



NUMBER 37

THE LRRP/RANGERS OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION DURING THE VIETNAM WAR



SEPTEMBER 2002

THIS NEWSLETTER IS DISTRIBUTED ON FEBRUARY 1, MARCH 1 (REUNION INFORMATION ISSUE) AND SEPTEMBER 1 OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR. IT IS FOR THE MEN WHO SERVED IN THE LONG RANGE PATROL UNITS OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION DURING THE VIET NAM WAR. THESE UNITS ARE: LRRP DET., 191ST MI; HHC (G-2) LRRP; CC: E (LRP), 52ND INF.; CC: H, (RANGER) 75TH INF.; AND DET. 10, (RANGER) HHC, 3RD BGE.

THE NEWSLETTER IS MAILED TO ALL OF THESE MEN FOR WHICH AN ADDRESS IS AVAILABLE. FUNDING FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS BY THE LRRP/RANGER ASSOCIATION OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.

ANYONE WISHING TO INCLUDE AN ARTICLE IN A NEWSLETTER SHOULD SUBMIT THE MATERIAL TWO WEEKS BEFORE DISTRIBUTION DATE TO:

BILL CARPENTER
713 DIAMOND STREET
FAIRMONT, WV 26554
304-366-0022 (EVENINGS)
vetvet@iolinc.net

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Sam Dixon

Greetings One and All!

I hope everyone has had a good summer break. Here it is August already and I have not gotten to half of what I wanted to do. I usually over plan anyway.

This year's reunion was absolutely great and the one person that truly pulled it all together was Bob Carr. Bob, his wife Rickii, and Doug Parkinson all worked together to put on a BBQ. It was a great blend of Chapter members, family, friends, neighbors, and fellow Vets. I want to thank Bob for not only the BBQ, but for all the legwork in getting things lined up months to weeks prior to the reunion. Bob, THANKS.

We had a nice turnout of members this year. There were 31 LRRP/Rangers plus family and friends. Those in attendance were: Gair Anderson, Robert and Cathy Ankony, Mike and Bev Brennan, Bill and Pam Carpenter with daughter and two grandchildren, Robert and Rickii Carr, Terry Combs, Larry and Jeanie Curtis with daughter, son-in-law, grandson, son and his girlfriend, Forrest Decker and Mary Ann McCulloch, Sam and Cathy Dixon, Peter Eisentrager, Bennie and Sandy Gentry, Doc Gilchrest, Bob Gill, Ron Holte and grandson, Randy Kimes, Dave Klimek and Jan Morrow, John LeBrun and Barb, Craig and Barbara Leerburg, Dave Matthews, Doug Matze, Jim and Sue McIntyre, Wayne and Linda Okken with daughter and son, Doug Parkinson, Keith and Frankie Phillips, David and Peggy Russell, Spanky Seymour and Katie Knight, Howard Shute, Donny and Beverley Svoboda with daughter, Rod Tague, Jerry Wood, Rich and Mary Kay Zilka with two sons.

This year's first time reunion guys were Gair Anderson, Bill Carpenter, Peter Eisentrager, Ron Holte, Wayne Okken, Rod Tague, and Jerry Wood. On behalf of those of us who are regulars and semi-regulars, we whole-heartedly welcome these first timers into the group. I sure hope to see you guys in Killeen. Several of our new guys split their time between us and another unit they also served with. I did not get to spend much time with each one, but I do know they had a good time at their first reunion. Those of us who are regulars at reunions take full advantage of renewed friendships and catching up on family doings. Friendships formed at reunions tend to stay close and are very fulfilling. There was a small group of us who were not leaving till Monday and we had one last get together on Sunday night in the hotel bar/restaurant. I really enjoyed that time

spent because for me the business part of the reunion was over and it was just good friends having good conversation.

Now I need to report on the business end of the reunion. This year's reunion was one of those years when election of officers is the most important thing we do. The officers for 2002-2004 are as follows: President, Sam Dixon; Vice President, Larry Curtis; Secretary, Dave Klimek; Treasurer, Howard Shute; Sergeant-at-Arms, Doc Gilchrest. On the Board of Trustees are Forrest Decker, Doug Parkinson, and Spanky Seymour. I would like to welcome back Howard Shute and thank him for agreeing to be Treasurer.

Doug Matze is our outgoing Treasurer/Merchandise Wizard. On behalf of myself and all those members who had an opportunity to purchase merchandise through Doug and Debbie Matze, "THANKS". From now on there will be a change in paying dues and purchasing merchandise. Dues and donations will be sent to Howard Shute. Merchandise purchases will be sent to John LeBrun. Addresses and phone numbers will follow.

This year was a grand year for members stepping up to volunteer. The first one who is taking a load off me is Bill Carpenter. Bill will be doing the chapter newsletter, which I have been doing for the past four years. The second most helpful action is the expanding and filling of committees. Our revised bylaws made provisions for expanding recognized standing committees. Anyone who would like to serve on a committee, please contact me so I can get you set up with your choice. In no set order is listed the standing committees and those members on them: Web Page Committee, Doug Matze, Doc Gilchrest, Doug Parkinson, and Bob Carr; Merchandise, John LeBrun and Debbie Matze; Locating of members, Keith Phillips; Reunion 2003, Doc Gilchrest; Nominations for 2004, Bob Gill and Mike Brennan; Newsletter, Bill Carpenter. I do have one appointed position and that is a Representative to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Bill Anton.

That one topic that many guys wanted to know about was the status of the Web site. I went to great lengths to present a timeline of how the Web site evolved. I also gave an explanation of the pitfalls, mistakes, and lessons learned. I have in my possession the whole web page program. When the Web page Committee completes their tasks and someone is able to be a Webmaster willing to follow strict guidelines, the Web site will go back up.

There will be a group of us at the Wall in Washington DC on Veterans Day. The 1st Cavalry Association has a hospitality suite in the Hilton Crystal City National Airport Hotel November 7 to 12. If you would like to meet up with us, let me know. This year I will be going down on Friday night and staying until Monday afternoon. I like to stay just outside the Beltway. However, if you would like to be closer to the Cavalry activities, they are arranging for rooms in the Hilton Crystal City National Airport Hotel. The dates are November 7 to 12. The rate is \$99 a night if you ask for the special 1st Cavalry Division Association guaranteed rate. The phone number is 703-418-6800 or Hilton reservations at 800-774-1500.

The bylaws were completed by the reunion. There was a lengthy debate by the Board and some minor changes were added. At Saturday's general business meeting, the whole package was presented to the membership. Some comments were discussed and the bylaws were approved. Anyone wishing a copy, please contact Dave Klimek, Secretary, at 717-541-0912 or me at 302-328-0892.

If anyone had a change in their email address within the last 6 months, please send the changes to me at samueldixon@msn.com so I can have the latest list when the Website goes back up. I also would like to get messages out fast by email.

I have one sad note to make on 6 August 2002 while riding his motorcycle Ron Hall became involved in a multi motorcycle accident. Ron, his girl friend and another man did not survive. There was not a funeral, only a get together at Sandy's on 18 August. No flowers was requested, one consideration was a donation to the Scholarship Foundation.

Next year's reunion will be June 11 to 15, 2003 in Killeen, Texas and the 1st Cavalry Division will be host.

Till next time – Sam Dixon

SECRETARY REPORT

By
Dave Klimek

Our 2002 reunion in Colorado Springs, CO was a great success. Thirty-one LRRP/Rangers attended. Following nearly a month of drought in Colorado and many forest fires, the highlight of our reunion was at Ranger Bob CARR's home barbeque when we all willed it to rain, and rain it did just like a monsoon in Vietnam. Oh sure, all of us got wet as we danced in the rain, but we will never forget the day we put the fire out.

It gives me great pleasure to say that our former Web Sarge, Bruce JUDKINS has sent us a disk with our entire web site free of charge. Ranger experts are working to get this site back up ASAP. A special thanks is extended to all at the reunion who volunteered to serve on one of our newly formed committee groups. A total of 246 membership cards have been issued to-date. I encourage everyone to stay in touch and keep involved in keeping our group together and serving to help.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

I hope sometime we get a super turnout of not only new guys who have never come and/or guys who have only come to one reunion and have never come back. I still go to group weekly at the Vet Center and I'm told more than half of all the Nam Vets (no matter their MOS) have passed away for any number of reasons. I now appreciate the fact that I am a survivor and must enjoy the time I have left. Oh sure, I still get angry about a lot of little things for no reason, but I also know that glory lasts forever and having been a ranger and seeing my Army friends again make me feel good and proud.

LRRP/RANGER FINANCIAL REPORT

By
Doug Matze

6/01/01 - 6/30/02

BEG. BALANCE	\$4176.52
INCOME REUNION 2001	1970.00
LESS: REUNION EXPENSES <674.53>	
NET FROM REUNION	\$1295.47
INCOME:	
MERCHANDISE	\$1669.95
DUES	855.00
DONATIONS	316.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$2840.95
EXPENSES:	
INVENTORY PURCHASES	\$2080.15
SHIPPING	168.15
NEWSLETTER	893.60
DONATIONS	200.00
SUPPLIES	33.40
BANK CHARGES	10.00
MERCHANDISE REFUNDS	61.40
TOTAL EXPENSES	<\$3446.70>
ENDING BALANCE	\$4866.24

**LRRP/RANGER
MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST**

T-Shirts: (Black or White)	
S, M, L, XL, XXL	\$12.00
Hats (Black or White)	10.00
Decals (Interior/Exterior)	2.00
Watches (Men's or Ladies')	35.00
Belt Buckles (Numbered)	20.00
Training Videos (Recondo)	10.00
Golf (Polo) Shirts: (Black or White)	
S, M, L, XL, XXL	24.00
Windshirt Pullover: Black Only	
S, M, L, XL, XXL	36.00
Windshirt (Convertible to Sleeveless) Black W/Khaki Trim	
S, M, L, XL, XXL	48.00
Cloth Scroll Patch (CO H-75 th INF)	4.00
Cloth Logo Patch	4.00
Annual Dues	15.00
Shipping Per Order	4.50

Please mail check or money order payable to LRRP/RANGER:

JOHN LeBRUN
8080 HARBORVIEW DRIVE
BLAINE, WA 98230

NOTE: Sweatshirts and lapel pins have been discontinued. Shipping has been increased to \$4.50.

EDITORIAL

By
Bill Carpenter

When I agreed to put together this newsletter a few months ago, I had one stipulation. That is that I will include anything that I receive that is relevant to 1st Cav LRRP/Ranger units, so long as it is not a personal attack on an individual or the association. Use constructive criticism. You may disagree with the message, not the messenger.

I hold no office in the chapter. I make no decisions about the chapter. I keep no lists. My only job is putting this thing together and getting it in the mail. The board members' names and addresses will be listed in each newsletter. If I receive something that is personal for them or the association, I will pass it on.

If you do not receive this newsletter, it means the association does not have your current address. Send address corrections to Larry CURTIS (see officers list on back page)

The newsletter is scheduled to be put out on February 1, March 1, and September 1, of each year. If you want to get anything into one of these, send it to me about two weeks in advance. It will be easier for me if the article is by e-mail, I can then just cut and paste. Postal mail and phone calls work too. All expletives will be deleted. I will try to keep the newsletter to one or two sheets of paper. If your contribution is too long, I may shorten it, but I will try to not change the context. If time allows, I will return a final draft to you for approval before insertion.

I realize that receiving this newsletter is not a major event in your life. That is the way it should be. But it is also a very good way to keep in contact with those who served with you.

RUNNING SLACK

by
Bill Carpenter

MILITARY RULE NUMBER ONE: NEVER VOLUNTEER When I volunteered for LRRP, I didn't know why I did it. But I knew that I could un-volunteer at any time. A couple of months ago I volunteered to put this newsletter together. I don't know why I volunteered; I do know that I can un-volunteer at any time.

I was saddened to hear of the death of Ron HALL ('67) on 6 Aug 02 as Sam commented on. At least he died doing what he enjoyed, riding a Harley, with a woman on the back. Doc GILCHREST had been by to see him a few weeks before the accident.

He was this outfit's first XO. Those of you who were in the unit before July '67 remember him for his humor and his jogs around Hong Kong Mtn. Those of you who attend reunions remember him for his cookouts at the Killeen reunions. My last memory of Lt. HALL was waking up in a hospital bed somewhere in VN, with Capt. JAMES, John SIMONES and him standing at the foot of the bed. We exchanged greeting and I went back to sleep.

Jim ROSS has set up a Ranger Walk Brick fund in memory of Ron. Anyone wishing to donate can send his check, made out to "Ron Hall Memorial" to:

Jim Ross
2636 Attleboro Pl.
Apopka, FL 32703

Any excess funds will be donated in Ron's name to an appropriate cause. The 1st Cav Scholarship Fund has been suggested.

Jim ROSS reports that at the time of this writing, he has received donations from: Jim JAMES, Ron CHRISTOPHER, Pat "O'B" O'BRIEN, John

SIMONES, Jim ROSS, Geoff KOPER, Art GUERRERO, Bill CARPENTER, Kregg JORGENSEN, Ted SCHERCK, Howard SHUTE, Bob OAKES, and civilian patriot Russ CARON.



Sgt. Kelly, Capt. James and Lt. Hall
Photo by Geoff Koper, Team 1 medic

Ron was a mustang officer. He was an E-6 before, as he put it, "getting religion, having a double lobotomy and being castrated to go to OCS to become an officer and a gentleman."

There are now 16 left of the 19 who were in the LRRP Det., 191st MI ("The Original 19"). KELLY, FLETCHER and HALL have gone as an advanced party to secure the LZ. Now if the rest can read a map well enough to find the right buffalo grass to land in

I attended my first military reunion this summer. Dave KLIMEK was the only person there I knew, other than through e-mail contact. It was nice to put faces to names. It was a very pleasant experience. If you haven't tried it, I recommend that you do. It was strange, feeling like you were

coming home, when everyone in the room was a stranger.

I liked Spanky SEYMOUR's comment about the rain at Bob CARR's cookout. He said, "This brings back memories." The nutrition was finished off the next day in the hospitality room. Bob, thank your wife and neighbors for a real first class get together. We all know that they did not plan the rain.

Randy KIME got his name in the Denver Post newspaper on the Monday after the reunion. It seems he arrived at Denver International Airport too early on Sunday. He was not allowed in. There just happened to be a reporter standing near for an interview.

Leo COREY has put up Bruce JUDKINS old web page. You can find it at www.tpub.com/rangers. The chapter's web page committee is working to put up the official one.

What happened to Lurp, The Wonder Dog at the end? He came to the unit as a 2-month-old pup in the spring of '67, and was there to the end. No promotion, no R & R, just a lot of rats to eat. I heard one story about someone sneaking him home to California at the end. Do any of you who were there when the colors were folded know what happened to him?

If any of you have any good Lurp (the dog) stories, I will put them in future newsletters.

The Texas Tech University Library has a rather extensive Vietnam Archives. The head of the archives is a VN mud water sailor. They actively seek all of the oral/living history they can get from people who were in country. Some of the questions are a little naive, "Do you feel basic training prepared you for combat?" But it gives you a chance to "tell your story". A lot of

university libraries across the country are doing this, you do not have to go to Texas, call the library at the university closest to you. It is something that I found to be a positive experience. Hay, 85% of the people today support the VN vets.

3 Aug 02: Dave KLIMEK, Howard SHUTE and I were invited to Jon and Margie VERASKO's in Tin Can Hollow PA for a cookout. Dave and Jon were high school classmates. I had not met Jon before. Enjoyable evening. I guess old habits die hard, but Jon keeps an LZ on the top of the hill above his house. He even mows the grass. Just for the nostalgia, he keeps a couple of oak trees strategically placed to challenge the chopper jocks. He said the DEA pilots do not have any trouble getting in and out though. Margie fixed a very good scalloped potato type of dish. I ask her for the recipe to put in here, but haven't received it yet.

Art GUERRERO is riding with some other wheel chair vets from Ground Zero, WTC, to the Pentagon. They plan to arrive at the Pentagon on 9-11. I hope you receive this before that date. GUERRERO was a member of the first LRRP team to pull the very first mission for this outfit in Jan 67. I know this is short notice, but if any of you in the area would want to be at the Pentagon on 9-11Art will be easy to find, just look for the wheel chair guy with the whitest gray hair and the biggest nose. Art, why aren't you getting bald like the rest of us?

Well, that about cleans me out. I will not have nearly as much to write next time unless you send me something.

STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER



THE LRRP/RANGERS

OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION

DURING THE VIETNAM WAR



LRRP/RANGERS OFFICERS

2002-2004

PRESIDENT

Sam Dixon
4 Warwick Lane
New Castle, DE 19720
302-328-089
samueldixon@msn.com

TREASURER

Howard Shute
242 Emerson St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412-363-1884
shute@aiu3.net

Forrest Decker
627 S. Hall St.
Princeton, IN 47670
812-386-6418

VICE PRESIDENT

Larry Curtis
1719 Mutz Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46229
2317-894-2947
lcurtis123@comcast.net

MERCHANDISE

John LeBrun
8080 Harborview Dr
Blaine, WA 98230
604-764-9634
caabnranger@yahoo.com

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Doug Parkinson
PO Box 131
Bayside, CA 95524
707-822-8421
dpa@humboldt1.com

75th RRA REPRESENTATIVE

Bill Anton
11918 Hall Shop Rd.
Clarksville, MD 21029
polar_bear_01@runbox.com

SECRETARY

Dave Klimek
4117-J Beechwood Lane
Harrisburg, PA 17112
717-541-0912
dklimek@state.pa.us

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Joe (Doc) Gilchrest
253 Jackson Ln.
China Spring, TX 76633
254-836-1382

Spanky Seymour
521 7th Ave. #104
Kirkland, WA 98033
425-317-8085
Spanky_JS@hotmail.com