

The Ugly Angel's

Reunion Newsletter

Vol II, Issue 1 Summer 1997

Show and Tell

Once again it's time put down my fly rod, hang up my fishing vest, and figure out what to stuff into this edition of the newsletter. You'll notice that the winter was long enough, and the spring wet enough, to allow me time to play around with the Ugly Angel logo and newsletter layout. I hope you like it.

Christmas brought a deluge of mail filled with warm greetings and kind thoughts from sixteen Angels. Sincere thanks to: Jim Aldworth, John Burns, J. D. Barber, Lew Barnes, Dick Carley, Ed Chenkus, Bill Duffy, Jim Gordon, Roger Herman (Reunion El Jefe), Ralph Jones, "Frenchy" LaFountaine, Lin Laviano, Tom (yes, he's still bad) McKnight, Willie Sproule, Denny Van Liew, and Carl Wheeler. It was particularly warming to hear from John Burns and Tom McKnight whom (or is it who?) we had lost track of.

As you will notice, this issue is pretty slim pickings as far as news is concerned. The only way that is going to change is if you guys start writing, calling, or e-mailing me some material. Tell me what you are doing with you life. Send me a war or sea story - true or not. Ask about that buddy you lost track of when yourotated back to CONUS. Send me a lifetime supply of humor like Fast Eddy did. I'm getting desperate. Tell me to shit in my hat. Tell me anything and I'll print it.

Homeward Bound Angels

It is a pleasure to report that word of mouth and/or the Reunion web page has reincarnated the following twelve former Angels from yesteryear:

Gary Doss, Midwest City, OK
Merle Hill, Vail, AZ
Phil Jackson, Wilson, NC
Al Kerst, Jonesboro, AR
Terry Mann, Newman, GA
Roger Mazikowski, Buffalo, NY

Tom Gillan, Atco, NJ
Steve Hucal, Metamora, IL
Bobby Johns, San Antonio, TX
Chuck Linn, Pittsburg, CA
Romy Myszka, Atlanta, GA
Bill Wiedower, Coronado, CA

Welcome to another tour (you'll like this one, no AK-47s or 12.7s) with the Ugly Angels, guys. The drill on the newsletters is one every six months until six months prior to the next reunion (Sep 1998 in Pensacola), then once a month until the reunion after action report is published. FYI the newsletter mailing list up to **125** guys who either attended the Las Vegas bash or have expressed an interest in attending a reunion. These faint smoke signals suggest that I may not be alone at the saloon in Pensacola. Recommendation: If youhaven't joined the USMC/Vietnam Helicopter Pilots & Aircrew Reunion yet, please do. The address: 11151 Alejo Place, San Diego, CA 92124-1521. For \$30/year you get a great newsletter filled with lots of interesting stuff.

Black Jack Durrant's 1965 Ky Ha Diary (continued)

(discovered ? by "Fast Eddy" Creamer in the Library of

Congress)

14 Sep: Seems the Wing's cousin, "Grunt", decided to position tanks around the perimeter every night. Brilliant! Now "Charlie" has an aiming stake. There goes the neighborhood.

01 Oct: Rained the last five days. Watched the peter-primed helo pad turn to mush. What college did that "engineer" graduate from? Do you think they ever wrote a song about "Moon over Tam Ky"?

10 Oct: Flew resupply all day. Try to find Quang Nai when it's submerged. Stars and Stripes says we are _____ in the monsoon season. No shit G.I. Stan Domino tells me that H-34's are supposed to leak when you _____ land in the paddy rather than next to it.

29 Oct: Drew night Medevac again!!! Third time this week. The 3 must be trying to rearrange the lineal _____ list. What the hell is he worried about Lieutenants for? Got to get that boy to cut me some slack.

From <http://www.popasmoke.com> - the new "Reunion" Web Page

Check out the Reunion's web page at the above URL. It's colorful. It's interesting. It's about us. Drop in at the site, then e-mail the Reunion at popasmoke@worldnet.att.net and say hello.

From the Wall

Romy Myszka has sent me the names of several Angels he remembers being lost in Vietnam in a tragic mid-air collision on 4 Feb 1969 after refueling at either Phu Bai or Marble Mountain. They are:

Cpl. Joe Harold Brubaker

1st Lt. Andrew Martin Haglage

1st Lt. Lawrence Emanuel Houck II

LCpl. Gregory Jerome Niccoli

LCpl. Otis Green

LCpl. John Dee Harrington

1st Lt. Roger Douglas Knudtson

1st Lt. James Dean Opsahl.

Their names are confirmed as on the wall. He also mentions a Cpl. Boyd who is listed on the memorial page of the 68 cruise book, but does not know the circumstances surrounding his loss. In the same vein, John Burns writes that Chuck Bowers was killed in a mid-air south of Danang. His source was "Mac" McCarthy and the information agrees with Bart Jealous' recollection. If anyone has any amplifying information on the latter, please send it to me. Hopefully our list of lost Angels won't grow too much longer.

Guys in the Know

Romy Myszka informs me that an exceptional source of information about Marines whose names are on the wall is a gent named Tom Holloway, e-mail: thollow@grace.colloff.emory.edu He does this through a searchable (by name) database of the wall (which you can access by doing a net search using "Vietnam Veterans Memorial") supplemented by a program of his own. If you e-mail him be patient and considerate as he does this in his spare time.

A former Angel with beaucoup contacts among Angels from Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee is Terry W. Mann, e-mail: twmann@bellsouth.net . He and Romy are investigating putting the Ugly Angels recruiting film (the same one former CO Dick Cline showed in Las Vegas) on a CD, provided it's cost effective, and offering it for the PNS reunion. More in the winter 97 edition of the newsletter.

Negative Reports Required

A number of former Angels have written or called requesting I send them the home address of other Angels. While I will be happy to comply, I would like your permission to release the information. Accordingly, If you **don't** (I say again, **don't**) want anyone to have your home address, please call or send me a post card. For the rest, you have my word that your address (no phone numbers) will be released only to former Angels who request it. The complete database will not be released to anyone.

Old Dog, New Tricks

Your publisher is finally up and running (more like a drunken stumble really) on the internet. First, my original, unused 14.4 modem went tits up and I couldn't connect (not the first time you say?). Just this week

I installed a new 28.8 Modem. Then I had trouble with my ISP who somehow gave me with two accounts which then refused to let me log on. Then my e-mail address got screwed up. Hopefully, all has been fixed. You will find me at: thewes@snet.net . And I thought getting Danang on the field phone was a headache.

Warning Order

For those of you whose age and/or failing memory equals my own, remember the next "Reunion" will be in Pensacola Beach on **17-20 September 1998**. Start planning and saving **NOW** and you won't have to wimp out with the sorry excuse you didn't know, forgot to tell your boss (or ask your wife or girlfriend), lost your road atlas, etc. etc. etc. While I doubt we can equal our 68 man Las Vegas turnout, Pensacola Beach is a great site. Plenty of beach, sun, and relaxation – just the kind of vacation wives and families love, and it ain't that expensive. Plan to be there. Willie and I hate to drink alone, but will if we have to.

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