

ATKRON TWELVE NEWSLETTER

SQUADRON LINEAGE

1946 VBF-4
1946 VF-2A
1948 VF-12
1955 VA-12

VA-12

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See Contact Information on Page 8

ALL ARE WELCOME TO VISIT

THE FLYING UBANGIS

AT OUR WEBSITE WWW.VA12.COM



REUNION CEO COMMENTS

Names for the Faces

Apologies to those at the top for the lack of clarity, Starting up there here is our group attending the 2019 Attack Squadron Twelve Reunion. Carol Hagenau, Dave Swanson, George Hinds, Kathryn Swanson, Kae Venema, Gary Venema, Bob Brooks, Melanie Crysler, Sue & Art McHarg peeking around behind Keith Purzycki, Joanne Purzycki, Robbi Giaccone, Frank Giaccone, Kathy Kyle, Joe Kyle, Debra Polk, Dick Polk, Ed Lewitz, Wayne Scarborough, Linda Rauch, and Brenda Scarborough.

Below is the notice that I handed out to all that attended the Reunion Cruise.

My Resignation

I have decided it is time for someone else to become the CEO of this Reunion Association. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in this position and it has been one of the most rewarding things that I have ever done. But I think 20 years is enough. It is time for someone else with new ideas to take over. Therefore, effective July 2020 will be my last month as the Organizer of these Reunions and all that is included in keeping the Association alive.

Consequently, I would like to host the next Reunion in Traverse City, Michigan in June or July of 2020. Between now and then, I sincerely hope that someone will step forward to take over where I leave off. If more than one person is interested then an election will be held in Traverse City. More on that in a future Newsletter.

If you have appreciated my service the best thing you can do is to not try to talk me into staying on, even if we do not have a new CEO next year.

Thank you

Joe Kyle 66-68

REUNION CRUISE NOTES

From all accounts this year's reunion was a really good time. Maybe because it was longer, and everyone had the chance of spending more time together, maybe because we were treated so well, or maybe because we were back at sea,,,

probably not. Anyway, please read what several had to say.

Joe Kyle 66-68

Joe, great job to you and all of the folks that helped you put on this reunion! Debra and I had a great time and enjoyed meeting so many great people. Looking forward to the next one! (The only problem was not having enough to eat! LOL!!)

Dick Polk 73-77



Our Ship on the Left

Hey Joe.

I would ask any & all former VA12 squadron personnel, especially those who were in during my stint of 80-83 & after, to join us in a reunion or 2, just to see how much fun it is. I promise you, you will not be disappointed. The next reunion will be in Joe Kyle's home state of Michigan in 2020. I'm hoping to attend, if I'm not on our Alaska cruise. I've always wanted to visit Michigan, especially the Upper peninsula. As for this past reunion, we had a wonderful & fulfilling cruise. For those who said they were not ready to get on the water again, it was nowhere near like being on a Navy carrier. Granted, it was full of civies but the big difference was, we had women aboard & that made it very

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enjoyable. My favorite part was being underway itself. We had 2 full days at the start & 1 full day at the end. As when I was in, 35.5 years ago, I spent most of that time at the fantail or as close to the bow as allowed, which was not close enough for me. I decided, within the next 3 years, my wife & I will do a transatlantic cruise combined with a Med cruise. I guess you just can't take the salt out of some of our veins. As for those who attended, farewell next time.

Ron Wolfe 80-83



Haiti

Hi All,
We finally got home and it was an uneventful trip, can hardly believe all went as planned. Sue and I relived the Reunion all the way back home. To say we had a wonderful time simply understates the elation. Joe, we can't thank you, and those who helped put this year's Reunion together, enough. I know we are all going to miss your efforts in our future events, but I do understand your desire to "pass the baton". I know Keith and Dick will be fighting over the opportunity to take your place. (HA!) Thank you for the last 2 decades. Joe as to an evaluation of this Reunion, I will offer the following:
Sue and I have only participated in two Reunions - 2015 and this year. I think this one was the better of the two venues. The ship's programs created opportunities to get together as a group yet allowed for a couples' absence that would be made up on some other program later. Dinners, in particular, were always well attended and allowed couples to plan for their own activities -- with others or by themselves. The ports-of-call

were very good; St Maarten for its shopping, San Juan, PR for its history and tours, and Labadee for its playground environment. Each port provided great opportunities to do and see all kinds of things as a group or as a couple.

I don't think such a venue is appropriate for every Reunion, however. Some shipmates might find this an expensive proposition and cause their absence. This is one reason I look forward to the July 2020 Reunion in Michigan. It is mid-country, rather than cross-country for an Atlantic or Pacific venue. The cost should be more manageable for most who wish to attend; hopefully, resulting in a larger attendance.

If you ask me what was my favorite highlight during this Reunion, I would definitely have to say it was simply talking and commiserating with every other couple at the Reunion. This and the laughter and sharing where we have been and what we have been through since those days was just fantastic. My second favorite thing was the full moon cruising out on the balcony before bed time.

I hope these comments are helpful, I need to close before my mind turns to mush (still recovering from a week on the road).

I just want to say, again, thank you all for making this years Reunion a really fantastic success! All our best to each of you....

Art McHarg 64-67

OUR MEMORIAL BELL



Good Morning Joe, Just want to let you know that Carol & I had a great time with you & meeting new shipmates. The weather and cruise were perfect but I gotta tell you I had my doubts about the timing as this time of year can be hectic with the weather in the Caribbean. Do you have some sorta future vision magic?? If so, I need to talk to you!! Kudos to you for picking a perfect time for a bangup (or should I say Ubangup) time for a reunion. I give it a 10!! I have to apologize to all for being on the quiet side, which I usually am, by not participating in roundtable conversations. I have a condition called Spasmodic Dysphonia which causes my vocal cords to tighten up & I strain to talk but there is a somewhat solution to this by having botox (the same botox used by people for wrinkle removal) injected into my vocal cords.(Tell people I can't talk worth a shit but at least I don't have wrinkles in my neck!!) After this procedure I'm either hoarse or real breathy or both and can't raise my voice especially when I'm in a noisy atmosphere. I had the injection Dec.11th & it usually takes 2-3 months for my voice to get to a 7 or so but never a 10. It lasts for a coupla months then start going down hill. then it's time for another shot. I usually get the shot every 6 months. I've had this since 1985 but they've only been giving the injections since 1990. If anyone is interested info on this can be googled (Spasmodic Dysphonia) Thanks for understanding. See you all next year!

George Hinds AM2 56-59

TREASURY REPORT

Previous Balance	\$825.09
Dues & Reunion Sales	426.29
Acct Interest	10.41
SUB TOTAL	\$1261.79
Reunion expenses	136.31
Printing	109.66
Postage	52.99
CURRENT EXPENSES	\$298.96
NEW BALANCE	\$962.83

Squadron Mates,
It was great to see everyone again and make new friends. We'd like to thank Kathy and Joe, Robbie and Gino and everyone who helped make this an outstanding reunion and cruise. We enjoyed the Dragons Breath Zip line in Labadee. Brenda and I had never been on one that long, 500 feet high and 2600 feet long. It wasn't a big deal as excursions go but they made us do a test run on a mini line which was only about 100 yards long and steeper than the main line. At the end of the test run was a spring loaded absorber which stopped us almost abruptly, not like the main line. It reminded me of my one and only trap after leaving Da Nang on a C-1 and landing on the Shang. I sat backwards looking out a small porthole on that Cod watching the water get closer and closer and thinking we're gonna ditch in the Tonkin Gulf, about that time we passed the round down and hit one of the wires. That landing was exciting for me but it was a walk in the park compared to what the Jet jocks go through on each trap. We all look forward to the closing ceremony at each reunion. Being Veterans and the Patriots we are, we can never do enough to honor our Brothers who are at eternal rest. Brenda and I are looking forward to seeing everyone again at the next reunion in Traverse City. We wish you all fair winds and following seas.

Wayne Scarborough 68-71



Brenda in the Big Chair

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE SHANG AFTER 1970?

Early in 1971, USS Shangri-La (CVS-38) steamed up the east coast to the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard to join the mothball fleet.

Several years later, believe it or not, the number two aircraft elevator actually fell off the ship into the Delaware River. It was craned up and placed upside down in the landing area by the number three elevator. I was the Safety Officer aboard USS Lexington (CVT-16) from '83-'86, during which time she spent nine months in the same shipyard for a major overhaul. The first time I saw Shang in Nov. '84, I was astonished to see TREES growing in all that silt/mud in the upside-down elevator. Over the years, like many other mothballed ships, she was used as a parts locker & cannibalized by fleet ships during their overhauls, including the Lex.

My job on Lex was accident investigations, accident reporting, and accident prevention. In Feb. '85 I got a call that we had a dead shipmate aboard the Shang, crushed to death by a 1200-pound armored hatch between the hangar deck and second deck on the starboard side, so I went to investigate immediately. He was a machinist mate from one of the engine rooms, half way up a six-foot ladder on the second deck, and there was a battle lantern (no power on Shang) and a hammer & tools within his reach on the hangar deck.

These hatches have a deadweight, cable, & pulley system that makes it possible for two men to safely close the hatch. When open, its center of gravity is near being just above the hinge. One man can then easily pull the hatch a little more open (because the CG is now on the other side of the hinge), while the other one gets the pin out of the way, allowing the first guy to give it an easy push back and let gravity do the rest. What I discovered was a cut cable. Why would anyone do that? The pulley was missing. That must have been what some previous visitor's ship needed. The only thing holding the hatch in place was the locking pin he was trying to hammer past the hangar deck knife-edge. The instant it cleared, the hatch crushed his back/chest.

This was a good man and a good sailor, doing what he thought was a needed job. Maybe he even volunteered for the task. A buddy with him might have noticed the cut deadweight cable and missing pulley, but sadly, he violated the 2-man rule on trips to cannibalize Shang, which his supervisor may have failed to address.

During my 3 years aboard Lex, we lost an additional 9 shipmates. A man from A Division was electrocuted working on an AC&R unit. The other 8 were all motor vehicle accidents: One man was a pedestrian fatality. Of the remaining 7, 6 involved alcohol, two of which were motorcycle fatalities.

Shangri-La was towed from Philadelphia to Taiwan in 1989 and was broken up there for scrap metal.

The rest of the story:

Full disclosure: I went aboard Shang a couple of months earlier by myself to check out our ready room & the old stateroom I shared with Tom Lannom. The giant Kiss of Death sticker (one of the big ones like on the sides of our Skyhawks) was still on our door, as was the Barbie Benton fold-out, June 1970 Playboy, on my locker.

Bob Brooks 68-71



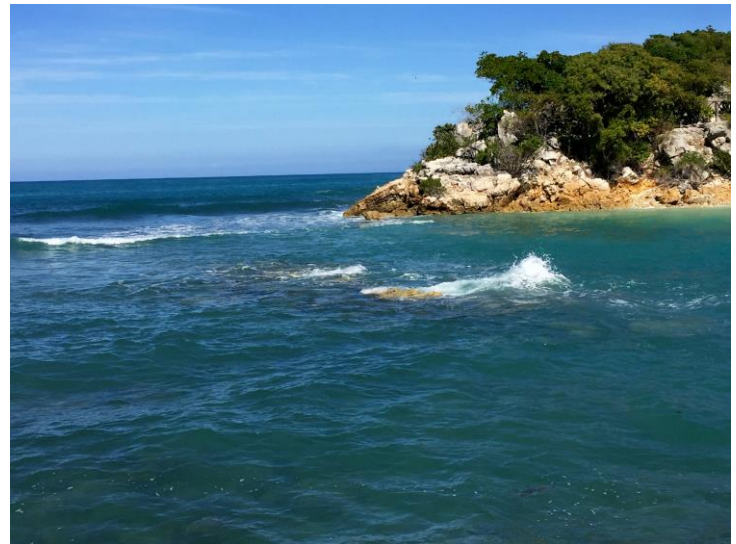
THE KISS FLAG



Senior Frog in Puerto Rico



Bunky & Kae enjoying the Pontoon ride in St. Martin



Haiti



Zip Line Platform in Haiti

SOME BLACK & WHITE PHOTOS SENT TO ME FROM SKIPPER BARNETT





Skipper Barnett and Dale Kinder



Skipper Barnett, Paul Englert, unknown, Mike Orbello, unknown, XO Obrien



CVN-69 Dwight D Eisenhower at sea. ***"I LIKE IKE!"***



Top to Bottom, Left to Right: Art McHarg, Keith Purzychi, Geroge Hinds, Sue McHarg, Joanne Purzychi, Carol Hagenau, Dick Polk, Gary Venema, Wayne Scarborough, Brenda Scarborough, Debra Polk, Kae Venema, Frank Giaccone, Bob Brooks, Dave Swanson, Kathryn Swanson, Robbi Giaccone, Melanie Crysler, Kathy Kyle, Ron Wood, Joe Kyle, Darlene Wood.

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