

THE UGLY ANGEL

Memorial Foundation Newsletter



Vol. I March 1996

The initial phase of our efforts to organize an Ugly Angel mini-reunion is complete and here are the results. Since November we have attempted to contact 176 former Angels, the majority by mail. This includes everyone listed in the 1994 USMC/Helo Reunion Directory plus a score of others. Of these, 1 had died, 12 had no forwarding address, and 163 contacts were made. Of the 69 Angels (42%) who responded to our invitation, the breakdown is:

Attending	44	26.9% (of total)
May attend	14	8.5%
Cannot attend	11	6.7%

Each of the remaining 94 Angels (58%) who did not respond have received at least one letter. They are also receiving either a follow-up letter or phone call courtesy of our Area Coordinators - Ben Cascio (East), Willie Sproule (South), Marc Sohm (Mid-West), and Deke Warner (West). Their fine efforts notwithstanding, it has been a slow month. Only eight new names to add to the going list.

About the only way I can think of to increase the number attending is for *each of you to call a close wartime friend* - one whose name is missing from these pages and from your life - and encourage him to join us in Las Vegas. Tell him we are going to have the first ever Ugly Angel party since 1967 not screwed up by a sixteen-plane Frag early the next morning! Do you remember that one?

HAC Survival Rule #4: *"Always keep the co-pilot between you and the enemy fire"*

3 Checking in ready for flight since the last newsletter are: Allan Cain, Carl Cartwright, Ken Logue, John "Fang" Longdin, Bob O'Neil, Bert Palmer, Bill Willey, and Mike Zaker. Jesse Mena is a maybe, and Joel Vignere and Kent Petersen regrettably regret.

NOTAM: To help Gunny make the arrangements for the Memorial Luncheon, we need a solid head count fairly soon. Similarly, to help "Frenchy" La Fontaine put together an inventory of Ugly Angel soft-goods for sale in Las Vegas, we need rough sales data and sizes. So if you would, please take a minute (5 minutes for co-pilots and field grade) to fill out the enclosed prepaid post card and send it to me. **If you will do this for us, we promise you a six-night R&R in Australia.**

A Memorial Luncheon to honor Angels lost in Vietnam will be held at Bally's on Saturday, 22 June around noon. We are reserving a private dining room on the twenty-sixth floor which can seat over 100. The view will be great, and the meal affordable - between \$20 and \$25 per person, tax and tip included. Gunny is expecting menu information from Bally's even as I write. Please plan to attend.

Last month we got a really interesting letter from Bill "Muddy" Waters describing the move of MAG-36 to Vietnam in July 1965. The Angels, then commanded by LtCol. Jim Aldworth, were embarked in USS Princeton along with HMMs-363 & 364, and other units. The ship was ferrying 152 aircraft: 72 H-34's, 48 UH1's (including 24 Army), 6 H-37's, 17 AD's, 8 F5's, and an R4D in a pear tree. The fixed-wing and Army birds were off-loaded at NAS Cubi Point. Princeton then sailed to the vicinity of Ky Ha to disembark MAG-36 - presumably in a spectacular group fly off. But as fate would have it, when the lead flights of the 6 deck-loaded H-37's were spread, not a one would start. "Muddy" tactfully doesn't mention the Group CO's reaction, but you can fill in the blanks for yourself.

FYI: As of this edition, the hotel has already made **483** room reservations for Reunion members. Reunion management reports that about **600** members plus **500** wives/guests will be in attendance. That means you will probably see everybody you ever knew in-country except Charlie (as in Victor Charlie). The hotel will be running *four bars for us 24 hours a days*.. If recent history is any guide, Charlie will probably be one of the bartenders. (Late entry 2/7/96: No rooms left for Fri. & Sat. nights)

Retransmission

Reunion Coordinator (and soft-goods Guru) "Frenchy" LaFontaine says the Ugly Angel gear will be ready for order by the end of this month. The skinny 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 bargain 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

Overheard in Maintenance Control:
"If it's stupid, but it works - it ain't stupid"

In case you didn't know, organizing the Ugly Angel mini-reunion is not a one man show. Also working to make this a successful venture are **Ben Cascio, Doc Jones, Gunny Sachs, Marc Sohm, Willie Sproule, and Deke Warner**. These guys have been exceptionally generous with their time, money, and ideas. In fact, they are doing most of the work. Thanks also to those of you who have volunteered to help out, but have not yet been called on. Your turn will come.

In that connection, Marc Sohm and Ben Cascio are going to Las Vegas a day early to set up the ready room. If some of you West Coast Marines could spare a day, Ben and Marc could sure use the help. If you want to volunteer, please let me know. We also desperately need memorabilia to

recreate an authentic Ugly Angel ready room. Please bring any of the souvenirs described in the February newsletter with you to Las Vegas. They will be returned after the reunion.

We don't have a Where Are They Now ? section this month because nobody has sent me a damn thing to put in it. Mayday!-Mayday!-Mayday!

Status Board

Turning Up - 44

Greg/Nancy Armstrong	Jack Barry	Bo Beumer
Pat Bray	Allan/Janet Bloomer	Allan Cain
Carl Cartwright	Ben/Ailene Cascio	Dick Cline
Chris Christensen	Bill Duffy	Bob Feeney
Ron Fix	Sandy Gideonse	Jim Gordon
Bill/Devon Green	Ron Harkless	Garret
Hatcher	Ron Hatton	Ron Heald
Tom/Joanne Hewes	Doc/Betty Jones	Bill Kelly
Jack Lodge	Ken Logue	John Longdin
Dave Moore	Bob O'Neil	Bert Palmer
Gunny/Marlene Sachs	Marc/Anne Sohm	Ed Southworth
Willie/Esta Sproule	Tom Thurber	Charlie/Marge
Upshaw	Jim Villarreal	Denny van Liew
	Tom Warning	"Muddy" Waters
	Carl/Anne Wheeler	Bill/Janice Wilkison
Bill Willey	Mike Zaker	

Flight Planning - 14

Tom Bong	Bob Bringham	Don Brodie
Allen Gilbert	Larry Fraser	Tom Heyer
Ed Hunneyman	Dave Jones	Denny Kawalek
Dave Kemna	Pete King	Jesse Mena
Vic Speroni	Al Thomas	

Hard Down - 11

Gene Bailey	Denny Beckman	Jim Ferrier
Bob Hactel	Ken Holm	Russ Hohman
Ed Modzelewski	Kent Petersen	Ron Sorensen
Bill Spicer	Joel Vignere	

The word on the "Ready Room" tent situation is that there will be no tents, primarily because of cost and fire safety considerations. Instead, the Reunion has opted for what is called "pipe and drape" covered with camouflage netting arranged in a horseshoe shape covering one end of the gigantic (50.112 sq. ft.) grand ballroom. This will allow each of the ten participating squadrons a 12' x 12' semi-private space to set up as a ready room for the display of memorabilia, etc. The open space inside the horseshoe, and fronting the ready rooms, will have plenty of tables and chairs sidewalk cafe style. The center of the horse-shoe will be occupied by "D" Med's CP tent. The cost to each of the participating squadrons will be \$150.00 which ain't too shabby for Lost Wages. More details as soon as I get them, and a drawing as soon as I learn how.

Many Dozos to “Fang” Longdin, Joel Vignere, and Bob Hactel, each of whom sent \$2.00 to support the newsletter. Bob and Joel sent theirs even though they won’t be able to attend. Thanks also to Al Barbour who is the Reunion’s mini-reunion coordinator for his Deuce.

Would you like to replace the Ugly Angel patch your wife mistakenly threw away twenty years ago while cleaning up your trash? If the answer is yes, contact Marc Sohm 450 Ruggles St. Fond du Lac, WI 54935 (414) 922-5525. He has talked a mama-san into reproducing the embroidered original for only \$8.00/copy.

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

