

POINT MUGU, CALIFORNIA  
OCTOBER 6-8, 2000



## What you need to know:

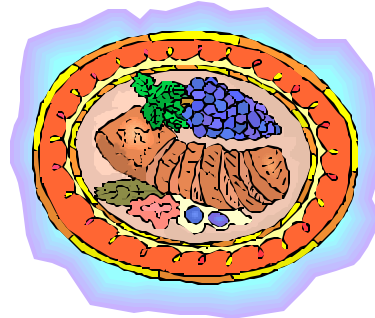
**Accommodations:** Arrangements have been made with the Holiday Inn for special room rates during the period of the reunion. This rate is \$89.00 plus tax per night. The reunion will be held on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2000. The hotel will also provide a complimentary hospitality suite for our entire stay. All persons attending the reunion and desiring accommodations **will make their own reservations** directly with the hotel. Make sure to get your reservations in early as the number of rooms at this rate is limited. Take the California Street off ramp.

**Holiday Inn  
Ventura Beach resort  
450 E. Harbor Blvd  
Ventura Beach, CA  
1-800-842-0800**

**Note:** Make sure to mention VQ Association reunion when making reservations.

**Local Places of Interest:** Sites of special interest include the Getty Museum in Los Angeles (about 1 hour drive) and the Ronald Regan Library in Simi Valley (about 1/2 hour drive). And of course California beaches are very close. Jack Kenton is arranging tours of the two Super Constellation aircraft that are headquartered at the Camarillo airport (about 10 minutes from the hotel). NAS Point Mugu is south of Oxnard. take California Highway 1, the Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) south about ten miles to the base.

**Reunion Dinner:** The banquet dinner is scheduled for Saturday night at the Holiday Inn. Menu will be buffet style, including garden salad, potato salad, pasta salad, fresh fruit, cole slaw, mixed garden vegetables, baby rose potatoes, baked chicken, roast round of beef, dinner rolls and butter, and dessert. Cost is \$30.00 per person. **Please no late walk-ins. We must have your reservation by September 5, 1997.**





**Golf Tournament:** The annual VQ Reunion Golf Tournament is scheduled for Saturday morning. Bring your clubs. Golf Tournament will be at the Construction Battalion Center (CBC) golf course in Port Hueneme. First tee off time 10:00 AM. Cost will be \$35 including mandatory cart. From the hotel take Highway 101 south to the Wagon Wheel Road exit. take Ventura Road south to the Sunkist gate at Point Hueneme. Go to the third traffic signal and take a right to the golf course. One of your avid association golfers will be tasked with helping to get things together Friday PM and Saturday AM for this event.

**Reunion Picnic:** The reunion barbecue picnic will be held Sunday October 8th from noon to 5 PM at Bolles Field at Construction Battalion Center (CBC) Point Hueneme. Enter at the Sunkist gate, take the first right. Turn left at Bldg. 922 to the Bolles park picnic area. Menu is choice of barbecued pork, tri-tip, or chicken with cole slaw, baked beans, and potatoe salad. The cost will be \$20.00 per person which will cover the standard picnic bill-of-fare including drinks. The picnic has traditionally been a great time to casually visit with friends and shipmates. The turn out is always good.



**Voters Meeting:** All Association members are requested to attend a voters meeting at 10:00 AM Sunday (prior to picnic) in the hospitality suite.

**A Note From Your Reunion Planner:** I have been busy finalizing all arrangements and plans that will make for a most memorable VQ Association Reunion. I expect another record turnout this year. We ask that you make hotel reservations early to assure accommodations and receive the reunion rate. We can only reserve a certain number of rooms and when they're full, you'r on your own. Same for the Saturday Night Dinner and Sunday picnic. Caterers usually require a guaranteed number of persons that **we will pay for** 30 days in advance. Although they may be able to accommodate more with reasonable advance notice, unannounced or late notice attendees present problems for all. **Please respond by the "NO LATER THAN DATES"** on the registration form. See you in October.



Dear VQ Friends,

As time passes and the months roll by I find myself thinking of the times when we just sent out a flyer announcing a reunion. None of the recipients knew from whence it came or who was in charge. Now we're organized and it time for another reunion notification. Don't know about you but I've not forgotten the last one. It was a great one. They seem to get better as we go along. Could it be that more time has passed since we last saw and visited with our squadron mates and friends. Personally I do not think that any of the reunions and the friends I see there will ever fade completely. No one of you will ever completely leave my memory. May suffer from a senior moment now and then, those pass.

I must say to those of you who have voluntarily taken the initiative to give your time and energy to coordinate and set up the facilities and activities that constitute a reunion we will be forever grateful, and in your debt. But that's what makes a shipmate. **Bravo Zulu** to each of you.

It seems to me that the past few years have been so loaded with the things we're obligated to do that there is little time for the other, *nice-to-do* things. One of the things many of us wanted to accomplish prior to the next (2000) /this reunion was to publish another newsletter. Most everyone says they like to read the articles we've been able to assemble in the past. The reality of the lack of a newsletter to accompany this reunion announcement/ registration notice is that we – the secretary, Ron Holmberg, other board members and I - have not received enough material to construct a meaningful newsletter. ad one or more of us elected to canvas the membership there may have been a deluge of items in our mailboxes. Whatever the case, the bottom line remains: send your sea stories, real stories and just plain other stories of "you're not gonna believe - - - ". Then we can build a newsletter. Pictures are always welcome, black & white are fine but color are OK. But don't forget to identify the characters when you mail them. Believe it or not, faces do change.

The coordinators at the reunion site who put the local facilities together have accomplished much in behalf of all VQers, even if you did not attend. For many years those of us in the Washington DC area seemed to be afflicted with the same beltway syndrome that clouds the minds of our national politicians. Fortunately VQ people recognized that handicap (Politicians never will and will remain deluded.), and had our first reunion out of DC in Solomon's Island, MD. Fortunately we've opted to avoid DC ever since.

To review just a bit, we formalized our organization at the Solomon's reunion. (At that reunion Ole' Olson volunteered to be our first secretary and he was elected. This past

December Ole' lost a short battle with cancer.) Next we went to Pensacola, FL, the birthplace of Naval Aviation. There "Cy" & Pat Seibert, and Ivan Melsheimer got things in order, and made sure we had dinner in the world famous Naval Aviation Museum.

In October, 94, thanks to Bill Langland and his energetic crew of local Veers, San Diego was a welcome site for our annual gathering. For the first time we had commemorative coffee cups and ball caps, — and we had our own Ready Room. Way to go Bill!

Corpus Christi, Texas, and the USS Lexington, last of the CVT's, was another high point in our reunions, thanks to Don Martin and his family. It is not often that we feast on a Texas barbecue in the hangar deck of an historic aircraft carrier. The October 1995 weather in Corpus was completely hurricane-free and crystal clear. Good work, Don.

In October 1996 we gathered in Norfolk, VA, another of our famous Navy cities across America. Sandi and "Mac" McClellan made sure this was another event to remember. What can beat a dinner cruise around Norfolk harbor on a beautiful evening with friends so true?

The following year we journeyed to the Pacific Northwest and Whidbey Island, the current on of VQ-1. Ed & Betty Witt made sure everyone experienced all the characteristics that make Whidbey Island unique. Don't know how they did it but they had 5 hours of sunshine for our annual golf outing on Saturday, and fresh salmon at picnic. Also Cdr Kevin Ketchmark, the then CO of VQ-1, treated us to a briefing, and a guided tour of the squadron hangar. All the airplanes were deployed so we knew things have not changed much since our time in VQ.

Our first time in a traditionally non-Navy town was San Antonio in 1998. The River walk is something that every sailor should do at least once. San Antonio had not been a port call for very many of us while on active duty, but now we're area qual'ed. Our visit was another event to remember thanks to the efforts of Clint Epley, Ivan Melsheimer, Basil Foy, and Al Blunden.

Our last VQ reunion of the 20<sup>th</sup> century happened in Jacksonville, FL, once home to that famous VQ-6 squadron. Jim "Frog" and Dawn Flynn put together a hallmark of activities for 200 people attending. This was our largest attendance ever, and makes for a terrific springboard to beginning the new century.

I've high lighted our past unions just a bit and mentioned the great people on the scene who organized them so that we can all say thanks once again for their good work in behalf of all. I sincerely hope that each of you who have attended a reunion have enjoyed the experience of reminiscing with friends and shipmates. Being in Naval Aviation was unique, and being in VQ was even more special. And each of us who so served lived times and circumstances so distinctly different from our contemporaries elsewhere that even now we are not fully appreciative of those times and experiences. I hope that all VQers will be able to participate in a reunion and those who already have will continue to attend. Ours is a legacy that continues to live and grow.

As you read this reunion announcement I hope you will find a way to join us in the activities on 6, 7, and 8 Oct. I am sure Dallas Petersen has an interesting and enjoyable round of activities in store for us this year in and around Ventura. I would invite anyone in the local area who can to please call Dallas (805-482-7747) and offer your assistance wherever he may need help. As the start time draws near there are always more and more details to chase in less and less time. I am sure Dallas would appreciate the help of a shipmate.

Take care, travel safe, and I'll see you in Ventura.

**J D**

I will be attending the VQ reunion

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Others accompanying me (No.) \_\_\_\_\_

I will be staying at the Holiday Inn: Yes  No   
If yes, from \_\_\_\_\_ Until \_\_\_\_\_

**Don't forget to make your own reservations.**

If there are any corrections, I can be contacted at:

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I/we will be in the Golf Tournament  No. Attending \_\_\_\_  
No. in Party @ \$35.00 a person Total \_\_\_\_

I/we will be attending the:   
Reunion Dinner No. Attending \_\_\_\_  
No. in Party @ \$30.00 a person Total \_\_\_\_

The Family Picnic  No. Attending \_\_\_\_  
No. in Party @ \$20.00 a person Total \_\_\_\_

VQ Association Dues (\$15.00) Dues \_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for: Total \_\_\_\_  
(Make check out to VQ Association)

Send your Reunion checks, made out to the VQ Association, by 9/5/2000

Ronald Holmberg  
16217 Gales Street  
Laurel, MD 20707



# VQ ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Use for changes in info)

(Please Print)



DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE:

HOME: \_\_\_\_\_

WORK: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ACTIVE DUTY RANK: \_\_\_\_\_ PRESENT STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Active, Retired or Civilian)*

SQUADRON(S) SERVED IN:

SQUADRON: \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS: 19\_\_ TO 19\_\_ BASE: \_\_\_\_\_

SQUADRON: \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS: 19\_\_ TO 19\_\_ BASE: \_\_\_\_\_

SQUADRON: \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS: 19\_\_ TO 19\_\_ BASE: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR DUTIES IN EACH SQUADRON:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please submit this application together with your dues in the amount of \$15.00 made payable to the VQ Association and mail it to the addressee below. Membership will entitle you to notification of our annual reunions, Membership Roster and inclusion in our computer database. Dues are payable annually. We do not send billings.

Ron Holmberg  
Secretary, VQ Association  
16217 Gales Street  
Laurel, MD 20707  
Phone: (301) 604-7598

email: holmberg@erols.com  
holmberg@kleinandstump.com  
ron@theholmbergs.com



VQ ASSOCIATION

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