

# ATKRON 12 NEWSLETTER

# VA-12

## SQUADRON LINEAGE

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

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ALL ARE WELCOME TO VISIT

THE WORLD FAMOUS FLYING UBANGIS

AT OUR WEBSITE [WWW.VA12.COM](http://WWW.VA12.COM)



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A4-E Skyhawk over the Med

VA-12 IN 1955



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# UBANGI? UBETCHA!

## 2015 REUNION

By all measures our VA-12 Reunion last April was an overwhelming success. The weather was a little warm in early April for some of us northern boys but we sure welcomed the sunshine. The Hotel was very accommodating although a bit more crowded than we had been used to in the past.

The Friday excursion on the Airboats turned out to be a very fun event for those that attended. It was a nice morning and we saw our share of gators in their natural habitat.

Saturday's event at the Valiant Air Museum was probably the highlight of this reunion. Seeing the A7 all decked out in our VA-12 logo was very inspiring and gratifying for us old Ubangis. Terry Nies and his crew did a wonderful job restoring it. A special thanks goes out to Terry and his wife Joan for all of their hard work in setting up the events.

We enjoyed a nice banquet on Saturday evening although the group in the next room over outshouted us for most of the evening. We will make sure that does not happen again. Thanks to Bill Doody on his Battle of Midway Presentation and slide show, which we all enjoyed. Also Paul Hiott VA Rep, a friend of Frank Giaccone, thank you for the informational talk on Veterans Benefits.

Those of us that stayed around on Sunday took in the Kennedy Space Center. What an amazing place for NASA buffs.

*Joe Kyle 66-68*

## 2017 REUNION LOCATION

I'm sure that many of you have been waiting for the next reunion site ballots. As has been the custom the final order of business at the reunion each year is to nominate sites for the next get-together. We had several interesting places proposed this time but the run off voting narrowed it down to the top two, which are: PORTLAND, OREGON nominated by John Larch and a Cruise which was nominated by Bill Heck. Originally Bill thought we might be looking at a 3 day cruise but it turns out that the a 7 day cruise out of Galveston, Texas is probably the best deal at this time. We are looking at July 2017 for Portland or April 2017 for the Cruise. Ballots are enclosed (attached) Please mark your choice and return to me no later than 12/31/15. Results will be posted in the March 2016 Newsletter. All 2015

attendees and all dues paying members are eligible to vote. *Joe Kyle 66-68*

## TREASURY REPORT

Previous Balance	\$647.91
Dues & Reunion Sales	270.33
Reunion fees	3079.00
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3997.24</b>
Stamps *	48.00
Printing *	235.01
Decals	86.13
Gifts	554.70
Museum Lunch	977.50
Hotel Deposit	250.00
Banquet	1085.74
IceBreaker	163.50
<b>CURRENT EXPENSES</b>	<b>3400.58</b>
<b>NEW BALANCE</b>	<b>596.66</b>

## COVER PHOTO SCHEME

Long-time readers of the Newsletter know that the cover picture has consisted of VA-12 aircraft, in order of aircraft assignment from 1946 through 1986. We have gone around this circle several times now and are two aircraft away from finishing the latest cycle, which ends with the A7-E Corsair. Starting with the next issue after the A7-E, we will begin adorning the cover page with a picture of the aircraft carriers the squadron deployed aboard, in the same date cycle from 1946 to 1986.

Just as a preview, here is a list of those carriers and what VBF-4/VF-2A/VF-12/VA-12 was flying in that era.

<u>CARRIER</u>	<u>AIRCRAFT</u>
CV-40 Tarawa	F4U-4, F8F-1
CVB-43 Coral Sea	F2H-2
CV-18 Wasp	F2H-2
CVA-42 F.D. Roosevelt	F2H-2
CVA-59 Forrestal	A4D-2
CVA-38 Shangri-La	A4D-2
CVA-42 F.D. Roosevelt	A4D-2, A4D-2N, A4-C, A4-E
CVA-38 Shangri-La	A4-C
CVA-62 Independence	A7-E
CVN-69 D.D. Eisenhower	A7-E

I'm not going to promise that we have a beautiful shot of the carrier with a VA-12 bird on the deck. That is more possible in the modern era and less likely farther back in time.

**ON THE COVER  
DOUGLAS A-4E SKYHAWK**

In 1962, new designations were developed for Naval aircraft. This carried over into the A-4 community as well.

	OLD	NEW
	A4D-1	A4-A
	A4D-2	A4-B
	A4D-2N	A4-C
	A4D-5	A4-E

At one point, a package of enhancements was put into the newest variant and originally named the A4D-5. In March 1965, VA-12 transitioned from the A4-C model to the new A4D-5, under the new designation as the A-4E. A higher-thrust engine was fitted. Later airframes received an even higher thrust version. Avionics were upgraded and simplified. The wing pylons increased from 3 to 5.

	A4D-2N/A4-C	A4-E
Engine	(1) Curtis-Wright J65-W-16A 7,700 Lb/Ft Thrust	(1) Pratt & Whitney J52-P-6A 8,400 Lb/Ft
Max Weight	24,500 Lbs	24,500 Lbs
Max Speed	657 MPH	673 MPH
Max Altitude	44,000 Ft.	38,800 Ft.
Max Range	2,000 Miles	2540 Miles
Rate of Climb	7,100 Ft/Min	?

Note: Many later A-4E's were fitted with the Pratt & Whitney J52-P-8 engine of 9,300 Lb/Ft thrust.



**VA-12's HISTORY WITH THE A4-E:** The squadron flew the -E model until March 1967 and deployed on CVA-42 FDR in June 1965 for a 6-month Med Cruise and again in June 1966 for a 9-month WestPac/Vietnam cruise.

**HEAD CALL**

I was working at Cecil Field, TAD to AIMD, and got a call to report to the squadron. I was way early and stopped in the head for a sit-down. It had been a while since I had been over and I found a new twist in place: They decided to combat the graffiti on the stall walls by putting up heavy paper liner on the walls. When the paper was filled with typical USN "documentation", scribbling, and whatever, they'd just put up new paper. Voila! Damage and scratching in the metal, reduced by 98%.

I had a seat and while waiting for the business to finish, I saw some sailor had written a poem. It was one that I quickly memorized, and remember to this day. It is... *John Larch 76-79*

**THE SAILORS LAMENT**

*Once I sat, broken hearted -  
I tried to shit, but only farted!*

*Another time, I took a chance,  
And tried to fart – but I shit my pants!*

*Now I sit in misty vapor -  
Some asshole stole all the toilet paper.*

*Duty calls, I must not linger...  
So look out ass, HERE COMES THE  
FINGER!*



## 2015 REUNION PICTURES – THE HOTEL



Our hotel for the duration. A big complex of room wings, playgrounds, meeting rooms, restaurants, a Tiki Bar, and beach access.



Access to a breezeway between room wings, past playgrounds, pools, leading to the Tiki Bar.



Though the breezeway, past the Tiki Bar to the beach. Hey, it was hot! I had to rehydrate. I got there eventually.

## 2015 REUNION PICTURES – THURSDAY ICEBREAKER



The hotel had two-story “Loft” rooms and we got the use of one as our meeting room. A few of the early arrivals on Thursday in front of our Loft.



Our Ubangi proudly mounted in the Loft.



The Meeting room.



## 2015 REUNION PICTURES – FRIDAY SHENANIGANS



Boat riders loading up at Midway Airboat Rides. About 30 minutes north of the Cocoa Beach area.



The boat captain asked everyone with a billed cap, to put it on backwards. The boat would go fast enough in the dense air that caps would blow off and take the headsets with them.



One of the local residents.



Deep in the swamp, we met another boat-load of Ubangis.



Golfers Art McHard, Bill & Lynn Heck, Eric Harvie, & Joe Kyle.



## 2015 REUNION PICTURES – SATURDAY AT THE VALIANT AIR MUSEUM



The museum entrance.



A cake baked for us to honor our reunion.



VA-12 Ubangis standing in front of the Museum's A-4 Skyhawk.

## 2015 REUNION PICTURES – SATURDAY AT THE VALIANT AIR MUSEUM



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