



Your VP-1 POPs Officers

Quen Henderson, Treasurer; **Lou Tafoya**, Vice President; **Bill Johnson**, President; and **Greg Pierce**, Secretary

Presidents Podium **Capt. Bill Johnson USN (Ret)**

On November 16, 1971, at NAS Barbers Point, I assumed command of Patrol Squadron One from my good friend Cliff Freund. This marked the start of the best year of my Naval career. Almost 32 years later, on September 14, 2003 at the Memphis Muster, I was honored to be elected as President of VP-1 POPs and to again have the privilege of serving with this wonderful crew of squadron mates.

At the reunion, over a couple of scotches, Cliff and I were discussing what it was that caused us to stay in the Navy for a career rather than going to the airlines, into the business world or some other career field. We agreed that it basically boiled down to three things: 1. The Navy provided security and benefits that were important to us at that decision time of our life. 2. It was FUN; getting to fly airplanes, going places and seeing the world was a good life. 3. We served with wonderful people in all of our



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tours of duty, making many life long friends. This last item was reinforced in Memphis; what a great bunch of folks to see again and spend a long weekend with.

I want to pass out a couple of “attaboys”. First, to Mike Taylor and his crew for putting on a first rate reunion. The central location was perfect, enough Navy around to make us feel at home again, superb facilities at the Navy Inn and the fish fry/barbeque was great. I have never eaten so much catfish! I know that putting together a gathering of this size just doesn’t happen. It takes months of planning and coordination to make it all work out. It was obvious that Mike had done his homework and pulled all the many details together to make this a reunion to remember. Also, there were many new faces at the reunion that we all were glad to see. However, attendance by the “O’s” seemed a bit down this time. If the “E’s” had challenged another Turkey Bowl football game I’m not sure the “O’s” could have fielded a team. Well Done Mike!

Next, a huge “attaboy” to Don Grove who stepped down as Secretary/Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, membership, chief cook and bottle washer of this outfit. Without Don I doubt that we would have a VP-1 POPS. He worked tirelessly for many years putting the organization together, holding it together and appropriately was elected Honorary President for Life. I am sure that Don will be a knowledgeable “consultant” for the organization. It took three or four of us to take his place; hope that we can keep it rolling as well as he has done. Well Done Don!

I am looking forward to Brunswick in 2005. Thanks to Quentin Henderson and Greg Pierce for volunteering to put on our next reunion in that beautiful location.



Don Grove — Former Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and Man About Town

End of an Odyssey

As you should know by now, Don Grove stepped down from his long-held positions in the POPS food chain. Don, more than any

other individual, is responsible for making POPS what it has become since that small, impromptu get-together in Bellingham Washington in the summer of 1996.

Don came onboard in early '97, and was asked to take on the job of Secretary-Treasurer; he accepted. He also took sole responsibility for publishing and distributing the POPS newsletter. For tax purposes, the new organization needed a name. Don came up with “P-3 Orion Pioneers” (POPs). The name stuck. That was the beginning of an incredible seven year journey that brought us together at the 2003 Memphis Muster. Don was rewarded for his tireless dedication to our organization when he was named POPS President-for-Life, an honorary title that he so richly deserves. He will continue to actively serve our as consultant for future POPS endeavors.

A Parting Shot From Don Grove

Ahhhh – the invigorating smell of green grass – the slight scent of salt water on the wafting fresh breeze – the earthy aroma of the garden’s fertile soil – the rays of the golden sun warming my creaky back bones – the faint odor of the smoke wistfully rising from the small brush fire as I rid the place of debris from recent wind storms – ain’t it great? I’m no longer strapped to a chair facing the computer. I’m now an official ‘old fogey’ – puttering around out back, trimming fruit trees, planting, fertilizing, harvesting, having Monday morning coffee with the guys – you know – living the life of Riley. What? Who said, “Get serious?”

You have probably discerned by now that I’m no longer the VP-1 POPS Secretary, and Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor/Publisher. I’ve been let out to pasture (per my own request). New officers of our association were duly elected at our business meeting held in conjunction with our September

Memphis Muster. I won't list those movers-and-shakers here as I'm sure that'll be covered elsewhere in this newsletter.

One more time I want to thank our ex-squadron mates and their spouses for all the help and cooperation I received in carrying out my VP-1 P-3 Orion Pioneers' duties. Our organization is only as good as the people in it, and we have a great group. Please assist our new officers in the performance of their tasks and help make the VP-1 P-3 Orion Pioneers an even greater organization.

To all our squadron mates, and their ladies, that attended our *Memphis Muster's* Sunday brunch and business meeting at NSA Mid-South's Helmsman Club – a hearty **'thank you'** for all the accolades I received. And, by golly, we got through the business meeting without any fist fights! Cliff Freund led a movement to have me proclaimed as "VP-1 POPs Honorary President-for-Life". The joyous throng acclaimed me as such. I surely hope that my tour in that lofty position is a long one.

I said at that meeting, "It's been a lot of work, but it's also been a lot of fun – a very rewarding experience". It was. I'm gratefully to all-hands for the continuing cooperation I received. And many thanks to those of the inner circle that helped make our VP-1 P-3 Orion Pioneers a reality – the Hunts, the Morasches, the Hansons, and a host of others. And thanks to my lovely wife, Ellen, for all of her help proofreading, stamping, and addressing newsletters.

Upon departing the Helmsman Club at the end of our reunion festivities and strolling out to the parking lot we found a VP-1 squadron patch under a wiper blade on our van's windshield. It was made of cloth, absolutely new, and an outstanding replica

of our eagle, globe, and chain logo from the past. "Where did this come from?" I wondered. The name Carson Hunt, photographer extraordinaire, came to mind. I contacted Carson after we arrived back home, and, yup, it was he that put the squadron patch on our windshield. I understand Carson put VP-1 logo items on other vehicles also – a couple different types of patches, and even some bumper stickers.

As I'm no longer an active VP-1 POPs officer, I ask that everyone cease using the vp1pops@direcway.com e-mail address. E-mail to that address comes to my computer. I'll soon be closing-out that address as it's been OBE. You may contact me by e-mail at any of the following addresses:

dongrove@direcway.com,
thegroves@direcway.com,
or ellendon@grovesgrove.com.

Hope to see y'all at the Brunswick rendezvous in 2005. (Look-e-there – I picked up a bit of a Southern drawl down there in Tennessee).

Don Grove, VP-1 POPs "Ornery" President

The Memphis Muster

More than 150 members of POPs and their guests descended on Millington, Tennessee in September 2003 for their third reunion. It was a huge success, due largely to the hard work and meticulous attention to detail provided by **Mike "Grumpy" Taylor** and his able crew.

Toward the end of the "best-yet" reunion new officers were elected as follows (photo on page 1):

President: **Bill Johnson**
Vice President: **Lou Tafoya**
Secretary: **Greg Pierce**
Treasurer: **Quen Henderson**

Subsequently, President Johnson made the following appointments: Newsletter Editor, "Shark" Morasch (pmorasch@comcast.net), Chaplain Edward McLaughlin, (edmac-1@msn.com), and Membership Committee Chairman, K. B. Sherman (asa66@charter.net). Recently, Sherman was appointed take on the added responsibilities of Internet Information Manager, and Webmaster for the VP-1 POPs web page that he created. Go to www.vp1pops.com. It's pretty cool.

The next reunion will be held in Brunswick, Maine in 2005 (from now on, reunions will be held every *two* years). The co-honchos for the Maine thing are Greg Pierce (piercg@suscom-maine.net) and Quen Henderson (henderqj@gwi.net). Much more will follow as plans evolve.

It looks like Lou Tafoya is getting a jump on plans the 2007 reunion. Possible site: Hawaii. I'm sure there's much more to follow.

Dues Past Due!

Dues were due by 31 December 2003. The absolute deadline is 1 April 2004; otherwise, your membership will lapse.

At the Memphis Muster **Quen Henderson** was elected to serve as the VP-1 POPS Treasurer and should be the recipient of all funds coming into the Association. Please make checks payable to **VP-1 POPS** and mail to Quen at **32 Page Street, Brunswick, ME 04011-2324**. Dues are only \$15.00 for two years (2004-2005). We are approaching the 100 mark for paid-up members but we still have a long way to go to reach 100%. Our goal is to ensure no memberships lapse. So get those checks in the mail.

Quen should also be notified of individual expenses incurred in support of POPs so that he can provide prompt reimbursement.

Loose Ends

Shirts and jackets with the old VP-1 logo can still be ordered. Anyone interested in ordering one or both can contact Mike Taylor by email at ldeploy@att.net and he'll send the necessary order form. Any profits will be deposited in the VP-1 POPs account in Brunswick.

Three VP-1 photos are available through Mike Taylor at ldeploy@att.net. These are the black-and-white Barbers Point pictures with two P-3s in the background and the squadron in formation spelling out "VP-1" in the foreground. The price is still \$10 each.

Memphis Muster photo memory books can be acquired by *anyone* who wants one. The books cost \$25 and are loaded with photographs of our ex-squadron mates and their families and friends enjoying the late-summer gathering. To order one, contact the Dunning Co. directly via the internet (www.photomemorybooks.com) and click on "Order a Memory Book," or by phone (toll-free, 1-800-846-6335), or by U.S. Post (Dunning Co., P. O. Box 759, Theodore, AL 36590-0759). The correct gathering must be identified when the order is placed. Our reunion banquet was held on 12 September 2003. The Dunning job order number for the Memphis Muster is 03-307.

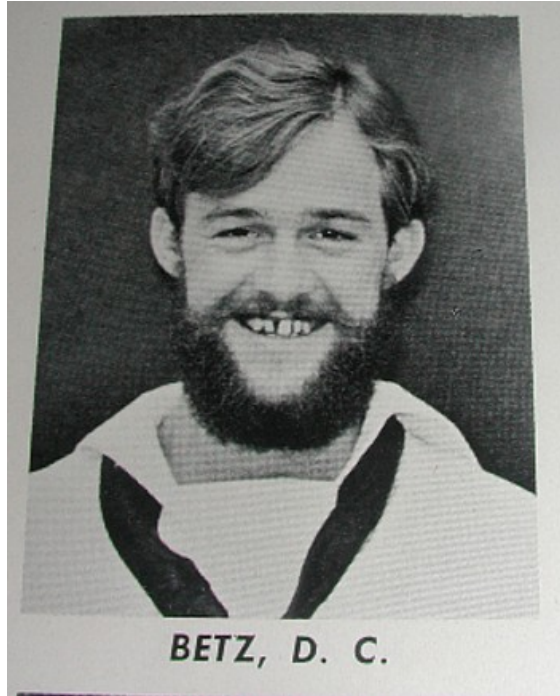
Got Something to Say?

Submit your inputs for the newsletter to Shark at pmorasch@comcast.net, or, if you must:

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Memphis Muster Photos

Some things change; some things remain the same, and then some things do a little bit of both:



McComas and Stinson



Hunt, Adair, and Pierce



Crew 12 "Dirty Dozen" survivors

