2021 Reunion Newsletter #3, June 2020

REUNION VENUE AND DATES HAVE BEEN SET! As you can see above in the letterhead, we are headed to the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino, just a mile West of the 'Strip', 21-24 October 2021. That looks like the best we could do in that timeframe and city, and we think the facility has all we need to pull off a great reunion. While we have LOTS of details to work out, you should plan to get there for a Thursday night welcome reception, a fun half> or full day of touring Friday, plenty of unit lunches and dinners around our scheduled events, a Saturday morning optional trip to see Draken
International's fleet of Skyhawks (12) and other great aircraft out at Nellis AFB, and a farewell banquet/reception Saturday night. It should be a
great gathering!

We'll have a group code to start making reservations for rooms in the next
newsletter. REMEMBER, this is just part of your preparations for the
reunion. Later on, you'll still have to register for the reunion itself,
excursions and, of course, get yourselves there! Trust us, some folks never seem to get that word....I know, we're old.

SQUADRON GATHERINGS: We presume all of the P'cola groups will try a repeat! They were... VMA-121 Green Knights, Vietnam era; VMA-131 Diamondbacks, Willow Grove guys; VMA-211 Wake Island Avengers, Chu Lai 68-70; VMA-214 Blacksheep, Greek era; VMA-311 Tomcats, Animal Ransom era; VMA-311, Gary 'Stinger' Roser era; VMA-324 Vagabonds, early 70's era; and the VMA-223 Bulldogs. These often had eras targeted and advertised, but all were welcome. We expect to add some new ones in Vegas and one new add is already looking for interest...1970-71 Blacksheep with Larry Richards sponsoring!

WE STILL NEED MORE HELP WITH LOST CONTACTS! Charlie Block, Chris Erdos, AZ; Phillip Harmon, Port Orange, FL; Dave Lousma, in Ada, MI; Tom McCain, Bob 'Snackbar' Schneider (suspect health issues), Charles Strong, Sam Turner, and Jim VanHouten, Back up phones and snail mails are not working and we hate to lose touch with these brothers!

NEW GUYS TO OUR CONTACT LIST! Roy Crane, Marty "Sluggo" Costello, Gus 'Rebel' Fitch, Joedy Gardner, Bill Kretzschmar, Phil Marrie, Tom McKinney, and Jim Ruffer, and added back Royall Geis, (VA but moved to Florida).

MORE RECENT PASSINGS: Dave Collier on March 11th (Stuart, FL) and Jim Underwood May 16th (Carlsbad, CA). We also just recently found out about a few older losses: Shelton Frank Lankford, Jay Roberts, Jim Lary, Bud Newbill, Marv Pixton, Dick Acott and Tommy Green. Too many losses guys...

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN USMC SKYHAWKERS AND SKYHAWK ASSOCIATION: This reunion and all the Newsletters and such which go into it, are aimed at a Marine Skyhawker contact list, started decades ago by one of our recent losses, Mike Green. We're deeply indebted to Mike for that humble start. The contact list is up to over 800 Skyhawkers these days, despite a list of> deceased that keeps getting larger as well. But it is

JUST A CONTACT LIST. The real Skyhawk Association is a non-profit association. It has bylaws, a Board of Directors, holds semi-annual and annual Board and membership meetings and uses dues from members to operate. In return for those dues, it runs an amazingly comprehensive web site ([skyhawk.org](http://skyhawk.org/)), publishes a  quarterly magazine, and promotes Skyhawk activities and museum displays around the country. It is dedicated to preserving the history of the aircraft and its Skyhawkers (all services and countries) and promoting the camaraderie of the Skyhawk community. If you're not a member, check out the Skyhawk Association Website and a digital issue of the magazine included, and then, please, please, please, make sure you join!

MCAA is another great aviation camaraderie asset, dedicated to Marine> Aviation. If you're not a member, you should be! Look for some good Association solicitations for those of you not yet members as we build up to our reunion!

And DO NOT FORGET YOUR MUSEUM! The Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation and Museum needs your serious attention. They've got a major upgrade coming and are in need of all the financial support possible! They are not only> OUR Marine aviation museum, but have FOUR well preserved Skyhawks on display. The pandemic has not been kind to museums. Help please!
 <https://flyingleathernecks.org/>

 Semper Fidelis Brothers, Hun sends