

Toooo Weeet... Attention on Deck... "Saints...March...Newsletter"...Arriving!

ALSO ON SAINTS WEBSITE

## VA-163 SAINTS GRAM

—|—  
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**KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE**

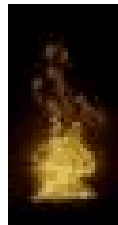
*Distance and time may separate us  
but friendship and memories won't*

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.



2017

15th Year Edition  
Established Nov 2002  
VOL 1 Issue 173



**Standing the Watch**

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

**Saints Tradition**

An old Saints tradition is that friends who have not seen or heard from each other for long periods of time never question their friendship. These friendships resume at the same time they left off

regardless of distance and time between them. We call these friends **“Family”**.

Saints Motto

“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.

[Vietnam Memorial Wall Song](https://www.facebook.com/100000531380774/videos/1142596289101406/): <https://www.facebook.com/100000531380774/videos/1142596289101406/>

[Sea Cruise](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5tIHtbtFQ&feature=em-share_video_user): Frankie Ford: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5tIHtbtFQ&feature=em-share\\_video\\_user](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5tIHtbtFQ&feature=em-share_video_user)

[Goodnight Saigon](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Qjzjhl-QztE&feature=share): Billy Joel <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Qjzjhl-QztE&feature=share>

[VN Vets song](https://www.facebook.com/groups/215020061882554/permalink/1206478169403400/): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/215020061882554/permalink/1206478169403400/>



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



CAG-16 patch 1967







NAS Lemoore memorial



*Birds of a feather... Flock Together*





[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 March 2017**

**Photos**

**658,003**views

**Albums**

**30,486**views

**Total**

**713,271 views**



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

**\*\*Just paid the one year fee on 15 Nov 2016\*\***



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

**MAKE SURE AND VIEW THE WEBSITE. IT HAS BEEN RECENTLY UPDATED WITH LATEST NEWSLETTERS AND ROSTER**

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

*12,902 Visitors since Mar 09*



## \*\*\*Total cost for the Website is \$151.97 per year

**\$183.95 to renew GoDaddy website hosting** (paid for 2 years on 10 Sept 2015)

**\$80.00 to renew Domain Name (va163.org)** (paid for 2 years on 07 Mar 2016)

**\$30.00 to renew Domain Provider** (paid for 2 years on 27 Mar 2016)

**\$10.00 to renew Domain Protector** (paid for 2 years on 27 Mar 2016)

**\$25.00 to Saints Photo Site, Flickr.com: \$25 per year** (paid 15 Nov 2016)

### *Donations are appreciated*

Ed Copher  
242 Toye Blvd  
Canyon Lake, TX 78133

### Saints Website and Photos site FEES:

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

**Website Hosting** Provided by **GoDaddy** cost **\$183.95** for two years (*Paid up until 10 Sept 17*)

**Domain Name:** Provided by **Internet Domain Name Services** [www.idns.ae](http://www.idns.ae) an annual charge for keeping the [www.va163.org](http://www.va163.org) is \$40 p/yr, paid for 2 years (*Paid up until 15 Mar 2018*)

**Domain Provider:** Provided by **Active Domain** \$15 p/year, paid for 2 years (*Paid up until 31 Mar 2018*)

**Domain Protector:** Provided by **Domain Admin** \$5 p/year, paid for 2 years (*Paid up until 31 Mar 2018*)

**Photos Site:** Saints Photos on the **Flicker site** is \$25 p/yr (*Due 15 Nov of each year*) **Paid 15 Nov 2016**



### **Saints and Ghostriders Reunion 2017 May 3-5, 2017**

#### UPDATE:

For those of you that made the 1967 cruise, it has been 50 years! We are now only **two months out** from our 2017 reunion. I am continuing to work with NAS Fallon as to our visit and the number of people that they can accommodate. My information to this point is that the charter bus can handle 58 people. Given that we expect more than 125 at the reunion, we will have to schedule two trips. I really do not want to be in the position of having to set up a first come first served scenario, but we won't know until the registration forms come in.

The good news for this letter is that Penny Schroeder has firmed up an excellent deal with the shirt company to be able to offer men's and women's shirts with our logo at some very reasonable prices. She will need to receive your order prior to April 1 for us to have them available when you check in. Your shirts will be in your registration packet. Please don't forget to enclose your payment with the shirt order.

Just as a reminder, if you plan to rent a car, there are a number of beautiful and interesting places to visit that are close to Reno. For example, Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Virginia City, and Carson City are all within easy driving distance. There is a paddlewheel boat that operates out of South Lake Tahoe that offers a wonderful view of the lake and mountains. If you do not want to rent a car, the

Nugget does provide airport pick up services every half hour.

**SAINTS AND GHOSTRIDERS REUNION MAY 2017**

***SOUVENIR SHIRT ORDER FORM BELOW---SHIRTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE REUNION***

PLEASE SEE OPTIONS on the information sheets, PRINT THE ORDER FORM, COMPLETE ALL PARTS OF THE FORM, AND RETURN via USPS mail along with your payment (checks made out to Penny Schroeder) to:

Penny Schroeder  
W8655 Dutch Dr  
Minong WI 54859

**DEADLINE for T-shirt order is 01 APRIL 2017**

Questions? Please contact Penny [wiredinthewoods@gmail.com](mailto:wiredinthewoods@gmail.com)/715-491-0412

**Saints Event Coordinator**

Richard (Ode) Odegaard  
2490 Old Waverly Court  
Sparks, NV 89436  
775-626-0898 [richard.odegaard@gmail.com](mailto:richard.odegaard@gmail.com)

**Ghostrider Event Coordinator**

Jim Waldron  
115 Enclave Lane,  
St. Simons Island GA 31522  
410-409-1987

**Location:** Nugget Casino, Sparks NV

Saints and Ghostriders,

**Saints 2017 Reunion will take place at the Nugget Hotel/Casino from Wednesday 3 May to Friday 5 May 2017.** The Hotel has extended the room rate for 2 days prior and after the event. \$59 plus taxes and fees. RSVP as soon as possible so we can know the number of rooms to hold and what events to plan.

**For those who would like to start making hotel reservations, I received the following from the Nugget sales department:**

We are 2 months away, but I wanted to let you know we are all set to take hotel reservations. Your guests can call our toll free number at **1-800-648-1177** and ask for Group Code: **GVA163**

Here is a list of those that have indicated that they hope to attend:

Charlie Stender	Floyd Oakes	Don Mack	JC Farris
Griff Sexton	Dick Vaughn	Bill Tomkow	Scott Drake
Jerry Breast	Russ Stickley	Mike Mich	Dennis Dooley
Frank Hughes	Bob Hofford	Ed Copher	Hubert Cook
John Gabrys	Ray Miller	Sue Harriss	Roger Meyer
John Roosen	Bill Schulz	Ken Adams	Edward Jokerst
Robert Feuillerat	Dale Landroth	Scott Mitchell	Ed Chadwick
Earl Jackson	Jim Busey	Bob Senecal	Vince Walmer
Daniel Lestage	Jim Blythe	Larry Thompson	Al Abeeb
Fritz Schroeder	Bryan Compton	Marion Petty	Phil Genarie
Richard Odegaard	Louie Nordbye	John Weber	Tom Decker
Bob Legette	Bill Sargent	Bill Cohen	John Shore
Gordon Hunter	Jerry Hannah	Dave Carey	Tom Klein

The Reunion announcement was included in the Fall edition of the **Skyhawk Association Magazine**: The VA-163/164 reunion info will be in the "**Prez Sez**" section for the Fall 2016 *A4Ever* Journal. Submitted by: Pete Cole, President Skyhawk Association

**On 15 Feb 2017 an Email was sent out to all that showed interest of attending, with the registration form and T-shirt order form.** Please contact me at [richard.odegaard@gmail.com](mailto:richard.odegaard@gmail.com) if you have questions or suggestions. Richard (Ode) Odegaard

The countdown is starting. Attached please find the registration form in Word and .pdf format. Please fill it out completely, attach a check, and mail it to me.

Mailing address:

Richard Odegaard  
2490 Old Waverly Court  
Sparks, NV 89436

For purposes of simplicity and accountability, we are asking the Ghostriders to send their forms and checks to Richard Odegaard as well.

The **Fallon tour** is going to be a bit complicated for me. I have reserved two 56 passenger buses from Amador Stage Lines. If we get more than 112 people that want to do the tour, I'll have to schedule on a first come, first served basis. Hate to limit the number but that is a requirement from NAS Fallon. I'll try to give you updates as the registration forms come in as to the number of people that are interested in the tour.

**Other info:**

**From the Nugget:**

“Regarding the hotel rooms, as we discussed, your room block has been increased to 75 rooms on Wednesday 5/3/17, Thursday 5/4/17 and Friday 5/5/17 at the special group rate of **\$59 + tax & resort fee**. However, one clarification on the hotel rooms: the cutoff for reservations is TWO weeks prior to your event. Attendees **MUST** make their hotel reservations by Friday, 14 April 2017. At 5:00 pm on Friday, 14 April, any unreserved guestrooms will be released back to the general hotel inventory for resale. Any reservations after the cutoff date will be at prevailing hotel room rates.”

At last count, we already have 24 room reservations made. Kudos to those that are out in front and ahead of the game. It looks like the Nugget is going to be fairly full as the “Sweet Adeline’s”, female barbershop quartets are holding their national convention at the same time as our reunion. We are scheduled to have all of our rooms in the west tower. The Nugget is totally renovating the west tower rooms now at a cost of \$20K per room. We did a walkthrough last week and they look like they will be very nice.

All of our events will be held in the Orozko room and they have given us 24 hour use of it from Wednesday to Friday less their time for cleaning and setup. So, for those that just want to sit and catch up, we will have a place to do it.

I will be sending out a schedule of events, other possible activities, and a listing of eating venues both in the casino and within walking distance in a future mailing.

**Registration FORM:**

**VA-163/VA-164 Reunion 2017**

**May 3-5, 2017**

**Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks, Nevada**

**Registration**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Name tag \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Name tag \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Best phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Hotel Reservations -

**Toll free number at 1-800-648-1177 and ask for Group Code: GVA163**

**The cutoff for reservations is TWO weeks prior to our event. Attendees MUST make their hotel reservations by Friday, April 14, 2017. At 5:00 pm on Friday, April 14, any unreserved guestrooms will be released back to the general hotel inventory for resale. Any reservations after the cutoff date will be at prevailing hotel room rates.**

Reunion registration fee (Hospitality "Readyroom" and administrative costs)      Number \_\_\_\_ X \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Wednesday, May 3 1600-1800**

Welcome reception      Number \_\_\_\_ X \$25 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Thursday, May 4**

Tour of NAS Fallon\*      Number \_\_\_\_ X \$30 = \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch is included at the Silver State Club (All Hands)

Required info for security access:

Full name \_\_\_\_\_, Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ (Mo/day/year), Last 4 of SSN \_\_\_\_\_

If foreign born, nationality \_\_\_\_\_, Passport # \_\_\_\_\_

Full name \_\_\_\_\_, Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_, Last 4 of SSN \_\_\_\_\_

If foreign born, nationality \_\_\_\_\_, Passport # \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday, May 5**

Banquet      Number \_\_\_\_ X \$45 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total = \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Richard Odegaard  
Mail form and check to: 2490 Old Waverly Court  
Sparks, NV 89436

**Registration forms need to arrive by April 4, 2017**

- NAS Fallon limits the number of tour participants to 55 at one time. Will need to limit requests to first come first served unless we get 90 - 100 people that want to go, in which case we may be able to add a second tour later in the day.

**Shirt order form:**

***SAINTS AND GHOSTRIDERS REUNION MAY 2017***

***SOUVENIR SHIRT ORDER FORM---SHIRTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE REUNION***

PLEASE SEE OPTIONS on the information sheets, PRINT THE ORDER FORM, COMPLETE ALL PARTS OF THE FORM, AND RETURN via USPS mail along with your payment (checks made out to Penny Schroeder) to:

Penny Schroeder  
W8655 Dutch Dr

**DEADLINE 01 APRIL 2017** Questions? Please contact Penny [wiredinthewoods@gmail.com](mailto:wiredinthewoods@gmail.com)/715-491-0412

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
 STYLE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
 GENDER \_\_\_\_\_  
 COLOR \_\_\_\_\_  
 SIZE \_\_\_\_\_  
 LOGO PLACEMENT (FRONT LEFT CHEST, LEFT SHOULDER OR UNDER BACK COLLAR) \_\_\_\_\_

**NEED ANOTHER SHIRT?**

STYLE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
 GENDER \_\_\_\_\_  
 COLOR \_\_\_\_\_  
 SIZE \_\_\_\_\_  
 LOGO PLACEMENT (FRONT LEFT CHEST, LEFT SHOULDER OR UNDER BACK COLLAR) \_\_\_\_\_

**NEED ANOTHER SHIRT?**

STYLE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
 GENDER \_\_\_\_\_  
 COLOR \_\_\_\_\_  
 SIZE \_\_\_\_\_  
 LOGO PLACEMENT (FRONT LEFT CHEST, LEFT SHOULDER OR UNDER BACK COLLAR) \_\_\_\_\_

**NEED ANOTHER SHIRT? PLEASE RECORD INFO ON BACK OF THIS SHEET**

INFORMATION

OUR LOGO FOR ALL SHIRTS



AVAILABLE STYLES, SIZES AND COLORS

LADIES' S M L XL 2XL



OGIO LADIES' FRAMEWORK POLO \$36

- STYLE #1175
- PINK PUNCH
- CITRON
- DIESEL GRAY
- BLACKTOP
- MEDIUM BLUE
- LADIES'



PORT AUTHORITY LADIES' PINPOINT MESH HALF ZIP \$33

- STYLE#7705 S M L XL 2XL
- BATTLESHIP GRAY
- DARK FUCHSIA
- TREETOP GREEN
- ROYAL BLUE
- NAVY BLUE
- BLACK
- WHITE

MEN'S



CALLAWAY DRY CORE PERFORMANCE POLO \$40  
STYLE #1311 S M L XL 2XL (RUNS SLIGHTLY LARGE, BUT NOT A WHOLE SIZE)  
CHARCOAL  
ORANGE  
RED  
ROYAL  
NAVY  
BLACK  
WHITE  
MEN'S



PORT AUTHORITY HALF ZIP SWEATER \$38  
STYLE # 2087 S M L XL 2XL  
CHARCOAL HEATHER  
BURGUNDY HEATHER  
BLACK  
MEN'S



SPORT-TEK POSICHARGE RACER MESH POLO \$18  
STYLE #1226 S M L XL 2XL  
GRAPHITE .. NEON GREEN .. PACIFIC BLUE .. MAROON .. ROYAL.. NAVY .. BLACK



**Please Submit Oriskany Fire Memories:** Submitted by Ken Adams

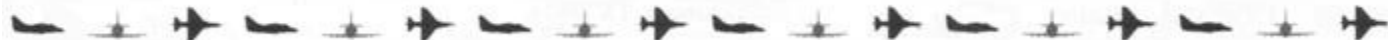
**Only received two memories' as of Feb 2017. Need more.....**

26 October 2016 was the 50th anniversary of the "Mighty O" fire. I was wondering if you would send out a request to our shipmates that lived through the fire to see if they would like to write a paragraph or 2 of their memories of that day. If they send them to me I will try and put together all their stories in a print out that we can hand out at our 2017 reunion.

Thanks for your help in this,

Mule Adams [kmuleadams@gmail.com](mailto:kmuleadams@gmail.com)

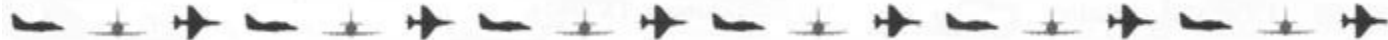




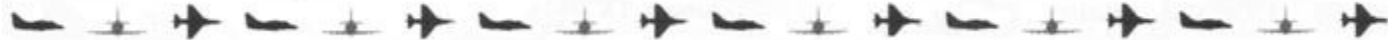
**Hugging the Deck DVD's:**

Jim and I produced a limited quantity of DVDs from the Discovery Channel VHS called **Hugging the Deck** about the A-4 Skyhawk during Vietnam. First come, first served at \$20 ea. We will donate anything we make over our production cost to the Saints! Just have them email me.

*Thanks & Blessings,  
Diane Blythe  
972.849.3923  
Scripture Everywhere Calligrapher  
D'Scribe of Dallas  
<http://dscribeofdallas.org/>  
[diane@dscribeofdallas.org](mailto:diane@dscribeofdallas.org)*



**Navy Newsletter: TWS News** [newsletters@togetherweserved.com](mailto:newsletters@togetherweserved.com)  
**31 Shipmates you may know** (1965-1968, AT's, VA-163 Saints)  
TWS Updates [info@navy.togetherweserved.com](mailto:info@navy.togetherweserved.com)



**History of VA-163 and Naval Aviation**

Ed Copher, I would appreciate if you would publish the attached letter in the next squadron newsletter. I just started corresponding with this guy and he seems genuine. If anyone has extra patches, they could send them to Jan-Peter. It may be a way to support the history of VA 163 and Naval Aviation. Following are the emails we have exchanged to date. See you in May. Thanks,  
Ed Chadwick

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:** VA 163  
**Date:** Thu, 16 Feb 2017  
**From:** Jan-Peter van Viegen <[janpetervanviegen@gmail.com](mailto:janpetervanviegen@gmail.com)>

To: 'Ed Chadwick' <[chadco@chadcorealestate.com](mailto:chadco@chadcorealestate.com)>

**Hello Ed Chadwick,**

Thank you for responding to my letter and request. That is always great to receive a response as 80% of the time it is a wild guess. I really enjoyed reading your email. Thank you very much for your help, if you don't mind to part with it I would love to have the Saints patch for my collection. Used and worn are even better as they show actual history. USN patches are very hard to find here, and I want to thank you for helping me further and posting my request in the newsletter. I hope I don't bother anybody with it. Please let me know what I can do in return.

I envy your flying career to me anyone who can land on an aircraft carrier is a great pilot, I am a land based aviator and anyone can land on a 6000+ ft runway. The A-4 must have been a thrill to fly. I saw the documentary "hugging the deck" about the Saints during the Vietnam war and I almost couldn't believe it, I really loved the interviews with Mr. Brian Compton, I must have seen it over 10 times now, it inspired me at the time to investigate further and since I have read many books about the Air War over Vietnam, like "Rampant Raider". I have a deep respect for what you and all the other flight crew and sailors did over there. Thank you for your service.

A little information about my collecting and reason. I like the history of each unit but also the patch itself, not just fighters but from all commands, cruise patches, etc. The different styles, fabric, every two three years they change, not the design these can stay the same for a long time but little things like different edge of the patch, a spelling mistake. I display them in special folders with the name of the donator and time piece on when he served with the unit. I would like to keep the heritage alive from all the units within the USMC, USN & USAF.

I store all the patches in special plastic folders to keep them in mint condition. The folders are in my Aviation room together with all the other memorabilia I collect (scarves. Name-tags, squadron plaques etc). On this web link from my site <http://skytrailer.com/about-me/> you can see some photos of my collection. I am sorry I haven't placed any USN patches on there yet. I started 20 years ago with Air Force patches and 3 years ago with USN and the collection is quite small so far but growing.

Looking forward to hear from you.

Greetings from Holland,

Jan-Peter

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**From: Ed Chadwick** [<mailto:chadco@chadcorealestate.com>]

**Sent:** donderdag 16 Feb. 2017

**To:** [janpetervanviegen@gmail.com](mailto:janpetervanviegen@gmail.com)

**Subject:** VA 163

**To: Jan-Peter**

I received your letter today and am quite flattered that you are interested in my short military career. I joined the Navy in 1965 and went through flight school flying the T34, T2A, F9 and F11. Then it was on to the RAG, Replacement Air Group, to train in the A4. My first combat mission was in August of 1967 and my last in February 1969. I spent my last year on active duty in VT4 teaching carrier landings with the T2B and was discharged in April 1970. After that I spent about six months in the Reserves again flying the A4. My highest rank was Lieutenant. Since then I have worked in commercial real estate. After a ten year break from the military, I started flying civilian aircraft. I have owned a 180 Cessna since 1980 and fly it on floats and wheels. You have a beautiful picture of an A4C, however, in Vietnam VA 163 flew the A4E, on all of the squadron's combat cruises. You may already have seen it, but attached is our latest newsletter. I will ask that your letter and request be shown in the next publication. I have an old Saints patch I would be willing to send you, however, I wore it on my flight jacket and it is well worn. Please let me know if you want it and whether there are any questions you would like me to answer. Thanks for your interest. Ed Chadwick





**Veterans Day Celebration at Sea, Cruise out of Galveston: 9-12 Nov 2017**

I am putting together a Veteran's Day Cruise out of Galveston on **09 November 2017 for 4 nights**.

This cruise is **open to all Veterans of all Branches**. I have been on many cruises and the cruise lines always honor the Veterans in one form or another. This one will be special since it will occur over Veterans Day this year.

I am working on special incentives (amenities) with the Cruise Line for the group that will be going with us on this cruise. Some amenities we are trying to secure are, On Board Credit for each guest and or cabin, Free Cocktail Party, Private Meeting Rooms and special recognition, fun and games such as a Poker Run and a Scavenger Hunt.

**Here is the information for the cruise.** I have included a link with the Group website, prices, general information, amenities and registration for those that are interested in going on a fun filled 4 nights Veterans Celebration at Sea.

<http://ttrawick.dreamvacationsgroups.com/VeteransCelebrationSea>

Thank You

David W. Dickson (Retired USAF)

Vacation Specialist

Direct: [281-635-3177](tel:281-635-3177)

Main: [844-365-TRIP](tel:844-365-TRIP)

Email: [d.dickson@dreamvacations.com](mailto:d.dickson@dreamvacations.com)

web: [www.tnttravelgroup.com/](http://www.tnttravelgroup.com/)



**SCUTTLEBUTT**

*Latest was heard at the "Gedunk"*

The Smoking Lamp is out due to JP-5 Jet Fuel in the drinking water.

Cold Saltwater showers "only" due to no fresh water.

Remember: The soap will not rinse off in cold saltwater shower....



**Skyhawk Association Links:**

Skyhawk Association SDO. As you probably already know, you can find the web link to your squadron or unit at <http://www.a4skyhawk.org/content/us-navy-skyhawk-units>.

There have been changes to the website structure, however, the **main page remains the same:**

<http://www.a4skyhawk.org/>

**The correct link to the VA-163 page is:**

<http://www.a4skyhawk.org/content/va-163-saints>

The SDO coordinator contact is [sa-sdo-coordinator@a4skyhawk.net](mailto:sa-sdo-coordinator@a4skyhawk.net) or me.

The new SA contact listing is:

<http://www.a4skyhawk.org/content/association-contact-directory>

There is no ready room coordinator any more. Use the contact listing to contact the webmaster. There are no longer any xxx@a4skyhawk.org email addresses they are now [xxx@a4skyhawk.net](mailto:xxx@a4skyhawk.net) since we have changed our ISP.

Hope this makes sense; give me a shout with any questions. Sorry I did not catch this before.

Great news letter.

Pete Cole, SDO Coordinator



**Skyhawk Digital Journal:** Feb 2017

A few years ago the Board of Directors voted to reduce the number of printed Journals from 4 to 3 and to substitute a digital Journal in place of the 4th. This year's digital edition can be found

at: <http://a4skyhawk.info/article-journal-public/skyhawk-association-journal-public-page1>

[Skyhawk Association Journal - THE A-4ever](http://a4skyhawk.info)

[a4skyhawk.info](http://a4skyhawk.info)

Our "Members Only" Journal is published twice yearly and contains excellent textual and color image examples of the historical and current activities of one of the ...

Just click on the link or copy it into your browser and you are there. Additionally if you know of prospective members of the organization forward the link to them. They might like it enough to join.

Hope to see a number of you at the reunion in the Jacksonville area or at Tailhook

Terry Cooney Secretary Skyhawk Association



**The Skyhawk Association has 890 members, 14 Saints are members**

*Ed Copher is the Association SDO for VA-163 Saints and VA-125*

**Skyhawk Association, VA-163 page:**

**VA-163** Page, click here: <http://www.a4skyhawk.org/content/va-163-saints>

**Association main page:** <http://www.a4skyhawk.org/>

*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 to email list?** The Association email list is on this new hosting service.

So all can start using this new list on Sunday 30 October. [xxx@a4skyhawk.net](mailto:xxx@a4skyhawk.net)

**Contact Directory:** <http://www.a4skyhawk.org/content/association-contact-directory>

**SDO coordinator** contact is [sa-sdo-coordinator@a4skyhawk.net](mailto:sa-sdo-coordinator@a4skyhawk.net)

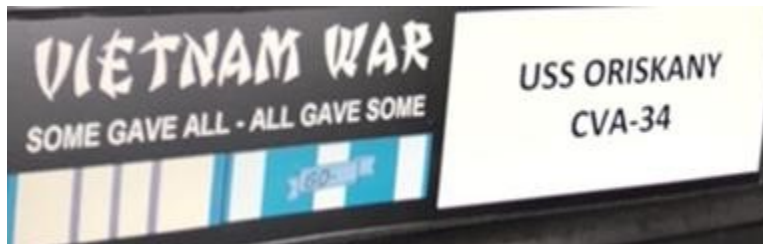
**"Skyhawk Association Members:** Use the new site address to get access to the wealth of info available and contact the webmaster for access to the 'Members Only' information at email [webmaster@a4skyhawk.org](mailto:webmaster@a4skyhawk.org) ."



**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)





**VN Memorial Wall with Faces:**

<http://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/20740/WILLIAM-R-HALE>

**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=XayOuMHIzDM> 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/>

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**Life Magazine Vietnam War Photography:**

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

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**SAINTS Newsletters in Archives:** *To view the last 12 months newsletters*

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

On the Yahoo home page, select **Sign-In** (top right side)

Type in **Yahoo ID:** [va163lemoore@yahoo.com](mailto:va163lemoore@yahoo.com)

Type in **Password:** **saints4ever** (lower case)

After Signed In, back on the Yahoo home page, select **MAIL** (left side bar)

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

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 Yahoo home page.

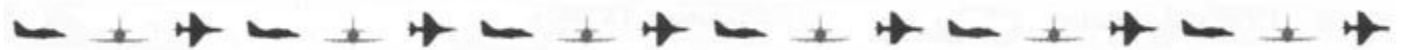
**ALSO:** When you first get to the Yahoo Home Page, if you are already signed in to a different yahoo account, then you must sign out of that account, and then sign in to Saints account.

**“ALSO”**

**Newsletters are on Saints Website:**

Go to Saints Website, click on Newsletters,

To view the Roster: click on Roster, then Complete Roster, password: **Saints4ever** (capital S)



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

### **Oriskany Web Sites:**

[USS Oriskany \(CVA 34\)](#) 25 Sep 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.**  
1950 /  
20 Sep  
1979

1. Great Oriskany Photos *from Dive Shop Pensacola*: [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-wYnIBZis>
9. Oriskany Cruise Books on CD's: 1. <http://glewis.us/oobooks.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/oobooks.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 \("Hannah"\)](#)
21. **Tour of Duty photo site**: 3000 photos, some Saints <https://www.flickr.com/groups/435090@N22/>
22. **USS Oriskany Fire & Sinking**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IS2uky8K5Jk> 42 min video
23. **1963 TOUR OF THE USS Oriskany**: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e92t7kgV\\_Ws](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e92t7kgV_Ws) &  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9Mh975VCII>
24. **O Boat Sinking Video**: <http://trib.al/t69QQT4>

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**Denny Earl Snow Skiing:** Feb 2017

<https://www.facebook.com/denny.earl/posts/10208445279625283>

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**CAG at Lemoore to deactivate:**

<https://www.facebook.com/fireontheflightdeck/posts/1425361464161415>

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## [A-4's at Museum Pensacola:](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/NavalAviationMuseum/videos/10158306824275174/>

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## [Pushing a plane off side of ship:](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/DirectorTimHull/videos/1522359191419780/>

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## [Female AF Pilot from Olongapo City PI](#)

<http://www.manilalivewire.com/2015/08/filipino-proud-us-air-force-f-16-jet-fighter-pilot-is-a-filipina/>

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## [VA-164 Video: Miss Jessie and Ghost Rider 401](#)

Dick Perry of the O-boat's VA-164 and the saga of Miss Jessie.

<https://www.facebook.com/DosEckes-Productions-362988187722/?pnref=story>

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## [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>

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## [Resource Book with details of all aircraft loss on every cruise:](#) Submitted by Ed Chadwick

Here is a site where books by Rene J. Francillon can be purchased. His "**Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club**" has a section that shows every carrier deployment during the Vietnam. It details each aircraft loss on every cruise, including the date, aircraft type, aircraft identification, squadron, pilots name / rank and well as whether the pilot was KIA, recovered or made a POW. I look at the book when memory fails me. It's a great resource.

<https://www.amazon.com/Ren%C3%A9-J.-Francillon/e/B001HCWSDM>

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## [Detail Thesis on CAG 16 1965-1967](#)

Commander Fey, who asked my permission to use a Photo I took of Commander Stockdale's Saints A-4 from 1965. He said he did a thesis on CAG 16 and a Manifest. Many of the Saints including Skipper's Compton and Foster were interviewed as well As Mildman and others. It spans 1965 thru 1967. I found it very interesting with insight I never was aware of, worth a read. WE WERE THERE!!! Thanks Bill Tomko  
CAG 16 losses and info: [https://www.google.com/?gws\\_rd=ssl#q=Peter+Fey+rolling+Thunder](https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#q=Peter+Fey+rolling+Thunder)

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## [VN 40 years ago...75 pictures](#)

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

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## [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/)

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**[Vietnam War Stories:](http://cherrieswriter.wordpress.com/category/the-vietnam-war-story/)**

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

Tags : [book sites](#), [books war](#), [cherry soldier](#), [combat](#), [Combat Infantry](#), [digital books](#), [firefigths](#), [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](#)

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**[Number of Vietnam Vets Still Alive:](http://www.nationalvietnamveteransfoundation.org/statistics.htm)**

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

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

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**[1956 Navy All Hands Meeting:](http://www.navy.mil/ah_online/archpdf/ah195603.pdf)**

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)

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**[A good day to revisit the Virtual Wall:](http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm)**

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>

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**[Do you remember these?](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=puGQsQux80k)**

This will bring back memories

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

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**[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=%252Flightbox%252Fa-)**

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



**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.nrgive.com/ringoffreedom/index.html>

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**NAS Lemoore April 1968:**

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

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**Photos/History of Vietnam:**

Excellent Viet Nam Pictorial History  
From the Denver Post.  
Click here: [VietamPictorialHistory](#)

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**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>

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**A-4 Skyhawks:**

<http://a4skyhawk.org/>

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

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

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**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)

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

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

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**Vietnam War Documentary Trailer:**

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

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**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/)

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**RAO BULLETIN Update, 01 March 2017**

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 March 2017**

**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**

