

## VA-163 SAINTS GRAM

-|-  
---()----

### KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE

*Distance and time may separate us*

*but friendship and memories won't*

Dedicated to those who have invested their lives to the cause of Freedom in America! God Bless our Men and Women who are (or Have) in any way or manner served to protect our Great Nation and the freedom we have.

And God Bless the United States of America.



13th Year Edition

Established Nov 2002

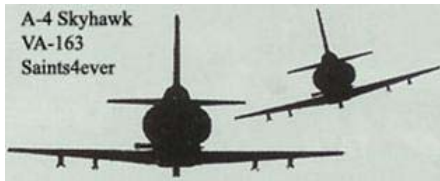
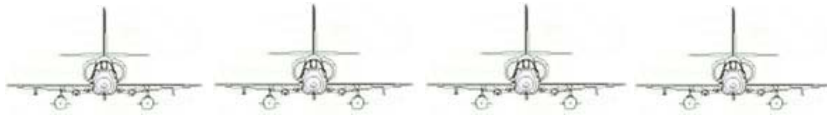
VOL 1 Issue 154



Standing the Watch

Ed Copher, Editor, "Saints Keeper of the Flame"

**Saints Logo:** *"Fight by Night or Day, Land or Sea"*



ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT

*Listen to music as you read the newsletter:*

**[When the Saints Go Marching In - US Navy Seventh Fleet Band](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgsgUbXCeIA&feature=related)** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgsgUbXCeIA&feature=related> at the top right of your screen, click the Minimize minus sign (-). It will then go back to the newsletter with the music playing. When finished listening to music, go to your desk top home page, on the bottom tool bar, right click on **When the Saints...**, and select **close**.

**The Warrior Song...**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITs6a0ORdQU&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITs6a0ORdQU&feature=player_embedded)

To all of the United States Armed Forces, with thanks. - Marching Snare Drums

**Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy:** The Andrew Sisters <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pfCFU3Mqww&feature=related>

**Ghost Riders in the Sky:** Johnny Cash

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mynzbmrt9I>

**Run Through the Jungle:** CCR

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ebl0cMyyw\\_M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ebl0cMyyw_M)

**Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue:** Toby Keith

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PXSK3iDeAI>

**Proud to an American:** Lee Hazelwood

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ps7xmW-9LXQ>

**America, The Land I Love:** James Rogers

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_ICCyjZs3hY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ICCyjZs3hY)

**American "New Song":** <http://www.youtube.com/v/6TPgJSZf5Vw?version=3&autohide=1&autoplay=1>

**Ballad of the Green Berets..1966:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5WJJVSE\\_BE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5WJJVSE_BE)



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas\\_A-4\\_Skyhawk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_A-4_Skyhawk)





*Birds of a feather... Flock Together*



Still Flying



310 at DaNang with wing damage



[Click Here](#)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/va163saints/sets/>

Also on Saints website, [PHOTOS](#) section

**Contains 76 Albums (Sets)... 4,634 Photos**

**View Counts as of 03 August 2015**

**Photos**

531,486views

**Photostream**

29,832views

**Albums**

23,364views

**Total**

**584,682views**





**\*\*\*FYI\*\*\*** [www.Flickr.com](http://www.Flickr.com) charges \$24.95 per year to keep the **SAINTS Photo Albums** on their web site.

**\*\*Paid the one year fee on 15 Nov 2014\*\***



**\*\*\*SAINTS WEB SITE\*\*\***

Saints website [www.va163.org](http://www.va163.org) (password: *Saints4ever* (capital S))

*9,036 Visitors since Mar 09*

**Saints Website and Photos site FEES:**

*Jim Houston, Palm Coast FL, is the Saints webmaster, he designed the website, and does all the updates etc.*

**Website Hosting** is done by **GoDaddy** at a cost of \$76 for two years (***Paid up until 10 Sept 15***)

**Domain Name: (Whois Proof)** There is an annual charge for keeping the **Domain Name** [www.va163.org](http://www.va163.org) which is \$5 p/yr (***Paid until 31 Mar 16***)

**Domain Provider: (Active Domain)** \$12 p/yr (***Paid up until 31 Mar 2016***)

**Photos Site:** I also pay for the **Saints Photos** on the **Flicker site** which is \$25 p/yr (***Due 15 Nov of each yr***)

*Donations are appreciated*



**Submitted by Saint Dennis Dooley: 5 July 15**

We went to a 4th of July Celebration and I was honored with a "Quilt of Honor" given to various military veterans for our services. These quilts are made by volunteers throughout the United States. Attached are a couple photos of me and my wife, Gerry. If you would like to visit their website, go to: <http://www/quiltsofhonor.org>.



[Big Al "Doc" Adeeb: July 2015](#)



[Still flying TA-4 at Ellington AFB, Houston TX.....Collins Foundation](#)





**Wowwoie!!!!!!** Some eye candy...



Replica of the Jet that John McCain was shot down in and made POW.  
01 May 2008  
A-4 Skyhawk  
YA-163 Saints  
Barbers Point, Hawaii

Roni Ford  
in Saints AH 300



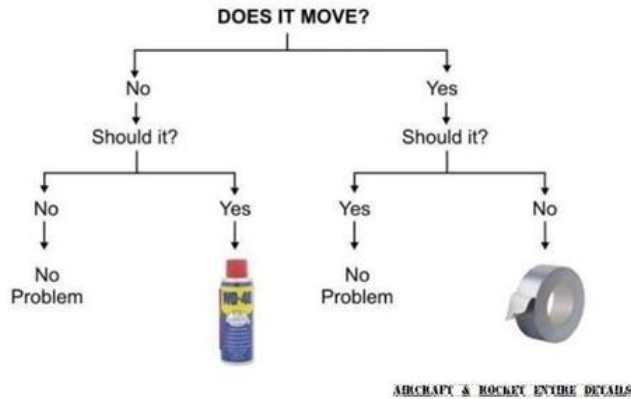
Roni Ford  
on Saints  
A-4E  
AH 300

Barbers Point, Hawaii  
Replica of John McCain's  
Shootdown plane AH300,  
Roni 58 YO.....WOW!!

May 2008



# Aircraft Mechanic Troubleshooting Chart



## SCUTTLEBUTT

*Latest was heard at the "Gedunk"*

**McCain's Records Released by Navy: a bunch of dreamed up BS!!!!**

*Under attack by media and Donald Trump*

POW 5 ½ Years....Hero in my book!!! Yes, he has a bumpy political record and really screwed up running for President! For some crazy reason he does not support veterans either...go figure!!!!

I think the "Wet Start" is really a bunch of BS. You cannot do a wet start on an A-4 (no afterburner).

Who dreamed this up and put in his records????? What else is false in his records?

His tail pipe was facing out over the water and the Zuni rocket came across the flight deck and hit his jet head-on....an he climbed out of his jet using the refueling probe. (On the Forrestal fire video)

It was an electrical short in the F-4 that set off the Zuni, and safety pin was not installed correctly.

<http://rockcreekfreepress.tumblr.com/post/35321150/navy-releases-mccains-records>

Ed (Keeper of the Flame)



**MILITARY REPORT**  
— The Military's Largest Benefits Update —

[www.Military.Com](http://www.Military.Com) : News

Military Report is the most comprehensive military benefits and quality-of-life newsletter for military personnel and retirees. Make sure that you and your colleagues [subscribe](#) for this free update publication.

Click on each blue link to go there.



Skyhawk Luncheon at Tailhook

Just a reminder to get your luncheon reservation to Mark.

**SKYHAWK ASSOCIATION  
REUNION**  
Hook '15 - Nugget Hotel - Sep 10 thru 13

**LUNCHEON**  
Friday, 11 Sep Noon  
Poolside Terrace

**SPEAKER**  
Jim Hickerson  
CAPT USN (Ret)  
POW 1967-1973

**RESERVATIONS**  
Mail \$30  
Mark Williams  
400 Howell Way  
#102  
Edmonds, WA 98020

**ATTACK  
READYROOM**  
Open Every Day

Exhibit Booth 722 - [a4skyhawk.org](http://a4skyhawk.org)

The Skyhawk Association has 890 members, 14 Saints are members

*Ed Copher is the Association SDO for VA-163 Saints*

Skyhawk Association website, VA-163 page:

VA-163 Page, click here: <http://a4skyhawk.org/3e/va163/va163o.htm>

Please join the Skyhawk Association. They have a great *Quarterly Magazine*...allot of A-4's and Saints articles. **Only \$30 per year.**

**Skyhawk Association Members:** Use link to access the Ready Room for; recent additions, aircraft histories, photo galleries, our roster, journals, and more. Need access? Contact the RR Coordinator.

A-4s Forever! [sdo-coordinator@a4skyhawk.org](mailto:sdo-coordinator@a4skyhawk.org) / [bluebolts6364@aol.com](mailto:bluebolts6364@aol.com)

"Skyhawk Association Members: Use the new site address <http://A4skyhawk.org> to get access to the wealth of info available and contact the webmaster for access to the 'Members Only' information at email [webmaster@a4skyhawk.org](mailto:webmaster@a4skyhawk.org) ."



Digital Edition of the Skyhawk Journal now online!

Bob Hickerson [sa-journal-editor@a4skyhawk.org](mailto:sa-journal-editor@a4skyhawk.org)

Skyhawk Association 99. The annual winter edition of the Skyhawk Journal, Vol. 20-4 (**Winter 2014 2015**) is now available in digital format at [www.a4skyhawk.org](http://www.a4skyhawk.org) . just click on the announcement in the "Attention on Deck" box. Remember that this is a fourth, bonus edition of The A-4Ever and is not intended to be a replacement for any of the three print editions members receive in the mail. Those print editions will be delivered to you in 2015 during March, July and October as in the past. We'd love to have your feedback on this digital issue. Comments to [sa-journal-editor@a4skyhawk.org](mailto:sa-journal-editor@a4skyhawk.org) and tell your squadron mates that aren't members that this edition can be viewed by all and their membership would entitle them to all editions over the year.

A-4s Forever! Raven



Saints and Military sites for Hats, Shirts, Pins, Decals, and Models: Submitted by Bill Tomko

Go to Saints Website, **Miscellaneous Section**, for details. Also [www.usmedals.com](http://www.usmedals.com)

I have done a ton of Internet research looking for Saints, Oriskany and A-4 related collectibles, pictures, books, videos, models, decals, pins, shirts and hats. I was asked to publish some of the links I had been satisfied with. I am happy to share it here and if you need help finding some thing please feel free to email me at [Tomkowj@aol.com](mailto:Tomkowj@aol.com)



[Texas Capitol Vietnam Monument](#) added photos.

Click on blue Texas Capitol



#### [Vietnam War Resources:](#)

Below is a link to a web site about the war in Viet Nam. Whether you are a Viet Nam veteran or not, you may find this web site very interesting because it contains an absolutely enormous amount of information about the war. <http://www.cc.gatech.edu/~tpilsch/Vietnam.html>



#### [Remembering the Vietnam War:](#)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XayOuMHLzDM> 7:11 min video

#### [VIETNAM Veterans, War Casualties.....RIP: Memorial Virtual Wall](#)

First click on a state.....then when it opens .....an alphabetical order of city-town or village within that state is listed, with names of those lost from that home town .....then it should show you a picture of the person or at least his/her bio and medals.....<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>



**[Vietnam War Resources, Data Site: Amazing accumulation](#)**

**ALMOST ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT VIETNAM AND A LOT MORE:**

This is probably the best search list ever compiled about Vietnam. It would take months to look at everything this site offers.

Click on the link: <http://www-static.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam..html>



**[Statistics about the Vietnam War](#)**

Interesting information about statistics and myths associated with the Vietnam War... <http://www.vhfcn.org/stat.html>

**[Superb Vietnam Tributes:](#)**

A Place Called Vietnam...<http://www.operationmom.org/ToOurParents.html>

<http://patriotfiles.org/VietnamWar.htm>

<http://www.vietnampix.com/>

**[A well done moving video by Vietnam vets from Michigan .](#)**

This was made by Michigan Vietnam Vets, but it says it all for every Vietnam Vet. Share it with a Vietnam Vet or a family that may have lost a Dad, Brother, Uncle or Son...

I thought they did an excellent job on this. Touching, I suspect in the future this theme will be shown over and over again for each conflict. Thankfully the Gulf war vets were welcomed home with honor.

This is one of the better Vietnam videos made by and for Michigan Vietnam Veterans, but I believe all of you will appreciate this. This story could and is retold by 49 other states and territories as well.

If you know a Vietnam Veteran consider sending this link to them.

[http://www.v-prod.com/trailer\\_vietnam.html](http://www.v-prod.com/trailer_vietnam.html)

**[Life Magazine Vietnam War Photography:](#)**

<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=Life+Magazine+Vietnam+War+Photography&go=&form=QBIR>



NONE



**[SAINTS Newsletters in Archives:](#) *To view the last 12 months newsletters***

Go to [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com) (click on the URL link in blue)

On the Yahoo home page, select **Sign-In**

Type in Yahoo ID: [VA163SAINTS@YAHOO.COM](mailto:VA163SAINTS@YAHOO.COM)

Type in Password: **saints4ever**

After Signed In, back on the Yahoo home page, select **MAIL**

When you get into the mail box, select **Inbox** (on left side window)

Select the newsletter that you want to view.

To get out of Mail, under the top toolbar, find **Yahoo!** click on that to get back to the home page.

**“ALSO”**

**Newsletters are on Saints Website:** *Past month's newsletters*

Go to Saints Website, click on **Newsletters**, password: **saints4ever**



## **\*\*Websites of Interest\*\***

### **Oriskany Web Sites:**

[USS Oriskany \(CVA 34\)](#)

25 Sep 1950 / 20 Sep 1979

Stricken from Navy List 1989. Sold 9 Sep 1995, but contractor defaulted. Repossessed by the Navy and contract terminated 30 Jul 1997. Sunk off coast of Florida 17 May 2006 for use as artificial reef. [Click on the ship name for a complete history.](#)

1. USS Oriskany Online: *Great Photos from Dive Shop Pensacola:* [www.ussoriskanyonline.com](http://www.ussoriskanyonline.com) / [www.mbtdivers.com](http://www.mbtdivers.com)
2. The best pictures of the reefing. *Going to her final resting place:* <http://www.irishmansoftware.com/Oriskany.htm>
3. Two Memorial Video's of the Oriskany: <http://www.ussoriskanyonline.com/>
4. Oriskany Reunion Association: [www.ussoriskany.com](http://www.ussoriskany.com)
5. Video of Big O going under: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-1401279762745553286&q=oriskany>
6. Patriot Media "The Mighty O": <http://patriotmediainc.com/>
7. **Oriskany Dive Video & Photos:** [http://www.oriskanycharterboats.com/oriskany\\_photos.htm](http://www.oriskanycharterboats.com/oriskany_photos.htm)
8. Diving Oriskany Reef, 25 March 2007: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9l-wYnlBZis>
9. Oriskany Cruise Books on CD's: **1.** <http://glewis.us/obooks.htm> **2.** <http://navysite.de/cruisebooks/cv34-67/index.html>  
**3.** <http://navysite.de/cruisebooks/cv34-67/index.html>
10. Oriskany 1967 Vietnam Combat Cruise, DVD sale: [http://www.cv41.org/GRS/uss\\_oriskany\\_67/index.html](http://www.cv41.org/GRS/uss_oriskany_67/index.html)
11. Oriskany Information and History/Pictures: <http://www.pnj.com/newsfiles/oriskany/index.shtml>
12. Oriskany model: <http://www.motionmodels.com/ships/cv/>
13. USS Oriskany Photo Galleries: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/7437991@N08/galleries/72157622440145584>
14. USS Oriskany History 1972: <http://www.ussoriskany.com/id17.html>
15. **USS Oriskany digital Cruise Book Project** (<http://glewis.us/obooks.htm>)
16. Oriskany 1970...Flight Ops: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXaKTJIVxHM&feature=email> *10 min*
17. **Oriskany Memorial Dive for Saint Ralph Bisz:** *Saints logo patch placed on Oriskany, 20 Sept 2010*  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqNETwJvF3A> *7:13 min video*
18. **Oriskany Dive to put Saint Larry Spear's ashes to rest on Oriskany:** *03 Dec 2010*  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBnOkCrDnQo> *7:25 min video*
19. **Saints Video on YouTube:** *Dennis Lund video filmed on the Oriskany including the Oriskany fire!*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJ5ykZjRaIM>

20. **USS Hancock**: Click here: [Scotty Moore - The USS Hancock \("Hannah"\)](#)

---

---

**Picture of Commander Bellinger of VA-162 aboard the USS Oriskany: Submitted by Bob Legette**

Interesting article, which shows a picture of Commander Bellinger of VA-162 (MiG-21 kill on 10/09/1966) aboard the USS Oriskany... (I left the ship in September of 1966)

Article is called: Rolling Thunder escalated US involvement in Vietnam's civil war, pulled ground troops into combat...

<http://www.stripes.com/news/special-reports/vietnam-at-50/rolling-thunder-escalated-us-involvement-in-vietnam-s-civil-war-pulled-ground-troops-into-combat-1.332208>

---

---

**The Blues Flying the A-4**

Oh the good old days. Scooter drivers prepare to shed a tear.....

The best Blue Angel show of all time. A-4's. Here is a video of them from the '70's. Bear Smith and Skip Umsted are the last two guys walking towards the camera before they get to their planes. They both died later in aircraft accidents. The crazy solo is Denny Sapp. Best show for the spectators because it was close to show center. Always in sight. **Tightest diamond formation ever.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wk3XSV6H6w0>

---

---

**World War I - Navy Recruitment & Training Station**

In 1917, at the height of the First World War, a unique Recruitment and Training Station was built at Union Square in Downtown New York City. It was made out of wood, but shaped in the form of a full-sized battleship, christened the USS Recruit. It was highly successful, helping to recruit 25,000 men. But by 1920 it was obsolete, and was dismantled.

<http://mashable.com/2015/04/30/uss-recruit/>

---

---

**VN 40 years ago...75 pictures**

<http://www.vintag.es/2015/04/vietnam-war-40-years-ago-75-beathtaking.html>

---

---

**Legends of the Ho Chi Minh Trail**

<http://www.laosgpsmap.com/ho-chi-Minh-trail-Laos/>

There are many links to the archive by date as well as to specific articles like this one about an F-4 shootdown:

<http://www.laosgpsmap.com/ho-chi-minh-trail-shot-down-plane/>

This is the homepage:

[www.laosgpsmap.com](http://www.laosgpsmap.com)

**Ho Chi Minh Trail Tours:**

[www.laosgpsmap.com/ho-chi-minh-trail-tours/](http://www.laosgpsmap.com/ho-chi-minh-trail-tours/)

---

---

**Vietnam War Stories:**

<http://cherrieswriter.wordpress.com/category/the-vietnam-war-story/>

Tags : [book sites](#), [books war](#), [cherry soldier](#), [combat](#), [Combat Infantry](#), [digital books](#), [firefights](#), [Grunts](#), [Hispanic](#), [Historical fiction](#), [jungle warfare](#), [Military](#), [novels](#), [The vietnam war](#), [The Vietnam war story](#), [Veteran](#), [Vietnam blog pages](#), [Vietnam book](#), [Vietnam conflict](#), [Vietnam veteran](#), [war books](#), [war stor](#), [Wars and Conflicts](#)

---

---

**Number of Vietnam Vets Still Alive:**

This has a lot of the statistics on Vietnam Vets.....

<http://www.nationalvietnamveteransfoundation.org/statistics.htm>

---

---

**1956 Navy All Hands Meeting:**

Thought you might find this 1956 All Hands..... interesting.

[http://www.navy.mil/ah\\_online/archpdf/ah195603.pdf](http://www.navy.mil/ah_online/archpdf/ah195603.pdf)

---

---

**A good day to revisit the Virtual Wall:**

**Vietnam Wall**

First click on a state. When it opens, scroll down to the city and the names will appear.

Then click on their names. It should show you a picture of the person, or at least their bio and medals.

This really is an amazing web site. Someone spent a lot of time and effort to create it.

I hope that everyone who receives this appreciates what those who served in Vietnam sacrificed for our country. The link below is a virtual wall of all those lost during the Vietnam War with the names, bio's and other information on our lost heroes. Those who remember that time frame, or perhaps lost friends or family can look them up on this site.

<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>

---

---

**Do you remember these?**

This will bring back memories

[http://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=puGQsQux80k](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=puGQsQux80k)

---

---

**Vietnam Photos:**

<http://news.yahoo.com/photos/a-soldier-s-story-never-before-seen-images-of-vietnam-war-slideshow/vietnam-photo--599932980.html?format=embed#mediaphotosbobaspotlightgallery=%252Fflightbox%252Fa-soldier-s-story-never-before-seen-images-of-vietnam->



[war-slideshow%252Fvietnam-photo--599932096.html](http://war-slideshow%252Fvietnam-photo--599932096.html)

---

---

**Military Video ~ Ending is Fabulous**

Please take the time to view this and watch till the end. I was so very touched. And once again.....

Thank you to ALL who have served our country! I live in a free nation because of your sacrifice! God Bless you! Because of the warriors of the past, the present, and the future, we Americans can walk tall.

For those of you of may not know, or have forgotten, Lt. Col. Oliver North was wounded in Vietnam many times and never left the men he commanded. I am now passing this on for you to watch. It's not just enjoyable, it is riveting! When you are done pass it on too, I think it's important ... don't you?

If you are a veteran, I say thank you, for everything! You are SO special! Take the time for this one. You won't be disappointed ... the end is a kicker.

<http://www.nragive.com/ringoffreedom/index.html>

---

---

**NAS Lemoore April 1968:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sRIO4kvjVE&feature=youtu.be>

---

---

**Photos/History of Vietnam:**

Excellent Viet Nam Pictorial History

From the Denver Post.

Click here: [VietamPictorialHistory](#)

---

---

**Vietnam War - Source list**

I am passing this along because it is probably the best search list ever compiled about the Vietnam War. This simply has to be shared with anyone who ever served in Vietnam. It would take months (*more like years*) to look at everything this site offers:

<http://www.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>

---

---

**A-4 Skyhawks:**

<http://a4skyhawk.org/>

---

---

**Another Saints website site: By Saint Dennis Lund**

<http://www.va-163saints.com/>

---

---

**When the Saints Go Marching In - US Navy Seventh Fleet Band**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgsgUbXCeIA&feature=related>

---

---

**VA Benefits Blog on Facebook:**

**VA Benefit Blog**

[https://www.facebook.com/vabenefitblog?sk=app\\_129722457108553#!/vabenefitblog?sk=wall](https://www.facebook.com/vabenefitblog?sk=app_129722457108553#!/vabenefitblog?sk=wall)

---

---

**Douglas A-4 Skyhawk: 6:10 min video**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hAplCSSZqAs&feature=related>

---

---

**Vietnam War Documentary Trailer:**

[http://www.v-prod.com/trailer\\_vietnam.html](http://www.v-prod.com/trailer_vietnam.html)

---

---

**A-4 Skyhawk Photo Galleries on Flickr.com website: Some of our Saints photos are in there!!!**

[www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623353551691/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623353551691/)  
[www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623815542532/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623815542532/)  
[www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623727604239/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623727604239/)  
[www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623854694748/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623854694748/)  
[www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623854748712/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623854748712/)

---

---

**RAO BULLETIN Update, 01 August 2015**

Read the **Articles** go to the web site at: [http://post\\_119\\_gulfport\\_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html](http://post_119_gulfport_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html)



## SAINTS ONBOARD (260 Names)

**“Muster Call”**

Revised 03 August 2015

New or changed address:

See website roster

*Please advise if you have any additions or corrections.*

Complete Muster Call can be found on the Saints website – [www.va163.org](http://www.va163.org) (password, *Saints4ever*) capital  
S

