

# THE UGLY ANGEL

## Memorial Foundation Newsletter



Vol. 2 February 1996

Before reporting the news, I want to correct a glaring omission in the January newsletter. I failed to mention that our mini-reunion, like the larger USMC/Vietnam Helo Reunion of which it is a part, **is also a family affair**. Accordingly, my apologies to you ladies. I will include your names as soon as the brutes you are married to provide them.

Recent additions to the Las Vegas flight schedule include: Greg Armstrong, Jack Barry, Pat Bray, "Chris" Christensen, "Sandy" Gideonse, Bill and Devon Green, Garret Hatcher, Ron Hatton, Ron Heald, Bill Kelly, Denny van Liew, Jack Lodge, Deke Warner, Tom Warning, and "Muddy" Waters. "Chris" was a member of Archie's Angels during the Soc Trang era - back when Willie was the line chief. Denny, Jack, and "Muddy" were with the Angels when the squadron went back in country in 65.

Checking in on the maybe list are: Bob Bringham, Allen Gilbert ( wife has never flown ), Larry Fraser, Tom Heyer, Ed Hunneyman ( daughter's wedding ), Dave Jones ( job), Denny Kawalek, Dave Kemna, and Pete King. Actually, Allen says he can make it if he can persuade Cecile to fly. Perhaps you can help persuade Cecile by writing to:

+ Mrs. Allen D. Gilbert 24 Morningside Dr. Granite Falls, NC 28630

Don Brodie also checked in but forgot to say. Jim Ferrier, Ken Holm, Ron Sorensen, and Bill Spicer wrote that they regrettably can't make it. Ditto caller Denny Beckman.

Gunner's School maxim: *"Never draw fire -  
it irritates everyone around you"*.

The dinner issue has been resolved. Rather than trying to have a squadron function in the midst of a noisy Reunion event, we are now planning a separate Memorial Luncheon on Saturday the 22nd to honor those Angels who were lost in Vietnam. The lunch will feature a place setting for our guest of honor, a lost Angel, and brief remarks by TBA. We hope to have Mike Carley Jr., who never knew his Dad, with us for the occasion. Gunny Sachs has volunteered to arrange it, and will make every effort to keep the cost down. Let me know if you want to attend. Families welcome.

We need ideas for authentically recreating the HMM-362 Ready Room ala Ky Ha, Phu Bai, or elsewhere. Does anyone have any photos they would be willing to lend? Also need memorabilia of any kind for display in the ready room. Pics, tactical maps, flight gear, bullet bouncers, field phone, hit board, flight schedules, canteens, cartridge belts, cot, tail rotor blades, etc. would be appreciated.

Surely some of you former ODOs have squirreled away something. Marc Sohm is going to Las Vegas early to set it up - but could use some help. Any volunteers?

We are pleased to report that Betty Jones, wife of our corpsman "Doc", had successful cancer surgery in December and the prognosis looks good. Our prayers and wishes for a speedy recovery are with you Betty. We look forward to seeing you in Las Vegas. Cards and letters may be sent to:  
+ Mrs. Robert Jones 680 Keats Drive Rochester, MI 48307

( Excerpted from the FdL Commonwealth Reporter )  
**Missing FdL hunter found after 10-hour marsh search**

Noted local hunter ( and former Ugly Angel ),---- ----, was found early Sunday morning after becoming lost while hunting in Eldorado Marsh. After a ten-hour search by 45 volunteers, rescuers waded through 500 yards of dense brush and marsh, in freezing water up to their tushes, before they reached ----. The rescuee, "who had survival skills from previous military experience", had built a fire with his underwear and killed a couple of pheasants for food.

*Can you imagine how the pheasant tasted?*

Thanks to Jim Gordon, Ron Harkless, Ron Heald, Ed Hunneyman, Dave Jones, Denny Kawalek, Bill Kelly, Jack Lodge, Marc Sohm, McSouth, Willie Sproule, Charlie Upshaw, Carl Wheeler, and Bill Wilkison for sending money, some more than the requested \$2.00, to support the newsletter. For some reason, Skipper Dick Cline sent me two books of stamps instead of cash. So much for the Romanee-Conti.

NATOPS Briefing item: *"Teamwork is essential -  
It gives them other people to shoot at"*

### **Where Are They Now?**

Carl Wheeler, aka Wheels, writes that after a tour as a flight instructor in HT-8, in 1969 he transitioned to KC-130s which he flew until his retirement. He hung it up in 1977 after a successful tour as XO, VMGR-352. Employed by Alabama Power Co. in 1978 as a supervisor, he retired again this January. He and his wife, Anne, reside at 77 J.D. Hill Rd., Nauvoo, AL 35578. They have two daughters: one with a BA in International Business, and one with a BA in Psych working on her Masters at USC. Incredibly, Wheels says that he no longer smokes or drinks. Like most of us, he reports he is excited about the prospect of seeing the Ugly Angels reunited.

Vic Speroni, who some of you will remember as a Gunner on YL-30 with Virgil Kaiser, and then Crew Chief of YL-54 for the rest of his 67-68 tour, left the Green Machine in 1969. He says the helo bug never stopped biting; he has been associated with them ever since. I guess so, cause he's now the Vic President for Ops and Maintenance of Helicopter Minut-Men, Inc., P. O. Box 21758, Columbus, OH 43221-0758.

Billy Wilkison and his wife Janice live at 6605 Roxton Dr., Amarillo, TX 79109. After a bout with heart problems which afflicted both of them in the late 80's, they bought a motor home and are living the good life touring the country. In addition to being President of the local Motor Coach Assn., Bill enjoys building and flying Radio Controlled model aircraft. They too are looking forward to Las Vegas.

Former Sergeant Jimmy Villarreal, whose smiling picture you will find in your 66-67 cruise book, didn't say much except that he will make the ready room coffee in Las Vegas. Jim, who resides at 5421 Lockhill Rd., San Antonio, TX 78240, is now a Medical Doctor - and a Commander in the USNR. Coffee? He ought to be buying the drinks.

Co-pilot's motto: *"Never share a cockpit  
with someone braver than you"*

**If it can be arranged, we still plan to sit at adjacent tables for the Sunday evening dinner and USO show.**

Reunion Coordinator ( and soft-goods Guru ) "Frenchy" LaFontaine says the Ugly Angel gear will be ready for order by the end of March. The word on styles and prices is:

- T-shirts - White with gold pilot & aircrew wings and motto *"Once a Marine"* on front. Ugly Angel logo on back. About \$8.00
- Baseball Caps - Dark Green with embroidered Ugly Angel Logo and HMM-362 on front. About \$15.00. Name and Nam date on sides, \$3.00 ea. additional
- Golf shirts - Black Forest Green with small embroidered Ugly Angel logo on left front. Two grades - \$20.00 & \$35.00

I know "Frenchy's" reputation - these will be quality goods at fair prices. If you want to order prior to Las Vegas, write or call: Norm LaFontaine 57 Long Plain Road Mattapoisett, MA 02739 (508) 758-2314

The USMC/Vietnam Helo Reunion guys just made a Recon flight to Las Vegas on Sunday, 28 January so there is still no word on "Ready Room" tent prices as of this writing. However, the Reunion will fund a share of the cost. More in the March newsletter.

**NOTAM:** If you don't see a friend's name in the newsletter, it means he hasn't checked in with Ops. Call him! **No check in, no newsletter.**

Publisher: Tom Hewes 384 Hartland Blvd. E. Hartland, CT 06027 (860) 653-4436