



# Station Ship News



DING DING . . . DING DING . . . ALL CREW ARRIVING . . . ABOVE AND BELOW DECKS . . .  
IN THE AIR, AT SEA AND IN PORT . . . DING DING . . . DING DING



## WWII Aussie Pilot Joins MVA

### Fought for Yanks in the War in the Pacific

One of our newest members has a fascinating story to tell, and he's telling it to us from "Down Under," Canberra, Australia, via the Internet and email.

Allen Sidney ("Tex") Alcock is a surviving World War II carrier pilot, who, along with his fellow Aussie pilots Trevor Green and Jack Heggie, volunteered to fight for the U.S. in the War against Japan in the Pacific.

Now, 71 years after the war at age 86, Tex has joined the Midway Veterans Association as an Honorary Member, and we are honored to have him in our ranks! The USS Midway Museum has also awarded him a one-year free membership in its organization.



Flight/Lieutenant (F/T) "Tex" Alcock, left, going over finer points of naval aviation with flight captain "Duke" Cunningham at Hawaiian Air Command in Hawaii, early 1942

Tex found out about the MVA from the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C., where we were honored at our last reunion by the Navy's Ceremonial Guard at a wreath-laying ceremony. He'd contacted the Navy Memorial to see if they had records of the Australian pilots who had volunteered to fight for the U.S. in WWII. They didn't, but referred him to the MVA as a possible contact. We heard from Tex for the first time a week before Christmas, 2012.

In 1942, Tex and his fellow Aussie pilots trained as carrier pilots in San Diego and Hawaii, with US Marine pilots. With the war already raging across the Pacific, and our country in desperate need of carrier pilots, the three Aussie pilots soon found themselves in the thick of the action – Tex on the USS Enterprise (CV-6), WWII's "Hero Ship," Trevor and Jack on the USS Yorktown (CV-5), which was lost at the Battle of Midway.

Tex remembers his first carrier landing with some trepidation, *"I nearly did not make my first attempt to land on an aircraft carrier; however, with the encouragement I received and advice, I finally made it with the assignment of achievement; the water was rough! THIS I will always remember!"*

Flying an F-4 Wildcat that he called "my new baby," he saw plenty of action in the not-so-friendly skies over the Pacific in '42, as a pilot on the "Big E." (Fittingly enough, Australian pilots referred to themselves as "over water" pilots.) He dueled Japanese Zeros ("Zekes," as he calls them) in dogfights, flew fighter escort missions for Catalina scout planes, and engaged in aerial combat in the Battle of Coral Sea and in aerial skirmishes leading up to the Battle of Midway.

Tex experienced his share of close calls during the war. He shared one particularly vivid memory that has stuck with him over all the years: *"... when a Japanese torpedo bomber exploded and our wolfpack was 500 feet from this airplane. The shrapnel dented my aircraft, and I thought no more about this, as I was OK. The pilot of the torpedo bomber blew himself and the aircraft up, rather than be shot down by the wolfpack."*

He acquired his nickname from the war's infamous propagandist, "Tokyo Rose." *"You did inquire about Tokyo Rose playing popular American music from the Japanese radio propaganda... when on some occasions when flying in Alto-Cumulus clouds, I would sing cowboys songs my dad taught me, such as "The Dying Cowboy" and the "Streets of Laredo," and it was apparent that the Japanese radio picked up my singing. She [Tokyo Rose] would broadcast '10,000 Zeros are on their way to shoot down the complete American task force' after which we jammed her broadcast."*

Tokyo Rose probably didn't realize how entertaining her radio broadcasts were for U.S. and allied forces. Tex and his fellow Enterprise pilots, for example, made listening to her propaganda part of their daily routine. Tex recalled: *"At 1900 hours we tuned into my set that I built*

*... just to suit our radio room to listen to Tokyo Rose. 'Tex, are you still with us, for we enjoy the singing, but we will drop you like a Stone with your friends.' With such a broadcast, instead of damping our spirits, we pilots always laughed and tried to locate the signal as to decipher any spies with our crew."*

Although he didn't fly in the Battle of Midway due to a freak flight deck accident (he was gored by a forklift blade, a wound serious enough to end his flying days in the war), he did his part while on crutches during the three-day battle by fitting fuses in the 500-pound bombs ready to go up in the carrier's lift to the flight deck – bombs sorely needed by the pilots still flying as the battle raged on.

Many aircraft carrier pilots lost their lives in the Battle of the Pacific – and to Tex's never-ending sorrow, his fellow Australian pilots and good buddies, Trevor Green and Jack Heggie, were among them. To this day he anguishes over their loss.



Avril and Tex on their wedding day, October 2011, looking very chipper these days. Marriage becomes them.

In one of his emails he recalled: *"1943 was a year I would always remember [by then Tex was out of the war and home in Australia], as F/T Trevor Green and Jack Heggie were killed in action in the Battle of Iwo Jima; this to me was very sad, for these airmen were great men, the best aviators to be trained in Australia."*

Today, Tex and his wife Avril live in Canberra, Australia. He is a retired commercial airline pilot and NATO rocket/jet propulsion scientist, and he still dabbles in inventing (including a conceptual design for a passenger escape module designed for commercial planes).

We sincerely hope that Allen Sidney ("Tex") Alcock and his wife Avril can cross the "Big Pond" and attend our reunion. If so, we will honor Tex in person and his fellow Aussie pilots Trevor Green and Jack Heggie (who gave their very lives for our country) in spirit.

May it happen that way!

## MVA Awarded Nonprofit Status by the IRS

In a letter dated January 16, 2013, the MVA received notification from the Internal Revenue Service that reads, in part, “Dear Applicant, we are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax-exempt status we have determine that you are exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c)(19) [‘military veterans association’] of the Internal Revenue Code.”

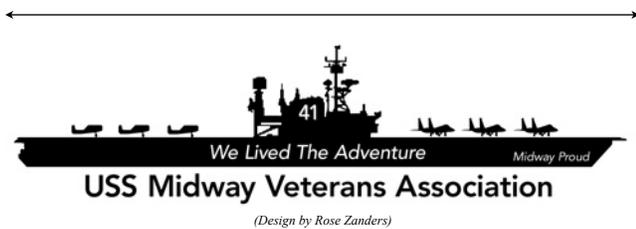
Further, the IRS granted us a Contribution Deductibility of **YES**, meaning that our members’ contributions and donations (including annual dues) are tax-deductible for the 2012 tax year and all future years. In February of this year, we mailed receipt letters to MVA’s dues-paying members to document their personal contribution/donation to the MVA during 2012.

Thank you all for your continued generosity and support of the USS Midway Museum’s Education Program/“No Child Left Ashore” scholarship fund. We pledged to donate 20% of our members’ contributions annually to this program, and we have! In 2012, this amounted to \$1,200 (the total of our 20% pledge, plus the money we raised at the DC reunion for this cause)!

Our charitable donations to the Midway Museum’s education programs are helping kids learn to the betterment of their future, and now that we are a tax-exempt organization, we can make these donations with even more purpose!

It’s gratifying to see our name on the Midway Museum’s impressive Donor Wall, which lists significant donors, individuals and organizations, who donated at least \$500.00 in 2012. (We surpassed that total handily with our \$1,200 for the year!)

So our name will again hang proudly the Donor Wall for our 2012 donations. In the current edition of *Midway Currents*, page 23, we are listed as one of the Midway Museum’s 2012 Annual Fund donors.



## Midway Veterans Membership Program MVA Assists Midway Museum

The estimated 220,000 Navy and Marines who served aboard the USS Midway during her 47 years of service to her country deserve special recognition. We, her crew members, believe this to be true, and so does the USS Midway Museum.

The MVA is working with the Midway Museum’s Membership Director Jill Hammons and Database Manager Ivy Tiongco to sign up Midway veterans to a free one-year membership in the Midway Museum. This offer includes:

- Daily admission for cardholder and 1 guest per day for 1 year
- *Currents* magazine & Exclusive Online Community “My Midway”
- 20% discount @ Fantail Café
- 10% discount @ Jet Shop
- \$2 off additional admission tickets
- Significant discounts to upgrade to one of the Circle level memberships.

Further details on this offer and an application to join are posted on our website and linked to our Facebook page. (Web addresses for both are shown under **The Masthead** on page 8).

What’s not to like about this offer from the Midway Museum, men? The answer – absolutely nothing! Fill out your application posthaste and mail it to the Midway Museum to take advantage of this offer.

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**Note:** you also get a *very cool* Membership card when you join, one you’ll be proud to carry in your wallet to show off to your friends.

## President’s Report

Shipmates, Friends—We’re well along in 2013 and the planning for our next reunion has already locked in some of the key logistics – dates and times; hotel; venues; and more! This is the first time that we’ve actually contracted with a professional reunion planning group and the group we’re using is showing us how to get the job done right. Not to say that we’ve not done the job right in the past, but we’re finding it’s a lot easier to let the experienced professionals help us out when negotiating for the services that we need to procure. Live and learn - - - isn’t that what we tell our kids????

Those of you that have attended our past reunions know that we strive hard to keep the agenda’s clean, simple, interesting, and fun. We’ve always relied on tours and local attractions to pique the interest of our members. In Washington, D.C., last year, we arranged with the US Navy Memorial for a wreath-laying ceremony, in addition to a tour of the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. We also got an abbreviated tour of some of the monuments on our way to and from the National Cemetery at Arlington.

This year, when we gather in San Diego, we’re going to try something a little different – again. We’ve reserved the flight deck for our Grand Banquet, and we’re working on the logistics for a reception (“meet and greet”) on board – probably on the hangar deck, similar to what we

did in 2010. RADM McLaughlin (“Mac”) has come to our aid again and we’re able to minimize our overhead and banquet set-up charges with our Midway Veterans status.

But that’s not what is proposed to be different from previous gatherings. We’re going to try something new and different, in lieu of a full day of tours. We’re looking at the opportunity for the USS Midway Veterans Association to take on a “community service” function. By definition, a community service function is a whole lot of volunteers getting together to do something good for a good cause. It’s the perfect way for each of us to feel connected both to the Midway Veterans Association and to the USS Midway Museum. Whatever we do, it will be sanctioned as an activity that supports the Midway Museum and its education and scholarship programs.

We’ve been considering what we think would be an appropriate service function that would be amenable to the greatest number of our members. Our options are in three categories: 1 – Volunteer on the ship (i.e., working at a veteran’s booth); 2 – Volunteer as part of a “Corporate Outreach” program (Veterans Village, Food Bank, etc.); 3 – Volunteer with the local school system in line with the Education / Scholarship program that the Midway Museum sponsors. We’ve had discussions with museum staff but we haven’t landed on an activity yet.

I’m reaching out to you also to get your ideas. We’re not trying to cut out the tours and those things that we all love about San Diego. We’ve reasoned that we can’t please everyone by getting together a boatload of tours and letting everyone pick and choose what they’d like to do – independent of the reasons we gather in these reunions. Rather, this is all about generating some “good will” for the Midway Museum by being proud Midway veterans helping to make a difference for those in need. By focusing a little of the camaraderie and the energy that we generate in the Hospitality Suite into an event that helps someone that could use some of that spirit, we can “Live the Adventure and Honor the Legend”!

Give me your thoughts on this community service idea, men. You can reach me via email and/or phone using the contact information listed for me in **The Masthead** at the end of this newsletter.

In the words of one RADM (Ret) Mac McLaughlin, “Onward and Upward, Men”!

**Oscar Granger, President USS Midway Veterans Association**



## VP-Reunions’ Report

MVA Members: stand by for an unclassified message in three parts:

**1. San Diego 13 (SD13) reunion philosophy:** In the past, having a reunion in San Diego was easy. We went to the same hotel that gave us great service, good rates, a memorable Grand Banquet, and a great hospitality suite. We schedule a number of tours, and built-in time aboard the USS Midway for you to visit your old home. As I said, it was easy, and our members had a good time. There were some downsides, the hotel was about 10 miles from downtown and the USS Midway Museum, and there wasn’t a lot to do outside the hotel. Well, get ready for some big changes! Our reunion hotel, formerly the Holiday Inn on the Bay, now the **Wyndham San Diego Bayside** as of 3/1/13, is located in the heart of downtown San Diego, less than a mile from many shopping and restaurant choices and our favorite destination—the USS Midway Museum. The other big dream we have had for this reunion will also become a reality, and that is having our Grand Banquet on the flight deck of the USS Midway on Saturday, September 14. You do not make all these desirable changes without incurring additional costs, but my operating objective has been to present a reunion package that will be very close in total cost per member to what we’ve seen at previous reunions. To that end, I have had lengthy negotiations with all of our vendors to get attractive hotel rates, tour rates, and catered dinner rates. Here is my note of thanks to the Midway Museum staff members who have cooperated with us in giving MVA very attractive rates and incentives to realize our goal of dinner aboard the ship.

**2. Overview of SD13:** We are still not done finalizing the schedule of the reunion, but this is what we have in various stages of planning. Thursday, September 12: arrival and registration throughout the day at the **Wyndham San Diego Bayside**; in the afternoon a TBD “community service” project either aboard the ship or at a veterans-affiliated organization in San Diego; a Welcome Reception at the hotel in the evening. Friday, September 13: the morning has been left free for MVA members to visit the ship and spend as much time there as you want trying to find your favorite places when you were aboard; in the afternoon I have blocked four hours for a San Diego tour; in the evening, there are no planned events, so you can have dinner on your own with your mate, or form a group to explore the dining options in downtown San Diego. Saturday, September 14: in the morning, the MVA Annual Business meeting (officers’ reports, new business, election of officers, selection of our next reunion site, and open discussion); in the afternoon, a shorter tour of San Diego, because we need to get everyone back to the hotel to get ready for the Grand

Banquet on the flight deck that evening. Sound good so far? Left unsaid in all this is plenty of time to gather at our fully stocked Hospitality Suite to find old shipmates, tell and retell sea stories, and make new friends to see at our next reunion. The Hospitality Suite is always the hub of every reunion.

**3. Action items for MVA members:** I've been planning this reunion with many different vendors based on estimated numbers of attendees. This is a problem that every reunion planner faces--how many people will actually show up? The vendors need this information to set their prices, and I give a number I believe we'll deliver. There can be penalties if I'm under, or we may have waiting lists if we're over. Here is where you can help me. Make your reservation at the hotel as soon as possible. This gives me a good indication of how many people will be attending, and you assure yourself that you have a room at the reunion rate for SD13. As with any hotel reservation, it is fully cancelable if your plans change. At the bottom of this report is our dedicated reservation link and the MVA 888 reservation number; these are the only two ways you can reserve a room at the reunion rate at the **Wyndham San Diego Bayside**. The other thing you can do to help my reunion planning is send me an e-mail or call me ([mva41vpr@comcast.net](mailto:mva41vpr@comcast.net) or 703-287-0509) and tell me if you are attending and how many people are coming with you. I've had a number of people ask about bringing guests; that is perfectly OK for all reunion activities except for voting at the MVA Business Meeting. I look forward to seeing you in San Diego!

Here are the MVA dedicated link and unique toll free reservation number:

- <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/MID2013>
- [888-233-9527](tel:888-233-9527)—ask for USS Midway Veterans Association reunion

**Jim Hayter, VP-Reunions, USS Midway Veterans Association**



## 2012/13 Financial Report

Men, now that we're a nonprofit organization our annual dues take on a slightly different slant, though, bottom-line, they're still the lifeblood of the MVA.

From now on, dues shall be referred to as "membership fees" or "contributions" – the IRS's preferred terminology – in our Bylaws. Informally, we can still call them "dues." However, the donations we make to the Midway Museum, such as our charitable donations to its education programs, shall be called just that – donations.

As MVA's secretary-treasurer, it is my job to be the dues-collector, the guy in charge of ensuring that we remain fiscally responsible. In this context, I'll speak briefly about our annual membership fees. At this point in our dues-collection year for 2013, we are doing well, with 82 percent of you having paid your contributions compared to last year's high-water mark.

But we have an expensive reunion ahead, and I'm going to work hard to pick up those 18 percent of members we're down from last year, and then to go well beyond that in total membership. That is my goal.

But it will take all of us working together to grow our numbers so that we can achieve the obvious benefits it will bring. More members and a higher bottom line means that we can do more for others in the spirit of philanthropy and volunteerism, as is part of our mission now that we are a nonprofit organization.

What is the other part of our mission, you ask? Quite simply it is to gather and engage in our own special brand of camaraderie – and, most of all, to have fun! Think of our upcoming reunion in San Diego and you'll know what I mean.

In conclusion, we are both a charitable organization and a social organization, which is how we've drawn it up in our Bylaws, and in this capacity, our financial health is excellent. With the current dues year\* still young, we are making excellent progress. But we can't let up if we want to continue to grow. To this end, expect me to continue to post the list of dues payers to date so that you can see if your name is on it.

If you want to review any of MVA's financial statements for this year to date and/or 2012, let me know, and I'll be happy to email you the reports, in the form of Excel spreadsheets.

All in all, 2012 was a good year for the MVA, highlighted by our very successful DC reunion. But 2013 is shaping up to be an even better one.

**Dave Payson, Sec.-Treas., USS Midway Veterans Association**

\*MVA's dues year runs from February 1-January 31. New members who join MVA January 1-June 30 shall be considered as paid for that calendar year only; new members who join July 1-December 31 shall be considered as paid for the end of that year and the following calendar year.

Order Midway/USN memorabilia at:  
Midway Museum online store:  
<http://enssc.com/?store=502>

### “The Kiss” Statue Returns

It was “Unconditional Surrender” all over again Saturday, February 16, 2013, when the new “Kiss” statue returned to its stand in front of the USS Midway Museum in a special 40’s ceremony commemorating the return of the statue that recreates the iconic photo taken in Time Square, NY, on V-J Day, August 14, 1945, the end of WWII and the War in the Pacific.

“Mac” McLaughlin, the USS Midway Museum president & CEO who spearheaded the \$1 million-plus fundraising drive that paid for the replacement statue, delivered a stirring speech to a crowd of over 1,000 who had gathered for the ceremony.

View the video below that features the “Kiss” statue being set up the day before the Saturday ceremony.

<http://www.ecoronado.com/profiles/blogs/kissing-sailor-sculpture-the-kiss-uss-midway-museum-120220132116>

Here’s a video of the Saturday ceremony:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mf84PW68XHY>

### 2013 Membership Fees (Contributions)

Dues, membership fees, or contributions. No matter what we call them, here’s the main message, men: We’ve done well to date in the collection of our 2013 contributions. But there’s still a good number of members who paid for 2012 who we haven’t heard from so far this year.

To this end, as a friendly nudge, in this mailer we’ve included a copy of the very latest dues payers list for 2013 with this outstanding message: **IF YOUR NAME ISN’T ON THIS LIST, THEN WE’D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU’D CONSIDER PAYING, MEN.**

Of course, sustaining our membership by collecting annual contributions from those of you who paid previously is only half of the equation. The other half is finding and signing up new Midway veterans to join MVA. So, to this end, you can help us by recruiting friends who were Midway shipmates or letting us know any sources you may have of former Midway crew members.

It was well put when it was said that if each one of us in MVA signed up just one new member, our ranks would double in short order. This illustrates there’s much wisdom in men who have gone to sea. It’s a little known fact that salt air enhances one’s brain power!

### Selected Pictures from Last Two Reunions San Diego 2010





DC Area 2012



### Top San Diego Attractions (Follow Links)

- Midway Aircraft Carrier Museum (got this one covered!)
- LEGOLAND® California
- San Diego Zoo
- SeaWorld San Diego
- Safari Park
- Flagship/San Diego Harbor Excursions
- Air and Space Museum
- Natural History Museum
- Reuben H. Fleet Science Center plus IMAX
- Knott's Berry Farm

*“We are bound by a common love for the ship and a sense of duty that still burns strong to this day.”*

*... USS Midway Veterans Association  
Brochure, 2012*

### New Men

The following USS Midway Veterans have joined our association since the last newsletter:

- Jack Brazeau (53-55) - Marinette, WI
- Bill Bedford (62-65) - San Antonio, TX
- David Baughman (63-65) - Massillon, OH
- Randall Bernhagen (62-64) - Omaha, NE
- Allen "Tex" Alcock (40-42) - Canberra, A.C.T.
- Albert Rachuba, Jr. (71) - Westerville, OH
- George Thayer (65-66) - Carmichael, CA
- Bob Rodney (69-73) - Magalia, CA
- Ronald Brackett (80-83) - Lakewood, CO
- Richard Singer (59-61) - Howard, CO
- Carl Cates (59-62) - Gazelle, CA
- Charles Williams (64-66) - Medina, TN
- Jim Moir (57-58) - Apache Junction, AZ
- Gary Madsen (62-64) - Gridley, CA
- David Hulke (73-76) - Wisconsin Rapids, WI
- Clarence Baughman (61-66) - St. Clair Shores, MI
- Donnie Bowerman (70-72) - Missouri Valley, IA
- Charles Wilson (74-78) - Crowder, MS
- Brian Erickson (60-62) - Port Ludlow, WA
- Jim Meinhardt (57-60) - Camden, OH
- Anthony Velluto Jr. (57-61) - Newmarket, NH
- Richard Parsons (54-55) - Falkville, AL
- Marty Fitzgerald (57-60) - Renton, WA
- Eugene Jacks (57-64) - Newman, CA
- Roger Arnold (57-60) - Portland, OR
- Sam Underwood (60-62) - Dallas, TX
- Charles McBee (53-56) - Kansas City, KS

*Welcome aboard, Men, for our own special brand of Midway Magic!*

**Notice:** We post our organization's roster on our website only with our members' permission. If you don't want your contact information published, please let us know and we'll remove it.

← **Save printing and mailing costs**

**Order this newsletter electronically from Dave Payson (e-mail: [minandave@charter.net](mailto:minandave@charter.net))**

→

### The Masthead

#### USS Midway Veterans Association

A newsletter for USN and USMC veterans who served aboard USS Midway, and who are friends eternal.

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**USS Midway Veterans Association Web Site**  
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**USS Midway Veterans Association Facebook**  
<http://www.facebook.com/USSMidwayVeteransAssociation>



**See you in San Diego September 12-14, 2013!**