



AO NEWSLETTER

No. 14

1 APRIL 1982

THE ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN WILL HOLD ITS 7TH ANNUAL REUNION/ CONVENTION IN SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, AT THE TRAVELODGE TOWER ON HARBOR ISLAND ON 18, 19, and 20 JUNE 1982.

All Aviation Ordnancemen, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Civil Service, Active Duty, Retired, Ex-AOs, Enlisted, and Officers are cordially invited to attend. You need not be a member of the Association to attend, but only members and associate members may vote on motions at the Business Meeting.

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

18 June - Fri.	1300-1800 1700-2000	Check In No Host Cocktails
19 June - Sat.	0900-1100 1130-1300 1300-1600 1600-1830 1830-1930 1930-2100 2100-2130 2130-????	Business Meeting Luncheon (on your own) Committee Reports Free Time Cocktail Hour Dinner Award Presentation COMMODORE WILSON, Speaker Dancing and good music for your listening pleasure
20 June - Sun.	0900-1100	Committee Meeting and Business Meeting for Board of Directors

Saturday night's gala entertainment, consisting of dinner (prime rib), an award presentation, a guest speaker, and dancing until the wee hours, requires an \$18.00 per person payment in advance. Fill out the reservation form at the bottom of page 3 of this Newsletter and send it with your check or money order to: ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN, C/O Tom ROBINS, Sec./Treas., 729 Buddlawn Way, Campbell, CA 95008. (Phone: (408) 378-0440) If vegetarian or other special diets are required, notification must be made with your dinner reservation. All dinner reservations must be received by 4 June 1982. DO IT NOW - DON'T DELAY!!!

Enclosed in this newsletter is a room reservation form that can be mailed in to the Travelodge Motel with your Credit Card information or your personal check for the first night's reservation. Travelodge is setting aside a block of rooms for our Convention so be sure to state "Aviation Ordnance Convention" if you call. The phone number is (714) 291-6700 or toll free 800-255-~~3333~~.

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All rooms are \$48.00 per night plus tax. For the local guys wanting to get a room so they don't have to drive, get together and split a room. That will get the cost down to \$24.00 plus tax each. For you out of town guys who are coming to the Convention alone and wish to double up but don't know anyone else coming, send your \$24.00 to Digger O'Dell or AOC Jim Rupert and they will team you up with someone else in the same situation. All reservations must be in by 4 June.

During the registration period on Friday, anyone wishing a particular tour or event can put forth their wishes. All inputs will be gratefully accepted and we will try to make you all happy. The Travelodge is on the circle tour bus route that goes to the majority of scenic attractions, plus, we will make every effort to assist with your special plans. We are hoping for some special attractions that you might enjoy. Some examples are: possible Carrier visit, if enough people are interested; Bahia Bell for a bay cruise; or a tour to Tijuana. Reduced rate tickets will be available at the Convention for many of the numerous attractions offered in San Diego.

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SCHOLARSHIP TO BE AWARDED

Nominations for the scholarship must be received by the Sec./Treas., Tom ROBINS no later than 15 June 1982. Request your application form from Tom as soon as possible in order to have time for you and your nominee to complete the requirements. As in the past, selection of the recipients will be accomplished by the Scholarship Committee at the Convention and the award selectees will be notified by letter after the Convention and the selections will also be announced in the Newsletter.

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LETTER FROM SKIPPER VA97

During the workup period preceding their current WESTPAC deployment, VA-97/VA-27, in the interest of improving the overall operational capability of their A7E aircraft, proposed the deconfiguration of their inboard wing pylons. Problems soon began to surface. Where could the required modification kits be procured? Where could the pylons be stored aboard ship? Solutions for these and numerous other problems fell to the airwing Ordnance Officer, LT Chuck ONKEN.

Realizing the obvious worth of the undertaking he rapidly procured the kits and located storage space. Within a matter of days, he successfully directed the deconfiguration of forty pylons. In addition, he personally designed an effective preservation program to eliminate the possibility of any corrosion during the storage period.

Chuck, the WARHAWKS and CHARGERS salute you. Your efforts and enthusiasm were essential in the completion of this project. We couldn't have done it without you.

Submitted by: M. L. BOWMAN
Commander, U.S.Navy
WARHAWK ONE

OLD TIMERS - HELP NEEDED

The following letter has recently been received by the Sec./Tres. Do any of you "OLD TIMERS" out there have ANYTHING you can contribute to L. P. Gunshol's re- search? If so, contact him directly.

I am a recent member of the American Aviation Historical Society and have been researching the Mark 13 aerial torpedo and the Douglas TBD-1 Devastator for three years. I have begun to write a book that will detail the problems associated with the TBD-1/Mark 13 weapons system and detail all aspects of the actions in which the TBD-1 participated during the first six months of 1942. Mr. John Trott, Old Timer Communicators of Southern California indicates that you might possibly be able to help me in locating AOM's from VT-2, VT-3, VT-5, VT-6, and VT-8.

The TBD-1 carried Mark 13s in the following actions: Raid on Kwajalein, 1 Feb- ruary 1942 (VT-6), Raid on Lae and Salamaua, 10 March 1942 (VT-2), Raid on Tulagi Harbor, 4 May 1942 (VT-5), Battle of the Coral Sea, 7 and 8 May 1942 (VT-2, VT-5), Battle of Midway, 4 June 1942 (VT-3, VT-6, VT-8).

The only information that I have been able to obtain to this point regarding AOMs that might have participated in any of the above actions is the following list of names of VT-2 personnel who flew in the second seat during the Raid on Lae and Salamaua: G.G. Barry, A.L. Beene, C.A. Beene, M.S. Camp, W.T. Glover, D.F. Hallock, J.W. Harris, L.G. Kleinow, R.T. Marrion, R.J. Shanley, H.R. Wells, T.R. Wiebe, W.W. Thomas.

Would you possibly have addresses of one or more of the above individuals? Would you also have the names and addresses of other VT-2, VT-3, VT-5, VT-6, and VT-8 AOMs who participated in any of the actions cited above? If so, would it be possible for me to obtain this information?

Finally, is it possible that the Aviation Ordnancemen Association has previously published material that would be useful to me in my research into the Mark 13 and TBD-1? If so, would it be possible for me to obtain a copy? I would certainly be glad to pay for the duplication costs that would be involved.

Signed: Lawrence P. Gunshol
8013 Crownsway,
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

CONVENTION RESERVATION FORM

I PLAN TO ATTEND THE FOLLOWING EVENTS AT THE 1982 CONVENTION (X)

DATE	EVENT	AO	GUEST
6-18	COCKTAIL RECEPTION (NO HOST)	_____	_____
6-19	BUSINESS MEETING	_____	_____
6-19	COCKTAIL HOUR (NO HOST)	_____	_____
6-19	DINNER (\$18.00 PER PERSON)	_____	_____
6-20	BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING	_____	_____

Amount enclosed _____

Name _____

2ND ANNUAL WESTPAC ORDIE BASH

It was that time of the year again in Olongapo. With the Coral Sea in port, VA-56/93 detached to CUBI PT, LAWSP detachment at CUBI PT and VA-147 (philippine National Guard) off loaded, it was party time again on 16 January 82. Over 175 Ordies were in attendance. The following commands were represented: USS CORAL SEA (CV-43), CVW-14, VA-97, VA-27, VA-165, VF-154, VF-21, VA-56, VA-93, VA-127, VC-5, VRC-50, VMFA-213, LAWSP, MMMU-1, NAVMAG, NAS CUBI PT, and AIMD. It was determined that ordnancemen have more fun than people.

Submitted by: LT "GUNNER" GUSS

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A SPECIAL THANKS TO GATOR DATA

The Retired Enlisted Association, Inc., Chapter 19, Jacksonville, Florida was nice enough to mention our Convention in their "Gator Data" Newsletter.

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HELP STILL NEEDED

Henry J. BURAS, 5949 S. Tripp Avenue, Chicago, IL 60629, has found five of one-hundred seventy AOMs that were in the Aircraft Commissioning Unit at NAS Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, NY in 1942 and 1943 and is hoping to locate more if possible. Any help will be greatly appreciated by him.

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DIGGER AND RUPERT'S ADDRESSES

Digger O'DELL
2420 Illion Street
San Diego, CA 92110

Jim RUPERT
8932 Duncan Road,
San Diego, CA 92126

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TRAVELODGE

1960 HARBOR ISLAND DRIVE
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101

at Harbor Island

San Diego, California

(714) 291-6700

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)		_____	
STREET		_____	
CITY	STATE	PHONE	
ROOM TYPE: <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE <input type="checkbox"/> DOUBLE <input type="checkbox"/> TRIPLE <input type="checkbox"/> QUAD	ARRIVAL DATE _____	<input type="checkbox"/> AM	<input type="checkbox"/> PM
REMARKS		CHECK OUT DATE _____	
CONVENTION ATTENDING <u>AVIATION ORDNANCE CONVENTION</u> PLEASE REMIT CHECK (1 NIGHTS LODGING) WITH RESERVATION REQUEST. CONFIRMATION WILL BE SENT ONLY UPON RECEIPT OF DEPOSIT.			