



"THE FLEET'S FINEST"



NEWSLETTER #22

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2007

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 & immediately after its transition from the SP-2H Neptune to the P-3B Orion between the years 1969 to 1974.

Current Officers:

President Louis Tafoya, 6411 Avalon Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87105 (505) 836-3189 ljtafoya@msn.com
Vice President Robert Giddings, 1453 Emerald Court, Oak Harbor, WA 98277 (360) 279-2228 oceanfather@comcast.net
Secretary Kenneth (KB) Sherman, 89 Adams Road, North Grafton, MA 01536 (508) 839-5277 asa66@charter.net
Treasurer Richard Haglund, 3570 Deerfield Drive, South Salem, OR 97302 (503) 378-7621 ralh503@yahoo.com
Chaplain Carson Hunt, 376 County Road #1, South Point, OH 45680 (740) 646-3158 ccae@zoominternet.net
Internet Information Coordinator/Webmaster Kenneth (KB) Sherman, 89 Adams Road, North Grafton, MA 01536 (508) 839-5277 asa66@charter.net
2007 Branson Reunion Chair & Helpers Bill Johnson, Lou Tafoya, Rich Haglund
(Bill Johnson, 2637 Capstone Drive, Montgomery, AL 36106 (334) 272-9009 billpatty@charter.net)

HOW TO JOIN IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER

To join VP-1 POPS, complete the attached Membership Information Form and send it to our Secretary, KB Sherman. You may elect to send your Dues Payment check OF \$15.00 with the form, or send it directly to our Treasurer, Richard Haglund; if you send the check to Richard, ensure that you include a memo stating that the membership form was sent to our Secretary.

Upon your joining, you will be sent a copy of the master roster of all your squadron mates from the 1969 – 1974 era that have been located. This roster also includes the names of squadron mates known to have passed away. On the active mailing list you will be sent future newsletters and any other pertinent information concerning the group.

Current new membership dues for the remainder of the Biennial are \$7.50. Biennial VP-1 POPS dues are normally assessed in January of each even numbered year.

HOW TO RENEW

If you have not yet renewed your membership, to be re-instated please send the full amount of \$15.00 to our the Treasurer, Richard Haglund, for the 2006 – 2007 biennium.

As we march towards the next biennium, it is time to remind you that this is the part of the cycle where dues come up, and from that financial infusion we keep the operation moving forward, so be prepared to renew your membership at "Branson Bash." The cost has remained fixed at \$15 for two years; a relative bargain considering that the same \$15 will buy you only slightly over 5 gallons of gas at the pump! Please make checks payable to VP-1 POPS and mail them to me at the above address.

If you have any changes to your snail, or e-mail address since the 2004-05, or current biennium or wish us to use a different snail, or email address, please complete the attached form and follow the procedures above.

I NEED YOUR INPUT FOR OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER. SEND IT TO ABOVE ADDRESS, SNAIL MAIL OR E-MAIL.
THANKS. LOUIE

"Branson Bash" Hotel Reservations

We will be staying at the Grand Plaza Hotel. Make reservations by calling 1-800-850-6646, 1-417-336-6646, or using www.bransongrandplaza.com and mention group code "IPOPS" to ensure the discounted group rate-also, their fax is 1-417-337-5535. Room rates are: Standard room (double queen or king) \$75.00/night; Mini-Suite \$90.00/night; plus room tax of 11.6%. Group rates are extended for three days prior and after the event. A complimentary hot breakfast is included in the guest room rates.

Please make your hotel reservations ASAP but no later that August 31, 2007 when our room block will expire.

Note: This form may be reproduced and send to eligible buddy's you know! (REV. DEC 2005)

VP-1 P-3 ORION PIONEERS

MEMBER INFORMATION FORM

Please send the information requested below to VP-1 POPs for administrative records. If you do not want your address information to appear on the master roster please so state and it won't be published. Ditto for phone numbers and e-mail addresses – if you don't want them listed please so state. Send the completed form via snail-mail to **VP-1 POPs, c/o Ken Sherman, 89 Adams Rd., North Grafton, MA 01536-2101**. Or, send the information via e-mail, responding by item number, to **ASA66@CHARTER.NET**.

1. NAME: _____
(first) (middle initial) (last)
2. MAIL ADDRESS: _____
(street or po box) (city / town) (state) (ZIP)
3. RESIDENCE: _____
(street) (city / town) (state) (ZIP)
4. SPOUSE NAME: _____
(first) (middle initial) (last)
5. TELEPHONE: Home _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____ Fax: _____
6. E-MAIL ADDRESS(ES): _____
7. WEB PAGE URL: _____
8. BIRTHDATE: _____ 9. RANK OR RATE IN VP-1: _____ 10. DATES SERVED IN VP-1: _____
11. SIGNIFICANT BILLETS/ASSIGNMENTS IN VP-1: _____
12. FLIGHT CREW(S) SERVED IN: _____ 13. NICKNAME(S) KNOWN BY IN VP-1: _____
14. IF RETIRED MILITARY, DATE RETIRED: _____ 15. RETIRED RANK OR RATE: _____
16. CURRENT OCCUPATION / EMPLOYER: _____
17. WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN & WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING SINCE YOU LEFT VP-1?

PLEASE USE THE REVERSE SIDE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, REMARKS, COMMENTS, OR QUESTIONS

DON'T FORGET TO SEND US A RECENT PHOTO

Note: This form may be reproduced and send to eligible buddy's you know!

**VP-1 POPS Reunion 2007
"Branson Bash"**

The next biennial VP-1 POPS Reunion will be October 4 to 8, 2007 at the Grand Plaza Hotel in Branson, Missouri. Branson's stages offer more than 100 shows to the seven million visitors who converge on this beautiful Ozark Mountain town of 6,000 residents. Branson boasts eight 18-hole golf courses, three outlet malls featuring over 200 outlet stores, and more than 400 restaurants. Our October 4 - 8 dates will be very nice with cool temperatures, changing tree colors, and not having the summer family tourist traffic.

The Grand Plaza Hotel is very nice and centrally located to the entertainment section of Branson (which is practically all of Branson). We will have a large hospitality room in the Ridgeview Room. The hotel has 200 rooms and was newly remodeled in April 2005.

Presently we have 70 Standard Rooms and 5 mini-suites reserved, however more are available if we get our reservations in early. The rooms are very nice, choices of a Standard Room (king bed or two queen beds), or mini-suites. There is a free deluxe hot continental breakfast which includes waffles and sausage plus other breakfast items. There is a full service restaurant in the hotel that is proud of their prime rib. There is an indoor pool, fitness room, game room and a very nice lounge/bar on the ninth floor which is large enough to handle a medium sized group...a good place for initially meeting squadron mates. The hotel offers lots of free convenient parking.

Branson is conveniently located in Southwest Missouri, within a day's drive of one third of the country's population. Branson lies 11 miles north of the Arkansas state line and 39 miles south of Springfield, MO. Traffic from the north to Branson and other points west can take Missouri Highway 465, also known as the Ozark Mountain Highroad, a new four-lane route connecting to Missouri Highway 76 west of the Branson city limits. Some representative mileages to Branson are:

Phoenix 1321, Los Angeles 1652, Denver 831, Orlando 1071, Atlanta 632, Chicago 546, Wichita 303, Baltimore 1068, Boston 1414, St Louis 264, Albuquerque 860, Cleveland 811, Tulsa 219, Portland 1996, Memphis 253, Dallas 415, Seattle 2080, Madison 611.

By air, the Springfield-Branson National Airport (SGF) is 43 miles from Branson and serves all of Southwest Missouri with 66 daily flights connecting to eight international airports via six airlines. There are direct flights to/from Atlanta, Chicago, Cincinnati, Dallas/Ft Worth, Denver, Detroit, Las Vegas, Memphis, Minneapolis, Orlando and St Louis. The airport offers rental car options.

**Best regards,
Bill**

VP-1 POPS 2007 Reunion "The Branson Bash"

YES, we are planning to attend the reunion and have included a deposit check for \$25.00, made payable to: VP-1 POPS Branson Bash.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone (H) _____ (C) _____

E-mail _____

Registration forms and information packets will be sent to those who respond to this form.

Mail this form no later than April 1, 2007 to:

Louis Tafoya

6411 Avalon Road NW

Albuquerque, NM 87105

After the Reunion

Want something to do in the area after the reunion? Here is a suggestion from Mac McComas:

Just 48 miles south of Branson is Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Mac and Shirley have been there and Mac says they put on one of the greatest Passion Plays in the world, if that's your thing. He checked their calendar and on 8 October, they begin their 50 year festival. They put on the Passion Play every day of the week.

Since some are traveling so far, it might be worth their while to buzz down to Eureka Springs after the reunion and visit. Eureka Springs has, in Mac's opinion, a friendly Christian theme and it is a very pleasant place. In October, there should be plenty of Hotel/Motel space available. You can go to their website www.greatpassionplay.com and check it all out.