

Chet Zeller

VC-8, December 1973 — December 1976

I arrived in Roost Roads in December 1973, along with my bride of three months, Susan. We lived in Luquillo Beach and house sat in Puerca Point for a short time. No housing was available at first so we moved into an apartment outside Gate 3. Our neighbors were Mike and Debbie Buzas and Chuck and Lexi Wooten. What a crazy place! Eventually we moved into Rainbow Hill. We met Dick and Ruthie Graham in Rainbow Hill and have enjoyed their friendship all these years.

We had a wonderful time being partial owners of the "Pegansunan". That was our introduction to sailing. Loved it and enjoyed many happy times sailing to Vieques and the Virgin Islands with John and Suzie Patterson, Dave and Peggy McClure, and Bob and Ann Jackson.

After leaving Puerto Rico, I took orders to Louisville, Kentucky, for U. S. Navy Recruiting. We bought our first home and had two of our four kids there. From Louisville, I took orders to Barbers Point, Hawaii, for the first of four tours on Oahu, flying the P-3 Orion. We arrived in 1980, with two small kids. I joined VP-1. In five days, I left Susan and headed to the Philippines for 6 months. Barbers was a great tour of duty. Five squadrons, with two deployed at all times. The wives had a wonderful support group. We eventually had two more kids. We went to the War College in Newport, RI, for one year and then returned to Hawaii for a tour in VP-17, Patrol Wing Two, and eventually took command of VP-22 in December 1988. After Hawaii, we settled into Mechanicsburg, PA, as I ended my career as CO of NRD Pennsylvania. Our kids thrived and all went to college. Susan started working in Human Resources for USDA in Harrisburg. She completed 22 years of Federal Service. After retiring in 1992, I worked as a government defense contractor, in Mechanicsburg, PA.

We both retired in 2003 and have a home in Sarasota, Florida, as well as a small condo in Annapolis, MD. All our kids are married and working...YAYYY!! We have five grandkids in the Northern VA area and Philly. We are truly grateful for our good fortune and the "Snowbird Life" is a lot of fun!!

We just celebrated our 44th wedding anniversary. Since retirement we have traveled to France, BVI, Bahamas, the American West, New England, Nashville, Dallas, Orlando, etc. Hope to continue to travel and be active as long as we are able!