



\*\*WINTER, 2009\*\*

*Online Newsletters at <http://vp1pops.com/newsletters.html>*

ALOHA! The Patrol Squadron ONE (VP-1) P-3 Orion Pioneers (POPS) is a group of Navy veterans, and their Families, who served in VP-1 during and immediately after its transition from the SP-2H Neptune to the P-3B Orion between the years 1969 to 1974.

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**Current Officers:** **President** Mike (Grumpy) Taylor, 3760 Beaver Rd, Munford, TN 38058, mcrider-coachmike@bigriver.net; **Vice President** Gary Spees, 1539 NW Silver Street, Bremerton, WA 98311; 360-692-2967; gary2967@msn.com; **Secretary/Treasurer** Reisse Perin, 7721 Settlers Avenue, Boise, ID 83704; 208-322-0188; reisse@rlcpca.com; **Chaplain** Carson Hunt, 376 County Road #1, South Point, OH 45680; (740) 646-3158; ccae@zoominternet.net; **Internet Information Coordinator/Webmaster/Newsletter Editor** Ken (KB) Sherman, 89 Adams Road, North Grafton, MA 01536; 508-839-6580; asa66@charter.net

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**HOW TO JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP** To join or renew your VP-1 POPS Membership, contact **Secretary/Treasurer** Reisse Perin, 7721 Settlers Avenue, Boise, ID 83704; 208-322-0188; reisse@rlcpca.com. Or, print membership form at [http://vp1pops.com/member\\_form.html](http://vp1pops.com/member_form.html) and mail-in.

All membership dues, new or renew, for the next Biennial (2010-2011) are \$15.00. It has been the custom to pay at the ongoing reunion in the past. Biennial VP-1 POPS dues are normally assessed in January of each even numbered year.

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**From:** Billie Johnson [billpatty@charter.net]  
**Subject: 5441 Edgewater Drive - Gone**

Here is a picture, taken by our son Dan, from the cockpit of a Continental Airlines B-767 that he was flying into Honolulu as they passed over old Capehart housing.

We lived on Edgewater Drive which is no more, eroded away by the surf from the changed currents of the reef runway at HNL. All of the houses along Edgewater are gone except the Captain's/Commodore's quarters which were saved by a breakwater they installed. Pete Drees's Ron Vandergrift's houses are now on the beach and Pete's house is a "gedunk" store.

We had some good times on that beach in the 70's!

Aloha, Bill

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From: Fritz [ffink1@comcast.net]  
Subject: A few photos

I thought I share a few photos of our son and his family just prior to leaving for Afghanistan.



This is his third deployment, the second this year and his first to Afghanistan.

Enjoy



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#### Former refugee to return to Vietnam as US Navy officer



WASHINGTON (AFP) – A US military officer who fled Vietnam as a boy and was picked up by an American ship will soon visit the country in command of a destroyer, the US Navy said on Friday. Born in the Vietnamese city of Hue, Commander Hung Ba Le and his family were picked up at sea in 1975 by a US naval ship in the closing days of the Vietnam war, the Navy said on its website. His family settled in Virginia and he later became a US citizen, graduating in 1992 from the US Naval Academy. He is due to return to

Vietnam in November with his ship, the guided missile destroyer USS Lassen, on a goodwill visit, the Navy said. "This will be an incredible experience for me personally, to return to the land of my birth for the first time since I was a child," Le said in the Navy's report. "My memories of Vietnam are very few, yet I still feel very drawn to it, to its culture, and to its people," he said. It will be Le's first visit back to Vietnam since he was five years old -- when his family joined the wave of refugees fleeing after the fall of Saigon. Le called the visit "a symbol of the friendship between our two nations." The first Vietnamese-American to command a US naval ship, Le in April took over the helm of the USS Lassen, which is part of the US 7th Fleet based in Yokosuka, Japan.

**From:** paul houtchens [redbaron500@cox.net]

**Sent:** Sunday, June 28, 2009 4:02 PM

**Subject:** Paul has been sick

Hi Guys and Gals,

I appreciate you all keep sending me e-mails without me returning any to you but I have been extremely sick and confused with an overdose of the medicine that was to control the great pain in the right side of my face. I have an appointment with the Neurologist on Tuesday, 30 June who I hope will adjust the medication I am taking and both reduce the pain and confusion I am experiencing. I have had help writing this mail but hope the next one you receive will be all me. Please continue to send me e-mails as they are a great source of pleasure for me to read. As ever with Him. Paul/Horace

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**Subj:** Stuff we didn't know then...

**SUSPICIONS CONFIRMED (From the Winter 2008 Issue of The Hook)**

Remember those Soviet "fishing" trawlers that hung around our aircraft carriers? Pictures taken in a St. Petersburg floating dry dock in April 2007 show they weren't gathering only electronic beeps and boops. The sonar dome was the same as on Foxtrot-class SSK submarines and the torpedo tubes were, well, torpedo tubes.



*Left: Russian trawler OC-57 in a St. Petersburg floating dry dock for repairs. Right: Close-up of the OC-57's bow-mounted sonar with a torpedo tube on either side.*

DD-214e NOW ON LINE

**From:** Dick and Linda Haglund [ralh503@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2009 12:23 AM

**Subject: Steve Linn**

Just wanted to pass along that Dave Quale called with news that Steve Linn just passed away. No details about cause of death, but Dave assumed it was associated with alcohol abuse.

He was scheduled to attend the reunion along with his wife, so his untimely death is not only a sad affair but will effect your roster.

Sorry to be the bearer of bad news,

Dick

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## **VP-1 ORION PIONEERS**

### **MINUTES/SAN DIEGO BUSINESS MEETING 10/11/09**

#### **OPENING PRAYER:**

Delivered by Carson Hunt

#### **CALL TO ORDER:**

President Dick Haglund called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM

All members recited the Pledge of Allegiance

#### **ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED SHIPMATES:**

Carson Hunt read the roll call of passed VP-1 shipmates.

#### **WELCOMING ADDRESS:**

D. Haglund provided a welcoming address, and recognized first time attendees.

D. Haglund also recognized the organizing committee for their efforts in delivering a well orchestrated and enjoyable reunion. Members of committee included Jim McAllister, Pete Drees, Charlie Budenz, and Gary Spees.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Reisse Perin presented the financial report. Total expenditures as of yet were not fully reported for the San Diego reunion, but Reisse submits that the organization is solvent with a current balance of \$523.70 in the general fund. Final numbers will be presented when all accounting is completed.

## OLD BUSINESS:

D. Haglund applauded the membership on their active participation in submitting items for the newsletter. The membership was encouraged to continue in the same vein for the next two years to keep the newsletter healthy.

## NEW BUSINESS:

The desirability of souveniers was discussed, and to identify specifically what the membership valued. Coffee mugs were the item of choice, and it was desired to continue providing them at the reunions.

The membership desired to continue having yearbooks available after the reunions. Carson Hunt will continue taking the photos and compiling them into a yearbook for a fee of \$25.00 each.

Jim McAllister raised the issue of the Newsletter cost. The cost of printing and mailing each Newsletter is nearly \$600. Over a two year period the cost either exceeds, or nearly exceeds, the revenue collected from dues.

It was suggested that the Newsletter be distributed via E-mail for those that have E-mail accounts and hard copy for those that wish to receive the Newsletter but don't have e-mail. It was put to a vote of the membership, and all but two members currently had access to E-mail. It was unanimous that E-mail was an acceptable alternative to hard copy.

Treasurer: Reisse Perin Vice President: Gary Spees

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Dick Haglund provided a description of what each officer's duties and responsibilities involved.

The election results were as follows:

President: Mike Taylor

Vice President: Gary Spees

Secretary/Treasurer: Reisse Perin

Editor: Ken Sherman

Chaplain: Carson Hunt

**REUNION LOCATION:**

The following sites were recommended for the 2011 reunion:

## Las Vegas hosted by Tom Browning

## Ohio hosted by Carson Hunt

Kentucky hosted by Spence and Lynda Closson

San Antonio hosted by Frank Conkle and Fred and Fenina Fink

San Antonio was selected as the next site by majority vote.

CLOSING:

Outgoing president Dick Haglund entrusted the group and the lectern to new president Mike Taylor who made closing remarks. The motion to adjourn was offered, seconded and unanimously affirmed by the members attending the 2009 VP-1 POPS reunion. See you in San Antonio.

Respectfully submitted,

Reisse L. Perin Secretary

Dick Haglund Assistant Secretary

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**VP-1 POPS TREASURER'S REPORT**

**November 8, 2009**

The current balance in the treasury is \$2,714.26. Accounts have been consolidated to one account in Wells Fargo bank.

I believe we have paid all outstanding bills regarding the San Diego reunion. Thanks to the generous donations of a number of members and the reunion organizers we are nearly at a break even point. Expenditures in excess of receipts were approximately \$200 to date.

Currently, we have received membership dues for the current two year period of \$405. Membership dues are very reasonable at \$15 per period and payment by the members would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Reisse L. Perin CPA

Treasurer

From: Carson [ccae@zoominternet.net]  
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2009 5:55 PM  
Subject: Newsletter Article

I am working on producing what I hope will be the finest reunion book yet, "Destination San Diego". I have photos from Gary and Melanie Spees, David and Laura Betz, Jim and Gail Melton, Jake & Sheryl Scanlon, and Fritz (aka Fred Fink). Lots of good stuff in there, but there is time for others wanting to submit.

It would really be nice to have a nostalgia spread incorporated into the layout somewhere. So, if anyone wants to send me photos of crews or individual or buddy or husband/wife/kid photos that would be great. Send pics of what you looked like six or fifteen months after you were separated from the navy. Now that might be a hoot!

I haven't been in contact with the printer yet, but I don't think there will be much of a price difference from the last book. If there is, maybe it can be made up in sale of portraits. I am pre-publishing them here so folks will know in advance what to expect.

An 8"X10" page can have an 8X10, 2-5X7's or 8 wallets. These are priced at \$20 for the first sheet with subsequent sheets priced at \$15 each. 11X14's are \$40 and 16X20's are \$75. Portraits are fully retouched and I print them in house, up to 17"X22" on archival paper with pigment inks rated to last over one-hundred years. Shipping on the book and 18X10's and smaller is \$5. Shipping on larger sizes by quote.

Looking forward to San Antonio!

\*Grace and Peace,\*

Carson J. Hunt, Chaplain and Reunion Book editor, VP1-POPs

**From: Mike "Grumpy" Taylor**

**Subj: VP-1 Pops Newsletter**

Hope you are enjoying this beautiful fall season. We have been blessed in West Tennessee with record rain and a very nice and somewhat early color change. Many folks here travel to East Tennessee for fall color viewing but we can stay home and enjoy nature's show this year.

All that attended the San Diego reunion was treated to a wonderful experience. The property was like you would have seen in Hawaii. Our hosts, Silky Mac, Pete Drees and Charlie Budenz did an outstanding job. The duty office was well stocked with libations and the memorabilia display was unique. Many items displayed have not been seen since Cam Rahn days. Much to see and do for many of us that haven't been West for a number of years. The format at the Sat night dinner was different with many shipmates invited (?) to speak. A great meal and a good time enjoyed by all. Again thank you to all that had a part in putting together the reunion. Ya'll done good!

We are looking forward to Texas in 2011. Our hosts will be Fred Conkle, Fred and Fenina Fink. The emails have been flying back and forth. Much discussion has already occurred and I expect we will have another outstanding reunion. Several former shipmates in the area have volunteered to help so start your planning to attend. Early indications are to expect a large turnout. Send Frank an email and let him know you plan to attend. Reunions are tough to plan and develop while working in a vacuum.

After much discussion and a vote at San Diego we will not mail the newsletter out to paid up members if we have an email address for you. The dues monies being collected would not cover the cost of three newsletters for each of the next two years. Costs for each edition has risen to around six hundred dollars. Our show of hands at San Diego revealed that at the brunch business meeting all except two members had email (one of them was about to get on line). We will notify you when a new newsletter is posted to the web site. I hope all understand and support this big change. If like me you travel around a good bit the web is there 24/7. Much like leaving on a det the day before payday after checks started being direct deposited.

Unsure if a weeping Reese will beg for dues or not. They are due for the next two years at the reunions. Please send Reese your dues money so we can continue to move forward. Also if in arrears please try and get current. If misfortune has struck, email me and we'll take it from there.

Thank you also to Dick and his team for their service to Pops the last two years. I appreciate having of his team stay aboard. I'm not sure what the heck I'm doing here but will try too not muddy the waters the next two years.

We were "The Fleet's Finest".



## DESTINATION: SAN DIEGO, OCT 2009





