



Bob Jackson  
VC-8 1972 – 1975

*Nugget -- first Navy tour, newlywed (with Ann – we're still somehow together), impromptu-sponsored by Dave & Peggy McClure, and assigned to Puerca Point #26, on 'the other side' of the duplex from the Allens. What a place to live, young JO's to learn the ropes from, inspiring senior officers (Spellman, Carlson, Sloan, Molenda, Boatright) to learn from, and great flying! So many who became lifelong friends: Settles, Henry's, McClures, Thompsons, Pattersons, Hills, Macaskills, Lumianskis, Isches, Johnsons, Boeltes, Zellers, Thomas, Grahams, Jocas – names that simply said bring back such memories and who we still see periodically!*

*I loved the intramurals sports, trips to San Juan and Little Creek to play football, volleyball or fastpitch softball, snorkeling below Mashburn's house on Puerca Point with Ted Henry, sailing with the Pegansunan crew (Thomas, Thompson, McClure, Jackson, Patterson, Zeller), mingling with the helo and prop pilots, working on boats in the marina and building aquarium/book cases in the wood shop, golfing (mostly teamed with Chief Hebner for some reason), weekend trips to El Yunque or for tennis in San Juan (Settles, McClures, Pattersons, Jocas, etc.). We had beautiful early morning pancake neighborhood breakfasts on Puerca Point patios, crappy houses with land crabs crawling thickly and noisily below your windows at night, but St Thomas out the window and ever on the horizon during the day, Puerto Rican local crews trimming the roadside grass with machetes, mixing with Walter B and the bachelors at the BOQ, SDO duties with BEQ facility checks, running the flight schedule from the Ready Room, making the 16 mm Sloanberg movie with Phil Allen, Pete Lumianski, Larry Ische, Chuck Wooten, Mike Buzas, Ed McAllister and many others with actual acting skills (must have been Academy guys), Skipper Carlson teaching the JO's inflight refueling, and Everett precision dive bombing over Culebra and Vieques, PRANG intercepts and getting whopped by McClure and Macaskill in air fights, Pegansunan weekend easy sails and over-nighters at Green beach and Sun bay (evening dingy excursions to 'Bahia Bioluminiscente's), weeklong Virgin Island cruises with McClures, Pattersons, Lumianskis and Isches. Dress-up parties and better ones sliding down Officer's beach hill, 'catching the wire' if you were lucky and a concrete raspberry if not! Roosy Roads was a place with people and experiences that shaped lives and careers, eventually over lifetimes -- thanks to the subtle guidance and leadership of senior officers like Spellman, Carlson, Sloan, Molenda, Boatright, Macaskill, Phillips, Fishburn, Johnson, Castro and Walt Flanagan. It was a place where once we finished the partying the JO's started building families, too!*

*Ann's and my only other Navy tour was at China Lake. Roosy Roads and China Lake are two of the best places if you love to fly and aren't command or career oriented. China Lake was another magical place for us, and it was especially nice to have so many other Redtails like Fred Spellman, Rod Fishburn, Ron Hill and Everett Macaskill there also, to fly cool airplanes like the F-86 and T-38, and to work as an engineer when not flying. After the Navy we settled in Orlando and our family grew to include Mike, Chris and Jenny. We expected just a first 'civilian tour' of three years in Orlando, but it became our live's home with a wonderful 25 year engineering career at Lockheed Martin, and we're still living in the only house we've ever owned.*

*During the 15 years since leaving LMC a friend convinced me to partner with him building a Velocity (Rutan-derivative four place pusher) and so I started flying again after 30 years off. I've now got 1200+ hours on N2XF and it's taken me from the Virgin Islands to Alaska (usually without Ann,) and a lot of places in between (likely even yours!). Most recently I'm using the plane as a testbed and back doing 'computer vision', small engineering jobs mostly for L3 Technologies and LMC with the help of UCF graduate students as the only other Jackson Technologies employees, and a few other old friends.*

*'Who could ask for anything more?'*



*One more little one around, somewhere...*



*My plane, but not my house!*