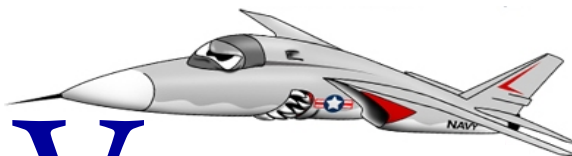




The



# VIGILANTE



## SAVE THE DATE!

### RVAHNAVY

Reunion 2009 will be  
in Pensacola FL  
June 18 - 21, 2009



## Why was the USS Forrester a She?

It has always been customary to personify certain inanimate objects and attribute to them characteristics peculiar to living creatures. Thus, things without life are often spoken of as having a sex. Some objects are regarded as masculine. The sun, winter, and death are often personified in this way. Others are regarded as feminine, especially those things that are dear to us. The earth as mother Earth is regarded as the common maternal parent of all life. In languages that use gender for common nouns, boats, ships, and other vehicles almost invariably use a feminine form. Likewise, early seafarers spoke of their ships in the feminine gender for the close dependence they had on their ships for life and sustenance.



from Dockrammer

- ♦ 201 Shipmates and Friends that have joined the RVAHNAVY Association since Feb 08
- ♦ 3466 Shipmates in the RVAHNAVY Roster
- ♦ 255 RVAHNAVY Forum members
- ♦ 5 Reunions since inception
- ♦ 6 Issues of the Vigilante Newsletter since inception
- ♦ 476,923 Hits on the RVAHNAVY.COM website
- ♦ 109 Shipmates living within 30 miles of Pensacola Florida
- ♦ 213 Shipmates living within 30 miles of Sanford Florida
- ♦ 30 Shipmates living within 30 miles of Albany Georgia
- ♦ 10 Shipmates living within 30 miles of Key West Florida
- ♦ 29,376,000 Seconds until the 2009 RVAHNAVY Reunion
- ♦ 1514 Posts on the RVAHNAVY Forum
- ♦ 458 Topics on the RVAHNAVY Forum
- ♦ 914 "Known" good Shipmate email addressees
- ♦ 978 Dollars in the RVAHNAVY Association checking account
- ♦ 44 Dollars per year needed for RVAHNAVY PO Box
- ♦ 13 A-5s on static display worldwide
- ♦ 4 Ways to eject out of an A-5
- ♦ 983 Photos on the RVAHNAVY Website
- ♦ 18 Different types of RVAH merchandise offered by our vendors
- ♦ 853 The number of times Rex Spratlin has crawled the Vigilante's intakes
- ♦ 50 Cents required to see an on-base movie in 1976 aboard NS Truman
- ♦ 1958 Year the first Vigilante flew
- ♦ 146697 BUNO of the first Vigilante to land aboard a Carrier (USS Constellation)
- ♦ 91450.8 Vigilante world altitude record (feet) Aircrew Heath/Monroe 1960
- ♦ 156 Total production of A-5s
- ♦ 1320 Maximum speed at 40,000 feet (MPH)
- ♦ 24 Hours per day the Boca Chica bar was open



# THE RVAHNAVY ASSOCIATION

## MISSION STATEMENT

The RVAHNAVY Association exists to serve the men and women who were associated with the United States Navy "RVAH and VAH" Aviation Squadron communities. Our mission is to honor those who served by providing resources and information, sponsoring gatherings and reunions and remembrance of our Navy Shipmates.

## Who we are...



**President** - Robert "Dockrammer" Wagner

Dockrammer lives in the St Augustine Florida area. He was an AME from 1975-79. Besides the typical duties associated with being the Association President Dockrammer is the editor of the monthly RVAHNAVY Newsletter.

**dockrammer@gmail.com**



**Secretary / Administration** - Joe Phillips

Joe lives in California. He served in RVAH-6 and 12 in the 70s and then became a career Navy aircraft maintainer. Joe retired as a Senior Chief in 2003. Joe maintains the RVAHNAVY roster and provides website support and much much more.

**joe@therafl.com**



**IT Support, Website / Forum Development and Maintenance** - Bob Marioni

Bob resides in Cleveland Ohio. He served in RVAH-6 and 12 in the 70s as an AT and as a plane captain. Bob is our IT expert and Webmaster. Bob developed the RVAHNAVY Website and Forum.

**bob@bobmarioni.com**



**Communications** - Philip "Stick" Tucker

Stick lives in Carrollton Texas. He was in VAH-6 at NAS Whidbey in 1964-65. Stick serves the Association by maintaining the Forum, corresponding with new Association members and providing resource and research for the monthly RVAHNAVY Newsletter.

**cherokee891943@yahoo.com**



**Treasurer** - Matt Noblick

Matt resides in the Norfolk Virginia area. He served in RVAH-12 in the early 70s. Matt is our new RVAHNAVY treasurer.

**mnoblick@cox.net**



**Benevolence / Bereavement Coordinator** - Vacant- We do need a volunteer to step up and fill this vacancy. Looking for a person who is comfortable and grounded in their faith. We need a compassionate person who will represent RVAHNAVY when one of own has genuine need or when we lose a shipmate. Willing? Interested? Email the Dockrammer **dockrammer@gmail.com**



**Memorabilia Curator** - Allen Wagonblott

Al resides in Rhode Island. He is the keeper of all things Vigilante. He served in RVAH-12 in the mid 70s.

**allen.wagonblott@navy.mil**

# The RVAHNAVY Forum Dockrammer

In December 2007 Bob Marioni (RVAHNAVY Webmaster) created the RVAHNAVY Forum. It was an instant success with our shipmates. Finally we had a place where could BS, or "BLOG" about old-guy Navy and Vigilante stuff that we wanted to talk about. So what is the Forum? How does it work? How can I join? All these questions will be answered below. Read on...

The RVAHNAVY Forum is simply a place you can initiate a conversation or add to an existing discussion with other former RVAHNAVY shipmates. You can access the Forum via **RVAHNAVY.COM**. The forum is free, very easy to access and navigate. There is a very brief sign up (registration) required. After you sign in you will see that there are 25 "Boards". The word "Board" is a relatively new internet term which is derived from the word Bulletin Board. The Boards are 25 specific topics that we have created with our shipmates in mind. To get started you can simply click on a board and then select a subject and read the existing discussions that reside under that subject.



This site is dedicated to all of the United States Navy Men and Women who proudly served in the RVAH community. We honor and respect your service to our country.

We welcome them, their families and friends of the RVAH community.



Click Here!

## Forum Boards

- BREAKING NEWS!!!
- In Memoriam
- Introductions
- Lost Shipmates
- RVAHNAVY Newsletter Input
- RVAHNAVY Discussion
- Reunion Talk
- Albany Shipmates
- Sanford Sailors
- Key West Shipmates
- RVAHNAVY Gear
- Jokes/Humor
- Liberty Call!
- Sea Stories
- Squadrons
- RVAH-1
- RVAH-3
- RVAH-5
- RVAH-6
- RVAH-7
- RVAH-9
- RVAH-11
- RVAH-12
- RVAH-13
- RVAH-14

After viewing the discussion on a Board subject you may want to add your 2 cents or reply. This is very easy. Just click on the "Reply" button and type in your reply and then click "Post". There are now 255 registered RVAHNAVY Forum members.

Most of our Forum members are former RVAH shipmates but we have also welcomed aboard former North American Aviation Tech Reps, Aircraft modeling enthusiasts, and family members of our deceased shipmates. Many former RVAH shipmates have found each other after being separated for 40 years and these public discussions are so very heart-warming. We monitor the Forum very closely to ensure that it does not contain anything offensive.

We hope this information will encourage you to log onto the Forum and join in the fun. The Forum is a great place to share a sea story, post a photo, connect with a former shipmate or express your opinion. Continued on next page...

News: Welcome to our forum. We are happy to have you here and look forward to reading your posts. Be sure to visit RVAHNAVY.COM where you can join the association.

HOME HELP SEARCH ADMIN PROFILE MY MESSAGES CALENDAR MEMBERS

Hello Dockrammer

you have 6 messages, 0 are new.

> Show unread posts since last visit.  
> Show new replies to your posts.

Welcome to the RVAHNAVY Forum

General Category			
	Board name	Posts	
	<b>BREAKING NEWS!!!</b> News and changes are posted here.	233 Posts 56 Topics	Last post by : in Re: ONE OI on July 09, 2008
	<b>In Memoriam</b> Leave your words here for deceased shipmates and their family members	34 Posts 8 Topics	Last post by : in Re: Before on July 12, 2008
	<b>Introductions</b> Come on in and tell us a bit about yourself!	89 Posts 20 Topics	Last post by : in Re: North / on July 09, 2008



## Here are just a few "Forum Posts" that are noteworthy:

*My sincerest thank you to Sandy LaPlante and RVAHNAVY. I posted a request on the Forum to locate three shipmates from Heavy 5. Within days Sandy supplied contact info for two of the three. A day later she emailed to let me know she had found the third shipmate and provided his phone and address. We have made contact with each other and hope to get together, perhaps at the 2009 reunion. Outstanding work Sandy, thank you again.*

---

*Kudos to Joe and Phil and their efforts to find Cdr. Ron Ream for me (I flew back seat with him on both the RA-5C and the TA-4F as they came thru the NARF for rework.) Through their efforts I was able to speak to Ron this morning. We spoke for about 45 minutes going over the past 40 years and our time at NARF JAX. So many memories in such a short time. But I enjoyed every minute of it. And I think Ron enjoyed it too as he said he lost contact with most of the pilots who flew with us at the NARF. Thanks again to Phil and Joe.*

---

*Hello everyone, My name is William "Bill" Schriever. I was with the RVAH-11 Checkertails from Aug. 1972 til June 1974. We had just got back from a Med cruise on the JFK when we made the move from NAS Albany to Key West. I was an ADJ and served with a great bunch of guys. I hoped to hear from you so we can get re-acquainted and talk about the good ole days. Thank you Bob for this great site and the chance to communicate with others with the same past. Bill*

---

*Hi to everyone. I was in power plants and made the Westpac cruise on the Enterprise. Just found this website and thought I'd explore a little. Glad I found it. After reading some of the posts it brought back memories of good times and bad but always with friends. John*

---

*Steve,  
I remember you well. You, Bubba Pyland, Skinny King, Waggoner & several others. I moved back to Austin after I retired in 92, but then I moved to Milton Florida in 94. I work at NAS Pensacola. It's a great place to work. I retired as an Air Traffic Controller & I am still in the field, just not controlling aircraft anymore. I still remember when someone broke into your VW & stole your Bose speakers. If you get a chance, you can e-mail me at Doug.wood@navy.mil. My family still lives in Austin. My oldest brother told me he met you after you got out. Me & Alex have stayed in contact ever since the heavy nine days. He is doing well. Hasn't changed a bit. Good to hear from you. Doug Wood*

---

*Dear Robert, Joe, Alvis, Bob and Noel,*

*In 1976, when my dad (Larry Monroe) died, there was no easy public access to the Internet. It's only really been the past couple of years with the explosion of topic-specific web sites that I've been able to seek out forums and associations like RVAHNAVY.COM that might have members who knew my dad. Whether anyone responds or not, the inspiration you gave me to create the anavydad.com web site, and your article about dad in the March 2008 Newsletter, has at least made that a real possibility. For all your many generous efforts, my family and I thank you, and all the RVAH NAVY members, from the heart. One other thing ...The military has been woven into the fabric of our country since its founding. From the men and women who were conscripted, to those who eagerly volunteered, all faced the reality that they may be asked to put their life on the line. Countless fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, lovers, best friends, and more, have died in service to their country. Those who returned from service to become a civilian knew that their experiences while in the military had forever changed their lives. But that has always been one side of the coin.*

*The other side of the coin is those who have cared about those who serve in the military. It is a very different experience to be a military wife (or husband) and a military family. If you have to leave a person or place or circumstance that means everything to you, you do it because you're also military. Providing support and care and keeping things going is how you serve, too. And no military family I have ever known expected to be thanked -- they were only doing their part.*

*My experience with RVAHNAVY has made me realize that even though I've focused on trying to locate people who knew my dad, what I've really been doing is trying to restore missing parts of my family's identity. To know more about the person who couldn't always be part of the experiences that bond a family as a whole. And, I was reminded that whatever my father achieved, it was possible because of my mom's support. That's not touchy-feely whimsy -- it's plain fact. The lengthy cruises and special duty meant she was often a single mother, forced by circumstance to maneuver the sometimes frightening, sometimes soul-wrenching day-to-day challenges and demands of life without her best support.*

*So, to anyone who is part of a military family, I wish you the strength to meet challenges head on, the courage to face the unknown, laughter to lift you up, and love to help you be whole.*

*With deepest respect,  
Mary Monroe*

# RVAH-12 IS IN THE SMITHSONIAN!!!!!!

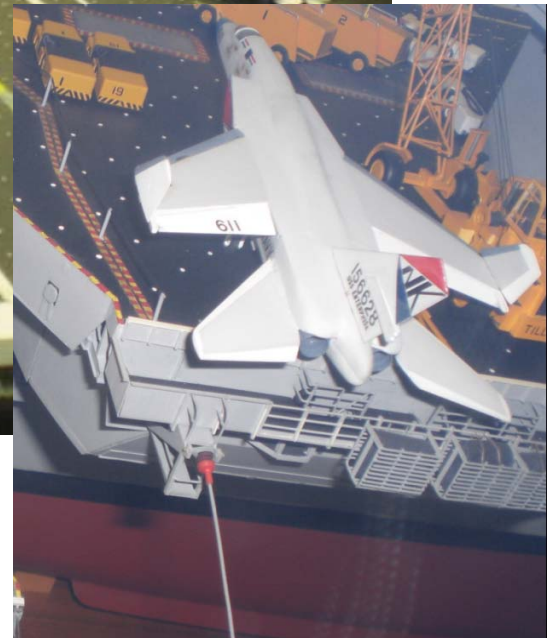
Former RVAH Shipmate TJ Finneman wrote me recently to tell me that he visited the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in DC. His email and photos are below...

Wags,

I was just in Washington DC over the Father's Day weekend. I went to the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. I was so surprised to see this aircraft carrier replica with our Vigilantes and our tail design! Can we get these into a future RVAHNAVY newsletter? RVAH-12 IS IN THE SMITHSONIAN!!!!!!

And I will definitely see you all at the 2009 reunion in Pensacola.

T.J.





# The Night of the Banshee

*Mike Dunlap AE-2, USS Kitty Hawk, RVAH-7 1972*

The keening sound of eerie howls doth hail me to the top  
As I reach the deck's reality my fear doth make me stop  
The Banshee's Wail means certain death to someone very near



It seems before this night is done we all have cause to fear

I stride the metal decking through the jumbled aircraft maze  
Stepping over tie-down chains in the dark lit Dantean haze  
My eyes adjusting slowly to this reddish manmade hell  
I am awed by loaded wingtips ringing Charon's Bell

The helmet sliding slightly, my sweat loosening the fit  
The clear visor screens my vision from all the deck's loose grit  
With steel and leather wrapping themselves round my so cold feet  
A hug from Mae embraces me lest the water I should meet

The loud music now has started, this martial symphony

The Kitty Hawk lightly dancing 'cross the warm dark Tonkin Sea

My mate and I dance also with a passing winged one  
To reach our Lady of the Night armed with not one gun

We comb her shining cockpit; we preen all her bright lights  
Load up her quick cameras to record all through the fights  
We stroke her sleek sides gently and wipe her apertures  
For she will take the photos to show us Nixon's cures



From Olympian heights so very high the Air Boss loudly cries

His whispered nickname's "God" as the Reaper for Him flies  
"Let the Vigilante come out now, Time to let her sing!"  
And bright lightning and deep thunder His fingers do forth bring

Like dark shadows on the Samhain we unfetter our Night bird  
She shrieks with Inner delight as Ignition does occur  
The hounds of hell surround us in the otherworldly Scene  
She moves forward to her freedom as the deck begins to lean

With white steam and demons hissing in the din of metal crashes  
And powerful deep throat screams with bright afterburner flashes  
Dark angels with fell weapons from the catapults do fling

Whilst Phantoms and Intruders and the great god Mars doth sing

The cat lies just ahead now; we feel the hard deck rumble  
The Vigi moves to mount the cat slowly sighing forth a grumble  
The air's not good to breathe up here with Av-gas and the Heat  
But with stout hook-ups and hold-backs the marriage is complete

Her engines now unbridled, she just now starts her scream  
And the deck trembling beneath her until it would then seem  
That the rending of the very air is sounding out her name  
As her nether mouths do open with double tongues of flame

Her blaze doth bright the warm night so that we no longer see  
And our ears now start to bleed as she struggles to get free



The cold deck clutches to her like a working-girl's new John  
When the cat...he finally jilts her...in a moment...she is gone

The Banshee being freed now deadly silent flies the beast  
She flees before the Sun god coming up o'er in the East  
Where so far from us our loved ones and the real "world" lie  
Where my brother marches in the street and asks the question "Why?"

Remove the helmet from my head as I watch her free form fade  
The Dragon's launch now over, our dark penance now full paid

As I gaze out for a moment...over the calm blue sea  
Reflecting on the taken souls during The Night of the Banshee

# RA-5C Models are available!!!!

Click on the website link below:

<http://www.squadron.com/ItemDetails.asp?item=TR721616>

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## Item Details

**1/72 (25MM) Scale**

**Manufacturer:** Trumpeter  
Models China

**Subject:** RA-5C Vigilante

**Stock No:** TR721616

**Type:** Aircraft Models



**Description:** RA-5C Vigilante. Includes detailed exterior w/ engraved panel lines, good cockpit, armaments, and landing gear. Mkgs for two aircraft.

**MSRP:** \$36.95

**Your  
Price:** \$33.26

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### Related Items

#### Detail items available for this kit

Stock #	Description	Manufacturer	Price	Add
<a href="#">AN48740</a>	Valiant Vigis Part 3	Aeromaster Decals USA	\$9.00	

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