

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

ALSO ON SAINTS WEBSITE

## 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.



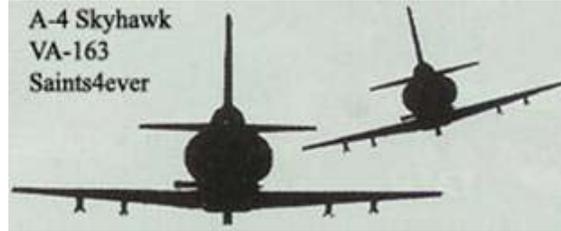
2012

10th Year Edition  
Established Nov 2002  
VOL 1 Issue 118

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



# Saints A-4E & A-1 from VA-152 Oriskany Westpac 1966



ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT

*Listen to music as you read the newsletter:*

**Click Here** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgsgUbXCeIA&feature=related> "When the Saints Go Marching In - US Navy Seventh Fleet Band", 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.

*Birds of a feather... Flock Together*



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

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

**Contains 72 Albums (Sets).... 4,011 Photos.... 19,921 views (as of 31 July 2012)**



## SAINTS WEB SITE

Saints Internet Web Site [www.va163.org](http://www.va163.org) (password: *saints4ever*)

*5,002 Visitors since Mar 09*

**\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\*** Please sign the *Guestbook*



### Saints 2012 Reunion:

Location: Hilton San Diego, Mission Valley

Date: 5-7 Oct 2012

### REUNION update 03 August 2012

Point of Contact: Scott Mitchell [ccsm249@verizon.net](mailto:ccsm249@verizon.net)

OK Saints, as Richard Pryor said in the movie "Which Way Is Up," "it's time to lay this here glove on you!" So far I have received 22 confirmations of people attending our reunion 5-6 October in San Diego. I have an active data base of 55 names of people who said they would be there or were considering the reunion this year. This is only 40% of potential attendees. It is time for action Saints. As my old pappy always said; "Time flies, love dies, grey skies and bleary eyes. The world waits for no man, so let's get this show on the road."

**Hotel:** If you have not made reservations yet, call the hotel (Mission Valley Hilton) at 1-(619) 543-9000 and book your room **\$109 p/night**. Please let me know via e-mail when you have your accommodations set. So far, I have three attendees, Harris, Hunter & Steadman who will not be using the hotel. Saints will be entitled to a 20% discount in the hotel restaurant and bar.

**Friday night: 3 hour dinner cruise** has been booked, and gave them an estimate of 60 people. So far we have 40 confirmed for that event which will be **\$46.50 per person**. We have to purchase the tickets 2 weeks in advance to get the discounted price for a large group, so I need to know who wants to set sail with us.

**Saturday Afternoon:** Escorted tour of the USS Midway Museum

**Saturday Night banquet** at the hotel has been laid on and will be **\$50 per person** to include all taxes and gratuities.

**It is time to get serious folks!** Before you know it, the sign-up & pay-up form will be in front of you and it will be your last chance to commune with old shipmates this year (and get a T-shirt and keep sake name tag). I look forward to hearing from many of you who just have not gotten around to firming up your schedule for the first weekend in October. Keep in mind the Navy signal flags Skipper Compton had embroidered on his ball cap; There was a "Bravo Zulu" signal and a "Papa Sierra" signal. Be a Bravo Zulu winner not a Papa Sierra foot dragger.

## **T-Shirts Order: Must be ordered by Monday 06 August**

Point of Contact: [Scott Mitchell ccsm249@verizon.net](mailto:Scott Mitchell ccsm249@verizon.net)

**Saints:** I know all of you reunion attendees are anxious to know more details and when to be sending in your money. But we are not quite there yet. Where we are at, is placing the T-shirt order with the manufacturer. This year's T-shirt has, once again, been designed by Penny Schroeder, wife of pilot Fritz Schroeder, and affectionately known as "The Donna Versace of Saints' Reunions" for her past efforts.

Those of you who got a T-shirt at the 2009 reunion know how nice the aircraft rendering was. This is what designer Penny has to say about this year's shirt: "The airplane image is beautiful in Saints colors and the fabric is very nice!"

This year's T's will be a Hanes Beefy-T in "Deep Navy" with an 8 color rendering of our beloved Skyhawk on the front. Penny says the two samples she had made up seemed to be on the small side so you should probably get an XL if you normally do large or an L if you wear a medium. You get the idea. **Until we get the order in we won't know the final pricing, but it will be somewhere around \$22 a shirt.** Not that much for a valued reminder of your weekend in San Diego with old shipmates and much more treasured than some maracas from Tijuana.

So let's hear from you ASAP. How many and in what sizes? Send your response by Monday, 6 August when I will place the order. Otherwise you will have to take pot-luck from the extras in the sizes I get. You will want one of these T-shirts for you and your companion\*. Act now!

- "Companion" is the official Washington term for the person with whom you will be sharing a room in San Diego. It includes all manner of relationships – if you get my drift!

**Hired Transportation:** Taxi etc.

I have quotes from two "limousine" (read: shuttle bus) companies in San Diego regarding service from the hotel to the piers where the Dinner Cruise and The Midway Museum are located. A fifty passenger bus is \$700 for the round trip or \$14 per person. This seems a little steep to me, especially when you can get 3 or 4 people in a cab and it's only a 15 minute ride away. How about some committee comments on the issue of bus service to the activity sites??

Scott



## **Slideshow: Navy remembers 134 killed in fire aboard USS Forrestal**

[http://www.wvec.com/news/local/Slideshow--](http://www.wvec.com/news/local/Slideshow--163164246.html?fb_comment_id=fbc_10151032486099470_22977103_10151035626709470#f31ebea8064021c)

[163164246.html?fb\\_comment\\_id=fbc\\_10151032486099470\\_22977103\\_10151035626709470#f31ebea8064021c](http://www.wvec.com/news/local/Slideshow--163164246.html?fb_comment_id=fbc_10151032486099470_22977103_10151035626709470#f31ebea8064021c)



Forrestal fire, as viewed from the flight deck

Posted on July 20, 2012

[See all 22 photos >](#)

NORFOLK-- The Navy community gathered Friday morning to remember those killed when fire broke out on USS Forrestal.

On June 6, 1967, Forrestal left Norfolk on her first combat deployment, preparing for duty in the Vietnam War. On the

morning of July 29, a Zuni [rocket accidentally fired](#) from an F-4 Phantom parked on the starboard side of the flight deck aft of the island. That set off a series of explosions and fires that killed 134 sailors, injured 64 others and destroyed 21 aircraft.

Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate Handler Gerald W. Farrier died saving others. He grabbed a portable fire extinguisher and unloaded it on the nearest burning aircraft loaded with bombs. One bomb exploded, killing him. The Navy says his heroic actions and valiant leadership inspired other crewmembers battling the inferno.

At the 10:30 a.m. ceremony at the firefighting school named for him, the Farrier Fire Fighting Facility at Norfolk International Terminals, Naval Air Force Atlantic Commanding Officer RADM Ted Branch said the sailors who fought the fire that day were heroic and saved the ship .

There was a FA-18 flyover by VFA-106, Naval Air Station Oceana and a bell ringing ceremony to remember those died that day.





Bottom Row, l to R: J. J. Lambuth, E. W. Pippin, E. J. Rieger, C. E. Angel, W. J. Reardon, R. B. Forsythe, J. A. Rowe. Second Row: J. O. Wheeler, A. G. Lichtenberger, J. T. Lee, J. W. Chambers, J. D. Aldridge, J. V. Walters, A. C. Shuler, R. F. Fitzgerald.

navysite.de



Bottom Row, l to R: Busch, Ivey, North, Thompson, Walters, Lambuth, Angel, Litig, Oakes, King, Fitzgerald, Rowe, Reardon, Hovious, Dove, Adam. Second Row: Kinaira, Jokers, Dyer, Swanson, Basiago, Van Almen, Sulphin, Jagmin, Warkuicka, Barosh, Blenn, Glusing, Mich, Jasso, Harpel, Chapman. Third Row: Romero, Oconnel, Phillips, Stallings, Dowd, Winkler, Allen, VanRight, Metzler, Mckean, Enlow, Lund, Merriman, Sernigan, Weber.

**Oriskany Cruise Books:** Submitted by Dennis Lund

Just thought that I'd send you guys this photo taken on the Oriskany. We all have good memories of the cruises we shared together. Check out the attached photo from our Oriskany Cruise 1967-1968 Book. A couple of nights ago I was screwin' around doing Google Searches. I happened to find the following link, <http://navysite.de/cruisebooks/cv34-67/index.html> which has all the Oriskany departments from the Cruise Book. I downloaded all the squadron photos of the guys in VA-163. I never had the Cruise Book, (spent all my money on San Miguel). The Oriskany 1967-1968 cruise book sells for \$400 on Ebay for anybody who wants it.  
Dennis



## 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.

### [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) ."

#### [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)

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.

Pass the link on to others, as many knew wonderful people whose names are listed.

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

### **The real story of Viet Nam:** What Really Happened with Viet Nam!

5 Minute video

The truth! Finally!!! But don't expect to see it broadcast or released anywhere... it would embarrass the Congress. Observe which Party controlled the Congress at the time.

Click on: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F67C8yzww\\_Y&feature=digest](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F67C8yzww_Y&feature=digest)

### **Sad to learn that 285 Vietnam War Veterans die EVERY day – yuk!**



### **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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### **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)

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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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## **\*\*Web sites 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=-140127976274553286&q=oriskany>
6. Patriot Media "The Mighty O": <http://patriotmediainc.com/>
7. Remembering Oriskany Guest Book: <http://www.rememberingoriskany.bravepages.com/guestbook2.html>
8. Oriskany Dive Video & Photos: [http://www.oriskanycharterboats.com/oriskany\\_photos.htm](http://www.oriskanycharterboats.com/oriskany_photos.htm)
9. Diving Oriskany Reef, 25 March 2007: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9l-wYnlBZis>
10. Oriskany Cruise Books on CD's: <http://glewis.us/obooks.htm>
11. 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)
12. Oriskany Information and History/Pictures: <http://www.pnj.com/newsfiles/oriskany/index.shtml>
13. Oriskany model: <http://www.motionmodels.com/ships/cv/>
14. USS Oriskany Photo Galleries: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/7437991@N08/galleries/72157622440145584>
15. USS Oriskany History 1972: <http://www.ussoriskany.com/id17.html>
16. USS Oriskany digital Cruise Book Project (<http://glewis.us/obooks.htm>)
17. Oriskany 1970...Flight Ops: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXaKTJIVxHM&feature=email> 10 min
18. 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
19. 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

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### **Crane destroys A-4 Skyhawk:**

[http://www.bing.com/videos/watch/video/crane-destroys-fighter-jet/20g1lkhb?q=viral&rel=msn&from=en-us\\_msnhp&form=MSNRL](http://www.bing.com/videos/watch/video/crane-destroys-fighter-jet/20g1lkhb?q=viral&rel=msn&from=en-us_msnhp&form=MSNRL)

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### **Ad Produced by Veterans:** Awesome

<http://pakstarz.blogspot.com/2012/06/ad-produced-by-veteransfreedoms.html>

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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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### [Another Saints website site:](#) By Saint Dennis Lund

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

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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=hAplCSSZqAs&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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### [Remembering the Brave:](#)

<http://www.jensensutta.com/slideshows/RTB/>

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### [Lemoore Naval Air Station Operations Area Map:](#)

If you want to look over NAS Lemoore, Go to the first URL line below, then click on it. This will take you NS Lemoore (Reeves Field), CA Flight Plan home page. Here you will want to click on

[Click here for full scale & interactive Sectional view of KNLC.](#)

Once you to this interactive map, you can zoom in with the mouse click on + or - (in left upper corner) all around the base at Lemoore, all of operations area. While you are snooping around the base looking at all the hangars, FA/18 Hornets and Super Hornets, zoom and "grab the screen" with the pointer (white glove hand) and move south down to the Administration and Housing Area to continue snooping.

<http://www.fltplan.com/AirportInformation/KNLC.htm>

[http://wh94.fltplan.com/route/index.cfm?AirportSingle=t&maptype=blank&airport\\_id=KNLC&mapservicetype=sectionals\\_esri&MapHeight=99pc&MapWidth=99pc](http://wh94.fltplan.com/route/index.cfm?AirportSingle=t&maptype=blank&airport_id=KNLC&mapservicetype=sectionals_esri&MapHeight=99pc&MapWidth=99pc)

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### [A-4 Skyhawk Photo Galleries on Flickr.com website:](#) Some of our Saints photos 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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**Virtual Aircraft Encyclopedia:**  
<http://www.aviastar.org/index2.html>

**McDonnell-Douglas A-4 Skyhawk:** [http://www.aviastar.org/air/usa/mcdonnel\\_sky.php](http://www.aviastar.org/air/usa/mcdonnel_sky.php)

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**RAO BULLETIN Update, 01 August 2012**

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)

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**2012 VA Benefits Edition:**

In the Link and in cover as well, you'll find it broken down in the sections listed for easier reading and researching, also with link to PDF as well as one in Spanish, or look through the document reader embedded.

[VA Benefits 2012 Edition](#)

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**Captured:** A Look Back at the Vietnam War on the 35th Anniversary of the Fall of Saigon  
**141 Photos. Good history of the war in photos.**

Click here: <http://blogs.denverpost.com/captured/2010/04/30/captured-a-look-back-at-the-vietnam-war-on-the-35th-anniversary-of-the-fall-of-saigon-2/>

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**Music of the Vietnam War:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnnLrmbOYE&feature=related> 8:36 min video

**1960's:** *Great photos, music, and facts.*

This is the one of the best presentations of the sixties. It is very well done. Just click on the link and sit back and enjoy the memories.

Click here: <http://objflicks.com/TakeMeBackToTheSixties.htm>

**1950 - 1982 Jukebox:** *This is really cool. Have fun with it.....!!*

Click here: <http://www.tropicalglen.com/>

**What We Drove in the 50's & 60's:**

<http://cruzintheavenue.com/CarsWeDrove.htm>

**Music from 60's & 70's:**

Nine different play lists with about 100 songs on each list from 60's & 70's

<http://chu65nang67.us/nam/vietnam.html>



**2012 VA Benefits Guide Now Available**

The VA 2012 guide to "Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents, and Survivors" is now available online. This is the all-in-one place to learn about the benefits to which you or a family member might be entitled.

Click [here](#) to view the guide.

# SAINTS ONBOARD (260 Names)

Revised 31 July 2012

**New or changed address:**

Wally Spain new phone number: 434-822-5002

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

**Complete Roster can be found on the Saints website – [www.va163.org](http://www.va163.org)  
(password, *saints4ever*)**

