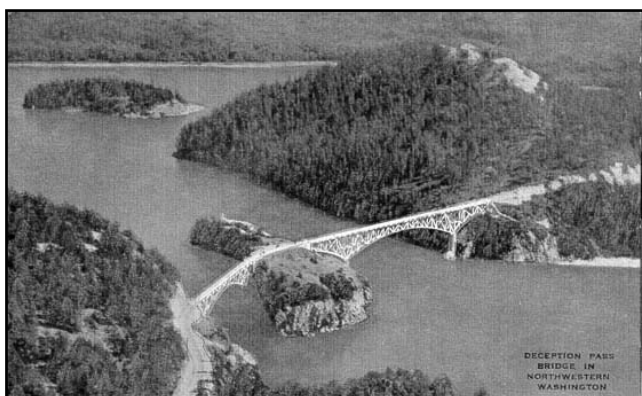


Notice About Email Addresses

Our website at www.patron2.com contains a roster of all VP-2 Association members along with the spouse's name, home state, dates served in VP-2 and each person's email address if known. We don't do it often, but the VP-2 Association will occasionally send out an email to "All Hands" if the situation warrants. Each time we do that, we find that our message doesn't get through to everyone due to one of a variety of reasons.

1. People change their email addresses without telling us so the message is sent back to us marked "User unknown."
2. People report an email address to us, but never activate the account with their internet provider, so the account doesn't really exist. Those, too, come back "User Unknown."
3. People have an address for an account that they seldom or never use, so messages build up until the storage limit is reached and the account can't accept any more messages. In this case, we're told that your "mailbox is full."

Do your shipmates a favor and keep us all informed of any changes to your contact information, including mailing address, phone number and email address. If you're paying for an email account, download your messages periodically to make room in your "mailbox." If you are offered a free (or inexpensive) email account as a bonus for signing up for some communication service, take advantage of it and use the email to stay in touch with friends. It's loads of fun.



"An early post card showing the newly completed Deception Pass Bridge. Note the dirt roads leading up to both ends."

Submitted by Dave Krogh.

Chaplain's Corner – Doug Millar



As I sit down to write this column, my wife and I have just returned home from a visit to the East Coast to see her Uncle Bill who is dying from lung cancer. Uncle Bill is one of "the greatest generation" – those who went off to World War II to save the world from the tyrannical clutches of Hitler, Mussolini, Hirohito, and others. He spent two years fighting in the jungles of Burma in what some have described as the "worst theater of the war." Like many veterans, Bill has never revealed any of the horrors of that war to me or to any of his family that I am aware of, but has chosen instead to deal with his memories in silence and to look forward in life – rather than to look back. He is a man of courage, integrity, and faith.

While spending a couple of hours with Bill, he said to me, "Doug, I am comfortable with my relationship with God through Christ, and I'm ready to cross over to the other side. But why is it that we cling so tightly to *this* life that we know, when we have such a future to look forward to in eternity?"

It is a profound question. I'm afraid that I mumbled out something that was far short of being a profound answer. Nevertheless it caused me to stop and think about many things, including "In what am I placing my faith?"

We place our faith in lots of things but the most important factor in faith is the *object of our faith*. What is it that we really trust, and is it trustworthy? For example: I'm a heavy guy and tip the scales at around 240 pounds. You might offer me a cardboard box on which to sit and I might have total faith that the box will hold me up if I sit down on it. However, once I place my big mass (or something like that) on the box, it collapses and drops me to the ground! Why? I had great faith but my faith did not accomplish the desired result – because I placed my faith in an untrustworthy object.

So, what about life after death? What is the object of our faith to get us to Heaven rather than Hell? Ourselves? Our good lives? Luck? Good intentions? Charitable gifts? None of these is the correct object of our faith! The Bible teaches in Galatians chapter

2 and verse 16 that "*a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus ... since by the works of the Law shall no man be justified.*" You may be saying, "Unbelievably narrow thinking, Doug!" and I would be prone to agree with you except for the fact that Christ Himself taught this. He is quoted in Matthew chapter 7 and verse 14 as saying, "*the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it.*"

We, like Uncle Bill, are all facing that transition "to the other side." What are you placing your faith in to bring you to the desired destination?



In Memoriam



We have lost the following squadron mates and spouses since the last Reunion:

Bruce B. Fuller (Mar 06)
Billy D. Shew (Sep 06)
Mary Louise Hart (Nov 06)
Liz Turpin (Nov 06)
Ralph H. Hasch (Nov 06)
Charles N. Ramirez (Nov 06)
John J. Simon (Dec 06)
B. F. (Frank) Ginn (Feb 07)



If you know of the passing of any of our former VP-2 personnel, please advise Doug Donohue by email at nvsoar@charter.net

The Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial

by Dave Bowen

The Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial has been in place for several months now. We continue to get very positive feedback about it and how much it means to so many people. Occasionally a bouquet of flowers will show up, laid at the base of the Wall. However, there are a few things yet to do to fully complete the project. First of all we have just over 40 additional brick inscriptions to be completed. These will be done "on site" by a team from Kenadar as soon as weather permits. It requires several dry days in a row, unheard of until maybe June here on Whidbey, so as to dry everything out and allow the letters to be cut and painted in the bricks. Once that is done we will seal the entire patio with SUREBOND Joint Stabilizing Sealer.

The other item that needs to be completed is the installation of two floodlights that will illuminate the Memorial from dusk to dawn. The power for this will come through the already installed light sensor box that controls the existing flagpole lighting at night. This has to be coordinated with the City of Oak Harbor since they want to re-design the underground sprinkling system around the Memorial. Again, this will probably take place in late May or June. Time will tell.

The WPSM DVD project was well received also. All those long hours of "cutting and splicing" (actually a really nifty editing program on my grandson's computer) paid off with a fairly acceptable product. I think most everyone was pleased with it. Patrick and I sold about 180 of them so we were able to pay our expenses and Pat made some money toward transportation and schooling. We have a few left so if you are interested, let me know. We also donated copies to the City, the library, the local museum, etc. All in all, I think that the whole Memorial project was a success. A special thanks to all of you who participated in it.



The Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial



The Ship's Store

by Vic Gulliver

Ship's Store sales have quieted down in the lull between reunions. We've let our stock of available sweatshirts and golf shirts dwindle to just a few remaining... all in unpopular sizes. If they won't fit you, they might fit the grandkids!! We still have T-shirts in stock up to and including XL size. Of course, we will continue to stock ball caps, patches in two sizes, coffee mugs, lighters, travel clocks, and Cloisonné lapel pins. We now also have the Cloisonné lapel pin in pendant form with a loop at the top for use on a necklace.

To help those who want to order one of our remaining shirts, we are showing pictures and the numbers in stock of each available size of shirt on the VP-2 website at www.patron2.com. Please consult the website to make sure we have the desired shirt and size before you place your mail order. You may also inquire directly to me at vicgulliver@comcast.net.

Mail order forms for the purchase of Ship's Store items can be downloaded from our website.

VP 2 Membership

by Bob Champoux

Since the last newsletter, we've sent out a number of application letters but only received one new membership. The Website remains a great source for new member leads; Bruce Darsey, our most recent member, found us "cruising the web." In another recent instance a former wife of a shipmate ran across our website and sent me an email providing me some employment information about her 'ex' that allowed me to send an email that will hopefully result in a new member.

Assistance that we could use from the membership is NAMES of folks that were in the squadron with you who are not currently members. The more information that you can provide us, the better the chance of locating the person. This includes a full first and last name, middle initial, if available, and a possible city and state where they might be living (or used to live). Please call or email me and I will have someone in our committee attempt to locate the person.

Bob Champoux (rchampoux@comcast.net 425-890-3857)

I'm Spoiled and Proud of it...

by Vic Gulliver

The other day, our daughter told me that I'm spoiled. After giving it some thought, I had to agree; I am spoiled. Not the "bratty" kind of spoiled... not the "been in the refrigerator too long" kind of spoiled ... but the "pampered" kind of spoiled. Let me explain.

After college, I grew up in the Navy. I liked it so well that I made a career of it. I went from schools to squadrons to staffs (no ships) and back again for more. I was in the Navy during wartime and peacetime; during the draft and during the "all-volunteer" force. For thirty years, I worked side-by-side with some of the finest people in our country... officers and enlisted, young and old, black and white, smart and smarter. These people came to work every day, on time, without complaint, did their jobs in a professional manner and served their country with distinction. They were loyal, reliable and dedicated. After thirty years of service, I reached the statutory limit for my rank and was forced to retire. I didn't want to.

Now, I'm watching more television. I'm seeing actors who must think it is appealing to have a four-day growth of whiskers to accompany their uncombed and unwashed hair. I'm seeing actresses who must think their beauty is enhanced by their obviously visible tattoos and earrings that pierce places other than their earlobes. I'm ashamed at the ignorance of the people interviewed on Jay Leno's "Jaywalking" segments... absolutely clueless people who don't know the first (or second) thing about their country or its history. Can you imagine college graduates, even school teachers, who don't know who Betsy Ross was, who don't know what Thomas Jefferson wrote, or who can't identify George Bush, Dick Cheney, Condoleezza Rice or Hillary Clinton in photographs? These same interviews have disclosed adults who thought that Columbus discovered America a long time ago... like in the 1920's! ... and people who can't name the oceans on either side of our country, or the countries that border the U.S. on the north and on the south, ... and people who don't realize that Hawaii is a bunch of islands that can't be reached by bus from Burbank. I heard a school teacher who thought that Paris was a city in the country of London!

I read about corporations that fire employees or cut employee benefits so they can make a short-term profit (without regard for the long-term effects), or so they can pay many more millions of dollars to their top executives. I see companies with absolutely no loyalty to their employees, and embittered employees with total contempt for their companies. Where many people used to find satisfying careers for life with well-established companies, people now get jobs and then immediately submit their resumes to other companies looking for better opportunities. I meet lots of people whose first and only thoughts are about themselves... no team spirit... no camaraderie... no self-sacrifice for the benefit of the organization or its mission. And the way people are treated on their jobs these days, who can blame them? When I see this happen, I often tell my wife that such practices wouldn't have been tolerated in the Navy.

So, I complain about the sad state of affairs in our country to anyone who will listen, including our daughter, and our daughter tells me I'm spoiled. She is a flight attendant with a major airline who comes into contact with all sorts of people on a daily basis. She has known for a long time what is finally becoming clear to me. The people we knew and associated with in the Navy were a cut or two above the cross-section of airline passengers that our daughter sees in her job. I can no longer pass the Navy physical fitness test, but I'd do another tour if they'd let me.

Biographies Needed for the Website



An initiative is underway to collect biographies of our Association members for posting in the Roster section of our website. Technically, we could call them autobiographies, since that is the correct term when a person writes his or her own story. But, we're not looking for long, drawn-out life stories as much as we're hoping to see one-page glimpses into what our members have done during and after their time in VP-2.

Your bio could include a photo from your time in the squadron along with a current photo to show how much you've "matured." We're thinking that a

great number of bios would be a terrific adjunct to the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial in that visitors to our website who learn about the Memorial would also get a chance to read about the people who are honored by the Memorial. Doug Donohue has posted a few biographies on the website, and we would like all of our members (even those who don't like to write) to compose a bio that we can post.

We want biographies from everyone who served in VP-2.

It took all different ranks and ratings to make up the successful team that was VP-2. People who come across our website on the Internet would likely be interested in reading how service in the Navy or just in VP-2 had an effect on the rest of your life. And they will want to read about what everyone did during and after their tour in the squadron.

Those who have Internet access should email their bios to Doug Donohue. Those without Internet access can mail their bios and photos to Vic Gulliver, who will email them to Doug. NOTE: Internet access is usually available at the local library for those who don't have access at home. Don't mail original photos that you would need back; get copies made for mailing. Don't worry about spelling; we can fix those problems. But, write your bio now while you're still young enough to remember all the facts!

To view the biographies that have been posted on our website so far, go to the Roster section of our website. Each underlined name on the roster is a link to that person's or couple's biography.



Below is a sample bio contributed by Dave Au.

David Au AT2, VP-2 1957-59

Transferred VP-50 to VP-2 1957; Crew 6. Discharged VP-2 1959.

1960-64. Enrolled at University of Hawaii, as few prospects for radio/radar expertise, and thinking about marine biology, especially having viewed Marshall Island atolls during VP TransPacs and contemplating Darwin's explanation. Married co-ed Eunice, 1964 from Entomology Dept. Studied larval fish in Pearl Harbor (and nearly run over by nuke sub). University employment at Eniwetok Marine Lab, and for measuring phytoplankton from Navy ships.

1963-70. Oceanographic Technician for Fish and Wildlife Honolulu, Marine Division. Continuing months at sea carrying out world's first large scale, long time series study of oceanic flows using venerable but obsolescent Nansen bottles and reversing thermometers – and so the last of such studies. Then off to Oregon State University for more formal studies in oceanography and population biology, especially of coho salmon.

1970-75. With PhD ticket (for professional level work) in hand, arrived at the U.S. Marine Fisheries Laboratory (new name for marine Fish and Wildlife) at Woods Hole MA, my professional career thus beginning at Nation's first and oldest marine lab. Soon surveying fishing grounds from the Gulf of Maine to Cape Hatteras with Bongo net and otter trawl, often cooperatively with Russian, Polish, etc. scientists and ships.

1975–85. Transferred to La Jolla CA laboratory in 1975 to work on “porpoise problem.” California tuna fishermen had perfected the technique of catching tuna by purse seining up large dolphin schools beneath which tuna swim, killing tens of thousands of dolphins yearly in the process, and igniting a national political firestorm. Led cruises to eastern tropical Pacific to assess abundance of the dolphin and whale species, experiencing tropical seas and animals known/seen by very few, if at all.

1985-03. Continuing studies on tunas in the tropical Pacific and Atlantic, Pacific billfishes, tropical seabirds, and squids. Last project was working out methodology for comparing productivity potentials of different shark species. Retired in 2003.

My 37 years of sea sampling/surveying and scientific writing include memorable experiences, and much boring interludes too (like VP Oscars). Memorables like swimming among “killer clams” and sharks at Eniwetok; shipboard collecting in snowstorm or hurricane seas on Georges Bank off New England; ship crossings of the gill-greening Alenuihaha Channel (HI); sweating out hydrocasts to 10000 ft with groaning winch; chasing down dolphins and whales by ship and by helicopter; fishing ink-spitting Humboldt squids off Peru; fighting for scientific missions against bureaucrats, ship captains, and foreign officers; being one of many fired by Ronald Reagan for determining harm by San Diego tunamen; swimming among captured tuna and dolphins; exploring the Galapagos and Cocos Islands and neotropical forests of Panama and Costa Rica. And having two grown daughters, two grandsons, and a granddaughter on the way.

We want biographies from everyone who served in VP-2!

Submit your biography today!



VP-2 Association Officers *and Appointments*



President	Floyd D. Palmer 213 Woodhill Ct., Mankato, MN 56001 800-903-9958, 507-388-2059 (Fax) plmf01@hickorytech.net
1st Vice President	Joe Ryan Lake Catatoga, 10935 Arrowhead, Plainview, IL 62685 No Phone Number yet neptunevp2@people.com
2nd Vice President	Bill Haeckler 1394 Kubli Rd., Grants Pass, OR 97527 541-846-6812 bleep2@hughes.net
Secretary/Treasurer	Douglas Donohue PO Box 2894, Gardnerville, NV 89410-2894 775-265-3861 nvsoar@charter.net
Director/Ship Store	Vic Gulliver 1900 Franklin Drive, Glenview, IL 60026-1076 847-296-6907 vicgulliver@comcast.net
Director	Al Hall 1784 Whitney Dr. NW, Salem, OR 97304 503-371-8482 alandmarylou@comcast.net
Director	Joe Chruma P.O. Box 1357, Chester, CA 96020 408-499-1942 jec@frontier.net
Memorial Chairman	Don Hanson, 5130 N Veness Place, Oak Harbor, WA 98277 (360) 240-0805 dchanson@whidbey.net
Association Chaplain	Doug Millar, 12515 Maple Street, Leavenworth, WA 98826 509-548-3154 dna@dnamillar.com
Association Historian	Skip Forseth, 2319 Brewster, Redwood City, CA 94062 650-365-2806 p2flyer@pacbell.net
Association Parliamentarian	Bob Bender, 2998 Wood School Road, Middleville, MI 49333 616-945-2793 bobbender@voyager.net
Membership Chairman	Bob Champoux, 17205 NE 26 th , Redmond, WA 98052 425-890-3857 rchampoux@comcast.net
2008 Reunion Chairman	Dave Krogh, 3470 Glen Abbey Blvd., Chula Vista, CA 91910 619-427-7602 dekrogh@sbcglobal.net
Website Director www.patron2.com	Douglas Donohue PO Box 2894, Gardnerville, NV 89410-2894 775-265-3861 nvsoar@charter.net



From our Squadron
Flag still hanging in
Oak Harbor Tavern:

“Adamante Semper Parato”

Remain Always Prepared



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@hickorytech.net

Membership Update

Dues: Many thanks to all who are current in their dues. The label on your newsletter indicates if dues are due now for the 2006 – 2007 period. Dues for the 2008 -2009 period come due on January 1, 2008. Widows of VP-2 squadron-mates are exempt from dues, and are specifically invited to continue their participation in the association.

Contact Info: Please keep Doug Donohue updated with any changes to your contact information. Members who no longer desire to be affiliated with the association can ask to be removed from the roster.

Searching for New Members: Please contact Bob Champoux with information about VP-2 squadron-mates who need to be found and contacted about joining the VP-2 Association. The Membership Committee will do their best to locate these people and follow up with a letter.

Floyd D. Palmer
VP-2 Association President
213 Woodhill Court
Mankato, MN 56001



June 2007 VP-2 Newsletter