



Whidbey Island Squadron

# Air Plan



Vol. 4 No. 4

ANA Squadron 40

April 2000

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VP: [Scott Hornung](#)

Sec/Treas: [Roger Lerseth](#)

## Upcoming Events

April 11, 2000 -- Monthly luncheon (1130 - 1300). CAPT Doug Roulstone, USN (Ret)

May 9, 2000 -- Monthly luncheon (1130 - 1300). EA-6B Alternatives Study)

May 19, 2000 -- Happy Hour [Son Tay Raid](#) Anniversary (30<sup>th</sup>) Ceremony.

June 13, 2000 -- Monthly luncheon (1130 - 1300). EAWS

### April 11 Luncheon: CAPT Doug Roulstone, guest speaker



[Captain Douglas R. Roulstone, USN \(Ret\)](#) graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1972. His tours include: Gunnery Officer on *USS ALBERT DAVID* (DE 1050), NAS Whidbey H-46 search and rescue pilot, Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Twelve in San Diego, Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Six, CNO aide and administrative assistant to the Director, Navy Program Planning, XO/CO of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Twelve, BuPers Joint Duty Officer Manager, XO of *USS*

*DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER* (CVN 69), CO of *USS SUPPLY* (AOE 6), CO (1997-99) of *USS JOHN C. STENNIS* (CVN 74). Captain Roulstone has accumulated over 3,500 flight hours. His personal awards include two Legions of Merit, Bronze Star, two Meritorious Service Medals, Air Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (with V), Navy Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon six Battle "E"s during three command tours and several campaign awards.

### March 14 Luncheon: Monthly meeting, guest speaker a big hit



The crowds turned out in February for a rare Whidbey Squadron "two-fer." The regular monthly meeting, held at the Whidbey O'Club on Tuesday, 14 March, saw a large contingent of retired and active duty members and other interested parties show up for a presentation by RADM Dave "Polecat" Polatty, COMCARGRU One. A couple of hours later another group held muster for a meeting and ceremony in commemoration of Whidbey's *Whale* era.

Admiral Polatty, a veteran A-6 pilot and former CO of VA-115 and *USS Independence*, now runs carrier battle group training for the U.S. Pacific Fleet. Notably, he was *Eagle One* in *USS Midway* during the same period that Skipper Porritt commanded VAQ-136.

The admiral spent the majority of his talk describing battle group operations and training and how the CARGRU One staff works to ensure that all deployers are ready for action. He also commented on Navy personnel issues, deployment and inter-deployment schedules, retention, and possible mods to carrier air wing makeup. He closed with a few comments on the apparent impending demise of the S-3 *Viking* community, stating, "I believe the hard part is when you let the budget neck down, you have to decide what you're going to keep and what you're going to let go."

**The squadron members and other attendees thoroughly enjoyed RADM Polatty's presentation and thank him for taking the time to visit.**

"Ranger" Mark Morgan

## March 14 Happy Hour: About that A-3 model...



A few hours later it was time “for something completely different.” An immaculate large-scale wind tunnel model of the mighty A-3 *Skywarrior* took center stage at the club as squadron members and others of the *Whale* persuasion gathered again for hors d’oeuvres, libation and classic sea stories.

Retired CAPT “Deke” Forbes - former OinC VAH-4 Det Golf, XO/CO HATRON Four, CO VAH-123 and the 65<sup>th</sup> Commandant at the U.S. Naval Academy - presented the model to the squadron and O’Club “museum” during the ceremonies and speechifying. His son, CDR Chris “Deke” Forbes of the Naval Safety Center, assisted. The younger Forbes cleaned up the aircraft and added finely detailed squadron markings; he also put together a ten-minute multi-media slide show on the noble *Whale* that was well received by all in attendance. LCDR Bill Snyder, OinC of VR-61, completed the deal by arranging to haul the model from the east coast to Whidbey Island for the ceremony.

Afterwards the group discussed the “formal” kickoff of the “Bring a Whale to Whidbey” campaign, led by CAPT Tom “TP” Lane. An impressive rendition of a display A-3 by artist Tony Turpin grabbed everyone’s attention while Lane commented on the activities to this point and future efforts to put an A-3 on display at Whidbey.

Afterwards everyone adjourned for more sea stories, many of which started with “There I was...” Future editions of Air Plan will cover the ongoing activities to bring the Whale to NUW; in the meantime, contributions to the project can be made to the Whidbey Island Squadron, ANA. Please specify “Squadron A-3 Fund” on your check.

*"Ranger" Mark Morgan*

### Web Site Reminder:

As usual, late-breaking information and links to related material can be found on our web site at <http://www.ANAWhidbey.org>



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