

The Ugly Angel

Memorial Foundation Newsletter

Vol. VII Issue 1 Apr. 2002



President's Message

A bit more than six months to the reunion, and the enthusiasm is already starting to build.

Why? Because the reunion offers an opportunity to spend relaxing time with the most important friends I've ever known. A very few of us spent several tours and several years as Ugly Angels; most of us spent thirteen months as members of that elite group. But for each Marine who spent the most intensely demanding time of life with the scowling red-and-gold monster facing him every day, he knew that other Marines were at his side, ready every instant to do all required to help him.

Years pass, and most of us returned to civilian life, looked at with wonder and puzzlement by our neighbors. Only we who actually walked the battlefield know what we know; only we understand the depth of devotion and commitment that became a permanent part of our character. For years we spoke rarely and briefly of our experience, and then only with each other – in twos and threes, small groups remembering friends far away, some alive only in our memory.

But come October, we will gather again, two hundred Ugly Angels and two thousand allies – friends from PI and Memphis, from New River, LTA, Pensacola, and Pendleton. At last we will learn what became of folks we've wondered about for ages. At last we'll hear Willie Sproule's Louisiana bellow again. And learn which mustachioed corporal became a Sergeant Major, what skinny crewman is now a prominent physician, and which crew chief amazed us all by surviving despite his wounds.

There is also the opportunity to learn the progress of the Ugly Angel Scholarship Fund, but that will have to wait until next month's newsletter. See you in Pensacola!

One more thing.

When my Dad died in December, more than sixty Marines took the time to send cards and emails expressing their sympathy over the loss. The comfort that comes from the support of friends cannot be measured, and I thank each of you for the thoughtful kindness.

Reunion 2002

The USMC/Vietnam Helicopter Association Reunion will be held at Pensacola Beach starting Thursday, 3 October and ending Sunday morning the 6th, dates which hopefully will see us out of the tropical storm season that bedeviled the 98 reunion.

There has been a change (does this remind you of the Corps or what?) in the HMM-362 Reunion Coordinator. 2d Lt Lew Barnes, who distinguished himself at the 98 reunion, is now our guy. The New World Landing in downtown Pensacola has already been reserved for our Friday night squadron dinner. As those of you who attended the 1998 reunion will remember, the dinner was a huge success with over 140 attending. Information on how to sign up and pay – in advance as always – for dinner will be published in future editions of the newsletter.

Our Ready Room, reminiscent of the lavish accommodations we had at Ky Ha and Phu Bai, will be in a large rented tent prominently located among the other squadron tents adjacent to the beach.

Information on reunion hotels may be found on the next page. Act quickly or you may end up sleeping on the beach!

Why do they lock gas station bathrooms? Are they afraid someone will clean them?

The Rules of the Game – Again

Last reunion some of our guys missed the squadron dinner because they thought the money they paid to Pop A Smoke covered it. It doesn't work that way. The problem arose from not having a clear understanding about the relationship between the USMC/Vietnam Helicopter Association and its member squadrons, including HMM-362.

The Helo Association, familiarly known as Pop A Smoke, is the organization sponsoring Reunion 2002, and all other biennial reunions. They do the site recon, line up hotels, check out caterers, audition entertainment, order the freebies, and sign the necessary contracts to pay for it all.

They traditionally sponsor three major reunion functions – the Thursday happy hour & buffet, the Saturday night dinner and USO show, and the Sunday morning brunch. To attend any of these functions you must be a paid-up member of the Association. Why? Because it is member dues that pay for the groundwork involved in organizing the reunion. If you haven't paid your \$35 fair share of this groundwork you're screwing your buddies, and you can't play!

In contrast, the Ugly Angels have no dues. The only reunion function we organize and sponsor is the Friday night squadron dinner for which you pay us.

The bottom line: plan to fork over MPC to two different entities prior to the reunion:

- To the Association to register for the reunion and to pay for the functions you elect to attend.
- To Lew Barnes, or his designee, to attend the Friday night Ugly Angel squadron dinner.

Questions?

Questions about Ugly Angel activities? Contact Lew Barnes at hmm362@aol.com or one of the following:

Office 1-503 649-2033

Cell 1-503 702-1595

Home 1-503 647-0776

If someone with multiple personalities threatens to kill himself, is it considered a hostage situation?

The Hotels

The following list the names and telephone numbers of the hotels with which the Helo Association has reserved blocks of rooms and negotiated room rates. Reservations are open and the rooms are going fast, so make your reservations ASAP. Even if you are undecided now, you can always cancel later if you can't make it. So don't delay. For a restful, sober, and relaxing three days in beautiful Pensacola Beach call:

Emerald Isle Condos 1-850 934-2672

Clarion Suites 1-850 932-4300

Beachside Resort 1-850 932-5331

Best Western 1-850 934-3300

Holiday Inn 1-850 932-5631

Marriott 1-850 932-6000

Comfort Inn 1-850 934-5400

Hampton Inn 1-850 932-6800

Dunes 1-850 932-3536

The Set Up

The Association HQ will be at the Beachside Resort on Pensacola Beach. To the east of the Beachside, between the Best Western and the dune line, you'll find a tent city where all squadron Ready Rooms will be located. Just to the east of the Best Western are the Clarion Suites and the new Marriott. West of the Beachside is the Hampton Inn. The Comfort Inn is adjacent to the T intersection where you enter Pensacola Beach. West of that on the beach side of the road is the Holiday Inn. Confused? A map revealing all will be in the registration package enclosed in the spring edition of Pop A Smoke. If you can't wait until then, dial up <http://www.visitpensacolabeach.com/islemap.htm>

Congratulations

To Jim and Kitty Aldworth. Their daughter, Kathy, gave birth to triplets on January 3rd. The two healthy girls and a boy, Caroline, Kieley, and James, weighed in at 4 pounds apiece. Since the trio were somewhat small, they were retained in the hospital for a week or two but are now safely home. Until this unexpected bonanza, Jim and Kitty have had only one grandchild, now a fifteen year old teenager, to spoil. Now they have their work cut out for them, times 3. Congratulations may be sent to 1 Pelican Watch Way, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926 or KlipKlop6@aol.com.

If man evolved from monkeys and apes, why do we still have monkeys and apes?

Nick Graduates

2d Lt. Nick Turner, whose commissioning was noted in the last edition, graduates from TBS on 9 April and reports to Pensacola on 1 May to begin flight training. Nick, as you may remember, is the son of Larry and Judy Turner.

On 28 March, just prior to Nick's graduation, the Ugly Angel Traveling Circus & Combat Road Show visited TBS to present another of their extraordinary Professional Military Education presentations to the Lieutenants and to attend Mess Night. What effect the appearance of Gunny Sachs and Ben Cascio had on these impressionable young minds is unknown at this time; however, you may expect a full report of this momentous event in the May edition. Hopefully by then Quantico, TBS, and the Lieutenants will have recovered.

The main reason Santa is so jolly is because he knows where all the bad girls live.

Archie's Angels Featured in Leatherneck

Dave Hugel writes,

Thanks to a little behind the scenes lobbying, the May 2002 issue of *Leatherneck* magazine will feature an article commemorating the 40th Anniversary of HMM 362, then known as "Archie's Angles," being deployed to Vietnam at Soc Trang under the command of Lt. Col. Archie Clapp as part of Operation SHUFLY. For those of you who do not subscribe to *Leatherneck*, they often feature articles from the current edition on their web site. I'll keep you posted. Semper Fi,

Care to guess who the energetic lobbyist is?

Look Homeward...

Angel Archie Fleming and Burt Palmer report via the newsletter for retired Marines, *Semper Fidelis*, that former Angel, GySgt Dale Haynes, USMC (Ret) died on 1 October and is homeward bound. Gunny Haynes, whom many of you will remember, was a Section Leader in 362 in the class of 1967. He retired from active service in 1973. The circumstances of his passing are unknown.

Isn't it a bit unnerving that doctors call what they do "practice"?

HMH-362

In a ceremony at Kaneohe Bay on 5 February, LtCol Douglas J. Wadsworth took the flag from LtCol Carl Fosnaugh III and assumed command of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362.

Ben Cascio, who has been our indefatigable liaison with 362, received the following from LtCol Wadsworth:

It is truly an honor to have taken command of the Ugly Angels. Even though I flew as a member of the squadron in Desert Storm and spent three years as the XO here in Kaneohe Bay, I feel like a junior member of HMH-362. I recognize it is those of you who built the squadron's foundation that makes 362 the strong unit it is today.

Last week we launched C-5s with helicopters on board that are forming the CH-53D unit deployment program in Iwakuni, Japan. By the time we finish our six-month deployment, the Ugly Angels will have flown those helicopters from Japan to the Philippines to Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei. We may even make it to Australia if we can find enough fuel stops!

I look forward to keeping all Ugly Angels, current and former, up to speed on our goings-on as we begin this new chapter in HMH-362 history.

LtCol Doug Wadsworth, CO HMH-362 MCBH Kaneohe Bay, HI

In Sick Bay

Overlooked in the rush to get the winter newsletter out was the sad news that Roger Cook had a heart attack in December. Further complicating matters, a virus had damaged his heart to the extent that he has to have a transplant. Roger is in good spirits and says, "well you know I never could do things half-way!" Get well calls or cards would be appreciated. You'll find Roger at: 7729 Rocking Horse, Fair Oaks Ranch, TX 78015-4712 or Tel (210) 698-2802.

If the police arrest a mime, do they tell him he has the right to remain silent?

Truth is Stranger...

In what must have been a journey beset with more exotic perils than the Odyssey, I have recently learned that 2d Lts Ken Logue and Tim Wilson, those two stalwarts of the West Coast Det, took their act on the road in late February. K.D. writes (with a little editing, and an occasional aside, on my part to render it suitable for a family publication):

We drove to MCAS Miramar to attend the 28 February retirement ceremony honoring CWO-5 Duane Lewis, an old friend of mine who retired on thirty. The retirement ceremony was terrific and we stayed at Miramar for three days.

Tim and I then stopped by MCRD San Diego where I was a Drill Instructor (that explains it) from 1972-1975 then drove up to Camp Pendleton, mostly to buy USMC trinkets at the PX. While there we called on the CO of MAG-16, Col. Marty Peatross, with whom I had served at New River when he was a Capt. A lengthy talk with him and his Sergeant Major confirmed that the Corps is still in good hands.

We then sojourned to Santa Ana, staying there for three days (he doesn't say what for). Our next stop was MCB Twenty-nine Palms where we visited a retired Sergeant Major friend who owns a bar (imagine that) called Kickers. Needless to say we enjoyed some good Marine Corps talk laced with a little liquid refreshment (a little?).

Hearing the distant sirens calling, we were lured to Las Vegas where we camped out at Ballys for three days. Praise be, I was finally rescued (with claw marks in the carpet all the way to the front door) by my lovely bride, Raeanne, and returned safely home. Though consumed by guilt for abandoning him, I had no choice but to leave poor Tim alone with all those show girls (now there's a scary thought).

One tequila, two tequila, three tequila, floor

New Publisher

As some of you may be old enough to remember, I have been writing this newsletter since its birth in January 1996. Twenty-nine editions have seen print during the past six years, every one the labor of love. Unfortunately, last summer we found out that Joanne had contracted a rare form of cancer called Carcinoid Syndrome. While not immediately life threatening like a carcinoma, her illness is progressive and requires close monitoring. As a consequence, I have decided to devote all my time to taking care of Joanne and am stepping down as publisher as soon as this issue hits the street. She is my first love, in that regard edging out you gentlemen with whom so much has been shared. Semper Fi!

Does this mean the newsletter will cease publication? Of course not! Waiting in the wings to take over as editor-publisher is Bob Skinder. Those of you who have read the History Newsletter know that he is a skilled interviewer, meticulous historian, and gifted reporter. I am confident that under Bob's guidance the quality of the newsletter can only get better.

You can help it to improve by continuing to feed news items to Bob the same as you did for me. You can reach Bob at 20 Claytor Rd., Hopkins, SC 29061 Tel. (803) 783-3091 or e-mail <rskinder@att.net>

Anything that affects us as a squadron or you as an individuals, including your family situation, is grist for the Ugly Angel mill. Trivia is welcome and humorous items especially wanted. As before, information about the USMC/Vietnam Helicopter Association, the Marine Corps, and other items of interest to our readers will continue to be published.

Don't miss getting the word! Keep Bob informed of your e-mail & snail mail address changes.

Squadron Office

In conjunction with stepping down as publisher, I will no longer be the primary source of information on squadron activities or the post office. As some of you will have noticed, Ben Cascio has been doing an outstanding job of keeping everyone informed via e-mail. Since there is no longer a need for me to maintain the squadron office, I'm going on leave, permanently.

Don't sweat the petty things and don't pet the sweaty things

The Wisdom of George Carlin

The official newsletter of the Ugly Angel Memorial Foundation
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