

# The Ugly Angel Memorial Foundation Newsletter

7-4, July 2002



---

## **President's Message from Rusty Sachs**

We owe a hearty ATTABOY to Gunny Skinder (we still think of him as a tin-bender corporal, but he actually made E-7 before retiring from the reserves) and Permanent Second Lieutenant, (USMCR) Barnes for the success they've had in assembling and organizing R2002. At last count, we have 120 folks penciled in to attend the reunion and Friday night banquet, compared to 86 at this time last reunion.

No doubt more will be signing on as the day draws closer. (Only about 79 days left as of 7-14-02.)

Our own YL 42, lovingly restored and on eternal display at the National Museum of Naval Aviation, will stand tall during the reunion, adjacent to the last H-46 to leave Vietnam. First and last, proudly alongside each other in the Florida sunshine.

We'll see you there!

## **Pop A Smoke-Signal from JD Barber**

Well, here we are under ~~100~~ 80 days!!! Definitely eligible to wear our shortimer ribbons! Before we know it we will be hitting the beach for Reunion 2002! Here are a couple of important reminders:

### **REGISTRATION FORMS:**

The registration cut off date is August 1st please get your registration forms in by that date.

The cooks at the MMAF (East) mess have informed us that they need a final head count for all the meals by no later than September 1st. Anyone not registered and signed up for the meals prior to September 1st may miss out. (Ham & Mothers are not an option)

For anyone who does not have a room yet, keep contacting the hotels for cancellations. Rooms always open up right before the reunions.

T-Shirts, Mugs, and other freebie items have been ordered; entertainment is lined up and everything else is falling into place!

Scuttlebutt has it that the CH-46 that flew the Ambassador out of Saigon will do an RON at LZ Pensacola Beach.

If there are any questions, feel free to contact us at 781-337-3239 or send an email to [email]popasmoke@earthlink.net[/email]

Any Volunteers take one step forward! We're always looking for "A FEW GOOD MEN"

### **Editorial**

When I wrote my first editorial about the corporal who figured it would be pretty easy to run things, the point I was trying to make was that things are not usually quite as easy as they appear – or you really are missing something important. I knew back then that the hardest thing to do would be to sound competent month after month. As a result, this editorial will be mercifully brief, like Rusty's.

Two of the most interesting reports I have heard have to do with helicopters wearing the YL markings. First the possibility of YL 37 making it to Pensacola from Oklahoma increases every day. At the moment it appears that it will probably be a static display near the beach and whether it will launch or not. I don't know. Rusty has alluded to the other one which is the YL 42 that a bunch of us scrubbed and painted just before the '98 reunion. Word from Buck Massie is that our bird and the H-46 that carried the ambassador out of Saigon on the last flight may be parked together at the National Museum of Naval Aviation which actually gives the theme to Reunion 2002; "First in and Last Out." Pretty neat, huh?

Also, of the utmost importance related to the above sentence is the intent this year of our honoring those first Angels, the Archie's Angels so we encourage as many of you as possible to plan on being there.

One last thought, when making my airplane reservations I did notice that some flights into and out of Atlanta are starting to fill up. If you are flying, don't wait too long.

### **Wisdom from Above**

I was telling one of my favorite Colonels that I was only kidding about knowing that any corporal could run a squadron. His reply was "ever since I was wet behind the ears I knew that the NCO's and Staff NCOs owned and operated the Corps. They just let us officers borrow it now and then." It's probably one of those old saws but if old saws can't make you chuckle, what good are they?

### **Miss Kitty**

Colonel Jim Aldworth reported shortly after the last newsletter that Miss Kitty was making some real progress and had just been cleared for flight. Good for her, right?

### **Head count**

Below you will notice that the informal roster has grown. Three lists are now merged into one. One was our informal count where you either e-mailed me of your plans or I had heard you were coming from someone. This was then merged with the one showing who is registered with Pop A Smoke and the one that shows who has paid for the BIG FRIDAY NIGHT dinner at the New World Landing. If you haven't signed up with Pop A Smoke yet. Please do so immediately. From JD's message above you can see that they have to have the count in to the caterers and they can't do it until you send them the

money. When you send your money to Lew Barnes for the Friday night dinner, be sure and tell him if you are having the fish, chicken or beef. Thanx!!

Reunion 2002 Registration as of 7-14-02

Members Name	No Reg	Friday	Members Name	No Reg	Friday
Altano, Leonidas J.	2	D	Bartlett, Rick	2	
Blowers, Douglas	2		Cain, Alan & Susan	2	D
Camp, Gene & Marcia			Cascio, Ben & Arlene		
Case, Bob & Virginia			Clark, Gerald L.	2	
Cook, Roger		D	Cormier, Calvin & Wanda	2	
Cramer Family (5 or 6)			Derylak, Norm & 2 guests	2	D
Dukes, Sherard			Feeney, Robert J.	2	
Ferguson, Don & Dianne		D	Fix, Ron		
Gall, Ron & Anna	2	D	Gligor, Peter	2	
Gonneville, Jean & Suzanne	2		Gould, Walter D.	1	
Gray, Curt			Hall, Oramel & Sharon		
Hammack, Thomas R.	2		Hansen, Bruce & Elaine	2	D
Hewes, Tom & Joanne	2		Hippert, Jim And Deb	2	D
Houghton Jr, Richard L.	1	D	Houglum, Daniel G.	1	D
Howarth, Bill	1		Ice, Ron		
Jogodka, Ron	2	D	Johns, Bobby & Linda /3 pax		
Kane, Tom			King, Pete		
Kottkamp, Jerry Turmi	2	D	Lockwood, Don & Brenda		
Logue, K.D. & Raeanne	2		Dave Luhrsen		
Matucheski, Frank & Holly	2	D	Mcnair, Billy J.	2	
Mcraney, Curtis D.	2		Romy Myszka		
Sid Orr			Owens, Terry D.	1	
Paetznick, Jim & Betsy			Palmer, Ernest B.	1	D
Perryman, Jim	2		Phillips, Lyman	1	
Rothweiler, Hugh D.	2		Ryan, Curt	2	
Sachs, Rusty, Marlene, Guest 3		D	Scanlan, Gerard P.	2	
Dave And Mrs. Shoopman			Skinder, Bob And Madilyn	2	D
Smith, Walter W.	1	D	Southworth, Edward G.	2	
Spiars, Early	2		Stefan, Louis B.	1	
Street, James H.	2		Turner, Larry And Judy		
Walradth, Wally And Becky			Waters, William L.	2	
Wilson, Timothy C.	1		Wood, Charles H.	1	
Filmore And Debby York			Zacker, Michael G.	2	

**Officially Not Attending:** Charlie Tuno and John Burns

Note, just because I understand it doesn't mean anyone else should. Your name alone indicates that I heard from you or a buddy that you were coming and that's all we know. If there is a number in a column that means you are pretty serious and have paid Pop A Smoke already for that number of registrants. If you have the letter D in the third

column, that means you are going to eat at least on Friday night. If you have a name, a number and the D, you have finally got it together and may or may not be advanced one grade, sooner or later. If your name is not here at all, PLEASE sign up immediately. We need you.

Lastly, if you are bringing a wife, a kid, a date or a friend and want we to amend the record with their name, just let me know.

### **Military Attire Story 1**

Apologies to those who I have already told this story. I live in South Carolina, about 3 miles from the back gate of Fort Jackson. One day a year or so ago I was at the PX getting my annual supply of green towels, which as we all know, take a lot of dirt before requiring an oil change.

I was looking particularly studly with my own Ugly Angel baseball cap on. The young lady cashier noticed it and said, "Ain't that the cutest thing. You belong to some kinda secret men's club or something?" Only mildly flabbergasted, I replied, "No miss, this here just happens to be the finest Marine helicopter squadron that ever flew in combat." "Oh", says she, "which war was that, World War Two?"

### **The History Newsletter**

#### **Rich Houghton and YL-31**

For the life of me, I can't remember if I ever flew with Rich Houghton but I do remember him real well, perhaps because we were both from Massachusetts and fun guys. The real reason might be that Rich is the only guy who I ever knew who was put up for the Navy Cross or at least told that he would be. If you don't know Rich, he's the guy with the very long beard and the old Sikorsky hat at the reunions and the Memorial Dedication at Quantico, perhaps not the typical retired Master Gunny, but who is? I have a letter from him, that is way over due for printing. In it he describes what happened. It now follows and with it my apologies for taking so long to print it.

"On the evening of 24 September, 1966, YL-31 (150557) launched as the #4 with three 361 birds on an emergency Recon extraction. The mission turned into a gaggle when we reached the pick up zone. Capt. Moser was the HAC and Capt. Fix the co-pilot, plus L/Cpl Schaney was my gunner. We ended up alone as "Tail End Charlie" in the zone to pick up the last three troops. When the last two broke for 31, geysers began to erupt in the rice paddy and the last man fell down. While Schaney (and the first Grunt) sprayed the tree line, I jumped out and assisted getting Corporal Miles, the radio man, to 31. For that bit of insanity, I was written up for a Bronze Star, however, upon review it was reduced to a Navy Commendation with "V". Captain Moser was so angry with 361s performance that he refused to fly in their formation back to base, and we kept our distance flying home alone, so to speak. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant StClair was the Recon team leader and the second person to get to 31 that evening. To say that he was happy to get out of there would be the understatement of a lifetime."

I think Rich was being a little modest. As an historian-in-training, I remember interviewing Captain Moser in an exclusive night club in Olangapo with him telling me

that before he could tell Rich to go assist them he was already there pulling the radio man out of the mud hole and using his .38 to great effect against a lot more firepower. He also told me that he asked the Recon Lieutenant if he would endorse his request for Rich's Bronze Star and was told, no, that they were putting him in for the Navy Cross. I also heard that Tommy Schaney was put in for the Bronze Star but didn't get anything.

Rich also stuck in my memory for his use of the phrase or song title, "The Sound of Silence" in a conversation describing a sudden loss of power, altitude and airspeed in the previous YL-31 (148085). Lt. Steve Eck was getting his NATOP check on the flight and Sgt Wood was the crew chief. Who the HAC was escaped Dick as he wrote. They transferred guns, gear and people to the XO's bird and got out of Dodge before the VC and the A-4s had their party. The bird was recovered but only for parts

A final note. Rich is still looking for any information he can find on his 150557. If you know anything, please contact him. Let the phone ring. He was nine feet down digging a well when I talked to him

### **History Project / Project Vietnam**

There is a behind the scenes movement to create a web-based memorial to everyone who died while in a Marine helicopter or serving in a Marine helo squadron. As I mentioned in the History Newsletter, the intent is to celebrate and recognize and celebrate our Angels lives as they lived them. The initial need is to get photos for the guys who are not in the 66-67 and 68 yearbooks. That would include the first crew that disappeared Richard Miller and Francis Visconti, Victor Pirker and Tom Douglas as well as Ken Mc Beth who was killed in June of 66. I am also fairly sure that we do not have photos of Otis Green and John Harrington who were killed in a mid-air or Corporal Thomas Boyd who drowned when his bird suffered an engine failure as it lifted off the Repose. If anyone has a picture of Ron Janusek, that would be good. He is on our Memorial although he was actually killed after having transferred to Scarface. Donald Pessimier was also killed in a crash with Kenny Yantis and I suspect that he was not an official squadron member but was an 0311 who had asked to fly as part of a re-enlistment incentive.

If you can help me with these I will be most appreciative.

### **Another History Project (maybe)**

Mike Zacker must have served back-to-back tours with the Ugliers and then came back with me from MARTD, NAS Alameda to Scarface a few years later. He eventually retired as a Sergeant Major and then became affiliated with the Marine Corps Museum in San Diego upon his retirement. Although Mike is no longer officially attached to that Museum we have learned that they are planning a Vietnam component. Mike will be attending the meetings and keeping us posted but if any of you West Coast guys can give him a hand, please drop him a line or give him a call. There would be nothing wrong with just a little more information about HMM-362 leaking out to the public.

## **Military Attire Story # 2 (if you can bear another one)**

The many stories about me being a covert op are grossly exaggerated although Clover, Glory and I just did get nailed in the woods by some VC squirrels. You wouldn't believe the stuff they were dropping on us. Anyway, in real life I am a rather quiet, reserved librarian at the University of Lou Holtz. A couple of weeks ago, one of my colleagues asked me about my aircrew belt buckle. She said, "Hey, Bob, is that big belt buckle for being a truck driver or for being in the rodeo?"

"No", I sez, "I got it for being a gunner in a helicopter squadron in Vietnam." "Oh," she sez, "I guess I was right then." A few days later it dawned on me that maybe she was pretty close.

And that's all the clothes stories I know.

## **Last Word from Pop A Smoke (7-14-02)**

We have been informed that due to some cancellations, rooms are opening up on the beach. If you haven't reserved a room yet or would like to get closer to the action, give them a call.

HOTEL	RATES	PHONE#
Beachside	\$99-129	(800) 232-2416
Best Western	\$99-119	(800) 934-3301
Hampton Inn	\$99-129	(800) 320?8108
Clarion Suites	\$99-129	(800) 874?5303
Comfort Inn	\$79-89	(800) 934?5470
Holiday Inn	\$72-100	(850) 932?5361
Dunes	\$83-133	(800) 83 DUNES
Marriott	\$99-129	(850) 932-9314 Ext. 22 (ask for Stacey Kane)

**Don't forget to mail in your registration forms!!!**

So I guess that's about it for this month. Don't forget to register for both the Reunion and Friday night's dinner with Lew Barnes. \$27.00 each

Checks to be made payable to "Lew Barnes - UA Dinner" and forwarded to

Lew Barnes  
20298 NW Keller Rd  
North Plains, Or. 97133-6133

If any of you happen to be on or near the Continental Divide up in Montana the last 10 days of July and see an Ugly cap, be sure to wave.

Talk to you in about a month!!

Bob Skinder  
20 Claytor Rd.  
Hopkins, SC 29061  
[rskinder@att.net](mailto:rskinder@att.net)  
803-783-3019