

THE LRRP/RANGERS

OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION DURING THE VIETNAM WAR



NUMBER 41

JANUARY 2004

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; CO. E (LRP), 52ND INF.; CO. 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.

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BILL CARPENTER
713 DIAMOND STREET
FAIRMONT, WV 26554
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yetvet@iolinc.net

PRESIDENT"S REPORT by Sam Dixon

Hello all,

Happy New Year to everyone. May everyone have the opportunity to seek happiness and health. One of the most important events this year is that the 1st Cavalry Division is deploying to Iraq. The Cav will be replacing the 1st Armor Division. Let's all wish and pray for their safe return. I will be checking in with the Cavalry Division Association some time soon. I am not sure what kind of help and support we as a chapter may provide, but I am still making an offer. When I do get a request, I will put the request out by email first. If some of you guys don't have email and would like to be included, give me your phone number and I will make up a phone list. I will also use our newsletter for long term requests.

There is less than six months until the next 1st Cavalry Division Association reunion. This year the reunion is in Milwaukee, WI. It should be a good northern states city for a reunion. If you live in that part of the country, this will be your best opportunity for attending a reunion. I know that in the next few years, reunions will be in the deep south.

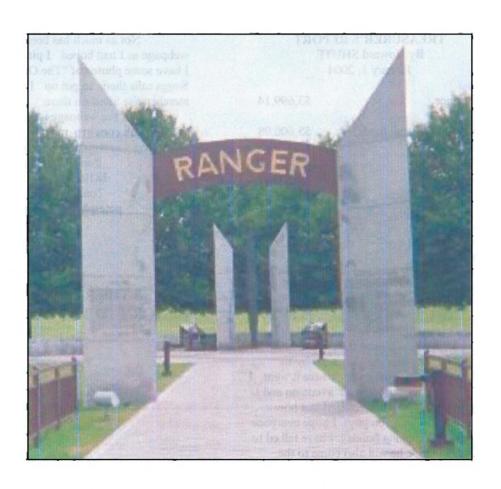
This is an election year for Chapter Officers. Election ballots will be included in the next newsletter that will be mailed out a few months before the reunion. Please take an interest in this process. It's your officers who keep the chapter running.

Now's the time to start planning on going to the reunion. If you are going for the first time and have not been getting the Cav Association's newsletter "The Saber", let me know. I will send you a packet of information with everything you may need. Last minute arrivals are welcome and efforts will be made to get you in on reserved activities. In years past, members or their family had to be excluded because of lack of slots. The Cav Association sets the limit on how many slots we get for activities based on early reservations. You must be a 1st Cavalry Division Association life member to attend. I can help you with that also. My phone number is 302-328-0892. My email is samuel.dixon@comcast.net. My address is 4 Warwick Lane, New Castle, DE 19720. I will be glad to help out.

My work as your Chapter President will be coming to a close as our reunion approaches. I still have some items on my agenda to complete. I also still have some issues to resolve that came up during our last general membership meeting.

It has been great working for all of you. Please keep up the support for your new elected officers.

Till next time. Sam



RUNNING SLACK

By Bill Carpenter

Well, for starters, my son is still in Iraq. Right now their DROS is 14 Feb., that will be day 365 in theatre. The best part is, his company had only two WIA's and no KIA's, although there were some non-combat serious injuries.

from Darrell "Smitty" Smith

How are things going with you? My 21-year-old son is an infantry soldier with the 1st Infantry Div. He's been on leave and is headed back to Germany and then on to Iraq in February. Arggh.

NOTE BILL ANTON'S NEW ADDRESS IN THE OFFICERS LISTING

HEALTH WATCH: Pete EISENTRAGER had a "mini-stroke" but apparently recovered well. JonVARESKO of Tin Can Holler had bypass surgery and recovered well. Jim BURTON, one of "the beginners", had two heart attacks in Feb and had quadruple bypass surgery. Cards to Jim would also be nice and can be sent to: Jim Burton, 59 Brown Rd, Phenix City, AL 36869.

from Ted (Yoshi) Yoshimura H/75th 1970-1971

I just received an email from a person inquiring about Ron Baker of H/75th. I was contacted because I live near his last known address but I could never locate him. The person has sent me link to eBay showing what is purported to be Ron Baker's military gear. Beret, H/75th unit patch and a few photos. If anyone can ID the photo let me know... here is the eBay hyperlink - http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem &item=2209127159&indexURL=1

Darrell Smith confirmed this to be Ron BAKER, but the items have been pulled from eBay without explanation.

Randy KIMES book

To request the book "One-Zulu" send email (pmarche@jps.net) WITH 'One-Zulu' in subject line [helps me decipher incoming from junk mail]. I'll send 'billing', and mail book upon receipt of payment.

Alternatively, send \$16.75 to me via 'snail-mail'. Include note showing PRINTED destination address:

Curtis R. Kimes 1355 Martin Drive Auburn, CA 95603

Note: I've already received a lot of 'feedback' from 196th L.I.B. readers (They were the ones put in to get the Team out.) They've even posted ordering info on their 'Guestbook/ Chat Page! Nice guys!!!

Hope your Christmas was a good one..., Randy

Ron CHRISTOPHER's new books

To order CHRISTOPHER's <u>Above all Else</u> (about our beginning in '66-'67) Please go to <u>www.publishamerica.com</u>. Once there hit, "This Weeks New Releases". Posted thereon will be both the latest books. You can order them from there.

Ron also noted "My third book, **Bumblebee Mountain** will be going to a script writer in hopes of making it a movie. At least that is what my publishing company said. Who knows, some of you guys just might find yourselves in a movie. Anyway, thanks much for your support. Best to all of you, and God Bless each and everyone."

Ron CHRISTOPHER

Al VOEKEL should be a grandfather by the time you read this. Al continues to work as land development superintendent on the Mirasol project in Palm Beach Gardens. It's a beautiful and very, very expensive development that is fairly close to being built out. He will be 56 in January and he figures he'll be completely done by the time he's 59-1/2 and can start drawing on his pension. In anticipation of that, I believe, he took a stained glass class this fall and is making beautiful stained glass pieces. He started in his class with a pattern and a small piece to hang in a window. Now he's taken a lead class so he can do both the Tiffany and the leaded pieces. Al is being encouraged to start making pieces and taking them to shows to sell.

Al, you gotta play catch up, Pat O'BRIEN has great-grandchildren.

The following people contributed to Doug FLETCHER's Ranger Walk brick: Jim JAMES, Ron CHRISTOPHER, Pat O'BRIEN, John SIMONES, Geoff KOPER, Art GUERERRO, Jim ROSS, Linda FLETCHER, John SUGGS, and Bill CARPENTER. There was some money left over to start a permanent brick fund for LRRP/Rangers as Howard explained in the last newsletter.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Brick Fund should send their money to Howard SHUTE, or whomever the treasurer is in the future, just memo it for "Brick Fund".

Did you happen to notice in the news last fall that on 19 Nov 03 a US warship docked in the Saigon harbor? First such US ship in Viet Nam waters since we left.

Disabled military retirees are the only federal employees who have their retirement pay reduced by the amount of their VA disability payment.

THERE HAS BEEN A BUNCH OF STUFF ON THE INTERNET ABOUT VET BENEFITS

From Wild Bill ELLIOTT:
The following website provides a Resources
Guide for Veterans on issues, benefits, etc.
http://members.aol.com/veterans/warlib69.htm

Congress is considering a proposal that would deny disability compensation and priority for health car to military people who became disabled if their disabilities are not directly related to performance of their official duties. Until now, if a disability occurred while on active duty, the veteran did not have to prove that the disability was job related, just that it occurred while on active duty.

The VA now has claims representatives visit wounded service members in the hospital, informing them of their benefits, such as disability compensation and vocational rehabilitation for which they are eligible. There are social workers in the military hospitals helping wounded military persons plan a future course of treatment for their injuries when they get back home in a VA hospital.

If an individual is discharged because of disabilities, we will link them and their medical records up with the VA medical center closest to their home.

The VA hospitals had 40 million outpatient visits in 2000, there were 50 million in 2003. There were 4.8 million veterans in the VA health care in 2000, 7.1 million in 2003.

Congress allocates a specific amount of money to the VA each year, if the money isn't there, it can't be spent.

AND THE VA IS CLOSING HOSPITALS The logic here escapes me.

STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER

Ranger Hall of Fame Nominations From Jim Wright

I could not determine how nominations are submitted from outside the MACOM process, if at all. I suspect there is a way. Nevertheless, I have been advised that if someone will provide some basic preliminary information like name, unit, Ranger service dates, location, circumstances/performance to justify the nomination I can get a reading as to whether a full nomination packet will be accepted as a TRADOC (MACOM) nominee.

Jim Wright 1st Cav LRRP (Bong Son) 1967

CRITERIA

ELIGIBILITY:

- a) at the time of nomination, the nominee must be deceased or separated/retired from active military duty for at least 3 years.
- b) he must have served in a ranger unit in combat or be a successful graduate of the U.S, Army Ranger School.
 - 1) a Ranger unit is defined as those units recognized in Ranger lineage or history.
 - 2) achievement or service may be measured in terms of a Ranger who leaves the armed forces and serves the nation from a government or displays the outstanding character and leadership in the private or business sector.
- c) membership in the RHOF may be conferred on individuals in the private sector. Honorary induction is in recognition of extraordinary contributions to Ranger units, the Ranger Memorial Foundation, or the Ranger community in general.

NOMINATION PACKETS MUST INCLUDE:

TAB A: a letter of nomination detailing the candidate's qualifications for induction.

TAB B: a Ranger career summary

TAB C: a biography, which is limited to two pages, describing the candidate's civilian background, service to the U.S. Armed Forces, and achievements.

TAB D: complete mailing address and phone number of nominee or closest relative, as applicable.

TAB E: a proposed citation, limited to 25 lines, for display in the RHOF.

TAB F: one 8" X 10" glossy photograph suitable for permanent display.

Mail complete nomination packet to:

Ranger Hall of Fame Executive Board Care of the RPAO 6400 1st Infantry Brigade Loop Ft. Benning, GA 31905-4625

Point of contact for nominations is:

SFC Aaron Bordeau Regimental Public Affairs NCO 706-545-5193 DSN 835-5193 bordeaua@soc.mil

Unfortunately, nominations for 2004 induction must be received by 9 Jan 04. But it is not too late to begin working on a nomination for next year.

Note: each Army MACOM and Ranger Association is allowed to submit nominations.

Thanks Jim for putting this together for us.

LRRP/RANGER STILL TAKING PRISONERS

The helicopter pitched in the wind. As he had done many times before, he hangs out of the chopper with both feet planted securely on the skid. The target darts through the brush trying to get to cover. The pilot expertly places the ship to the side of the target and tilts slightly to give a better shot. He points his weapon, fires and hits the target but does not kill it. The chopper hovers near the target, he jumps off the skid, securing and blindfolding the target. A rope from the chopper is attached to the target and everyone is extracted to a secure area. He is on the ground for only a few minutes



these bones use a tether line now

Bring back memories? Well, this is ex-LRRP/Ranger Bob TEAGLE today. Using a shoulder weapon that fires a net to capture wild animals for the California Fish and Game Department. The September-October 2003 issue of <u>Outdoor California</u> had a very nice article about one of our own, still enjoying himself shooting from the skids of a chopper. Hoping to take a live "prisoner", A big difference is, now the prey does not fire back, but it can be dangerous if a mountain lion is the object. By the way, a safety harness secures Bob to the chopper while in flight.

TEAGLE was the first California wildlife manager to capture a wild deer using a net gun back in 1985. He has constantly improved the technique and equipment and has used it on a half-dozen other wildlife species. The team's average capture is 12-15 animals a day. He stopped counting at 5,000 captures. They have captured elk, and bighorn sheep at over 11,700 feet elevation in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

It is interesting that the animal most dangerous to the human captors is the wild burro. Not only are all four feet dangerous, but when the burro bites, it doesn't let go.



"Inspection H' arms" TEAGLE's modern version of a chucker

Blood samples are taken, and other biological measurements are made. The captured animals then have radio transmitters attached to them before they are released. This allows monitoring of the movements of the animal. The data collected are invaluable in managing wildlife.

If you still have the urge to fire a weapon from a chopper, Bob has invited you along for the fun, the next time you are in California.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

From memory as dictated over the phone by Dave KLIMEK

There is nothing for the secretary to report since no one has sent me anything to submit, and nothing exciting has happened to me since the last newsletter. I am still embarrassed by WVU's lack of performance in the Gator Bowl. The "Cats to Afghanistan" project is still active, but is in need of logistical and personnel support to become a reality.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Howard SHUTE January 1, 2004

Past Balance	\$3,699.14	
Current Balance: (all funds)	\$5,600.98	
Brick Fund	\$ 160.00	
Expenses:		
Hats	\$ 259.74	
Shipping	\$ 40.74	
TOTAL	\$ 300.48	
Income:		
Donations	\$ 530.00	
Dues	\$ 315.00	
Merchandise	\$1356.80	
TOTAL	\$2201.80	

Please accept this report to the general membership. This last year has gone by so quickly that I do not remember where it went. I do know that I missed last year's reunion and I will not miss this year's. I realized just how important it is to see you guys. I hope everyone had a safe and relaxing holiday. I have talked to Bob Gill and hope he will also come to the reunion. Dave Klimek seems to be enjoying retired life. Jon Varesko and Marge are also doing well I just wish I could see more of them.

Remember this is an election year for officers, if interested please notify and current officer. Doug P (Parky) has already agreed to run for treasurer. Now is the time to get involved with the unit because we aren't getting any younger.

Respectfully Submitted Howard Shute

WEBPAGE REPORT

by Pete "Dutch" Eisentrager
Not as much has been done to the
webpage as I had hoped. I plan to get to it soon.
I have some photos of "The Original 18", as Doc
Suggs calls them, to put up. I also hope to get the
merchandise listed on there.

But the webpage is up and running at www.tomah.com/lrrp_ranger. If you have something you would like posted, contact me at:

Peter Eisentrager 1810 Kilbourn Ave. Tomah, WI 54660 petesphotos@charter.net

HOW IS THE REPORT OF OUR HISTORY TO THE 75RRA GOING?

MERCHANDISE UPDATE by John LeBrun

Greetings from the far and great
Pacific North West. Barb and I are spending our
winter at Big White Ski resort and getting a taste
for the real winter life. So far so good. Hope all
had a great Christmas and New Years. Lots of
stuff to be grateful for this year when you look at
the madness that seems to be everywhere. O 'well
we will survive.

I leave my little paradise at least once a month to take care of any orders that have come in. I will be going down in about a week, 7th January, and will ensure anything left over from last year will be mailed out that day.

We had to put a order in for more hats and with that a little increase in their price. The next item that we will have to replace are the golf/ polo shirts. Seems everyone likes them. I don't know the new cost for the items but I can pretty much be guaranteed that the new ones will cost just a little more than the old ones. Hopefully not that much

We sold the last of the large ranger pins and wouldn't you know it someone found a few and he dosn't want them. I should have them back in my possession in a few weeks, so if your still interested send me an e-mail or snail mail and I will get one off to you.

I have mailed all of our orders out using the Postal Service. It appears to be a little cheaper (shipping costs continue to go up) but have had little feed back about timely receipt of the items and the condition they were received in. If you have an opinion on this, ideas for new products, ideas for old products or just want to chat drop me an e-mail or letter.

Take care and see you all at the reunion this June.

LRRP/RANGER MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST

T-Shirts: (black and white)	
S M L XL XXL XXXL	\$12.00
Sweatshirts: black, S & M only	\$25.00
Hats: (black or white)	\$13.00
Decals: (Interior/Exterior)	\$2.00
Watches: (man's or lady's)	\$35.00
Belt Buckles: (numbered)	\$20.00
Training Video (Bear Cat)	\$10.00
Golf (Polo) Shirts: (black or	\$24.00
white) M L XL XXL	
Windshirt, Pullover: (black	\$36.00
only) L XL XXL	
Windshirt: (converts to	\$48.00
sleeveless)Black with khaki trim L	
XL XXL	
Cloth scroll patch: (Co H 75 th Inf.)	\$4.00
Cloth logo patch	\$4.00
Ranger lapel pin	\$4.00
Wooden nickle	\$0.50
Annual dues	\$15.00
Shipping per order	\$4.50
	1

Please mail check or money order payable to LRRP/RANGER to: John LeBrun 8080 Harborview Drive Blaine, WA 98230 The \$4.50 shipping charge covers only one or two shirts. Donations are gladly accepted. There is no shipping charge for pins or decals only.

Take care and see you all in at the reunion this summer.

Here are some things that have happened in Iraq that the major media has not bothered to report:

- The first battalion of the new Iraqi Army has graduated and is on active duty.
- 2. Over 60,000 Iraqis now provide security to their fellow citizens.
- 3. Nearly all of Iraq's 400 courts are functioning.
- 4. The Iraqi judiciary is fully independent.
- 5. On Monday, October 6 power generation hit 4,518 megawatts-exceeding the prewar average.
- Áll 22 universities and 43 technical institutes and colleges are open, as are nearly all primary and secondary schools.
- 7. By October 1, Coalition forces had rehabbed over 1,500 schools 500 more than their target.
- 8. Teachers earn from 12 to 25 times their former salaries.
- All 240 hospitals and more than 1200 clinics are open.
- 10. Doctors' salaries are at least eight times what they were under Saddam.
- Pharmaceutical distribution has gone from essentially nothing to 700 tons in May to a current total of 12,000 tons.
- 12. The Coalition has helped administer over 22 million vaccination doses to Iraq's children.
- 13. A Coalition program has cleared over 14,000 kilometers of Iraq's 27,000 kilometers of weed-choked canals. They now irrigate tens of thousands of farms. This project has created jobs for more than 100,000 Iraqi men and women.
- 14. Over three-quarters of prewar telephone services and over two-thirds of the potable water production has been restored.
- 15. There are 4,900 full-service connections. 50,000 are expected by January first.
- 16. The wheels of commerce are turning. From bicycles to satellite dishes to cars and trucks, businesses are coming to life in all major cities and towns
- 17. 95 percent of all pre-war bank customers have service and first-time customers are opening accounts daily.
- 18. Iraqi banks are making loans to finance businesses.
- 19. The central bank is now fully independent.
- 20. Iraq has one of the world's most growth oriented investment and banking laws.
- 21. Iraq (has) a single, unified currency for the first

- time in 15 years.
- 22. Satellite dishes are legal.
- 23. Foreign journalists aren't on 10-day visas paying mandatory and extortionate fees to the Ministry of Information for "minders" and other government spies.
- 24. There is no Ministry of Information.
- 25. There are more than 170 newspapers in Iraq
- 26. People can buy satellite dishes on what seems like every street corner.
- 26. Foreign journalists and everyone else are free to come and go.
- 27. A nation that had not one single element legislative, judicial or executive -- of a representative government, now does.
- 28. In Baghdad alone residents have selected 88 advisory councils. Baghdad's first democratic transfer of power in 35 years happened when the city council elected its new chairman.
- 29. Today in Iraq chambers of commerce, business, school and professional organizations are electing their leaders all over the country.
- 30. 25 ministers, selected by the most representative governing body in Iraq's history, run the day-to-day business of government.
- 31. The Iraqi government regularly participates in international events. Since July, the Iraqi government has been represented in over two dozen international meetings, including those of the UN General Assembly, the Arab League, the World Bank and IMF and today, the Islamic Conference Summit. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs today announced that it is re-opening over 30 Iraqi embassies around the world.
- 32. Shia religious festivals that were all but banned, now aren't.
- 33. For the first time in 35 years, in Karbala thousands of Shiites celebrate the pilgrimage of the 12th Imam.
- 34. The Coalition has completed over 13,000 reconstruction projects, large and small, as part of (a) strategic plan for the reconstruction of Iraq.
- 35. Uday and Qusay are dead -- and no longer are feeding innocent Iraqis to the zoo's lions, raping the young daughters of local leaders to force cooperation, torturing Iraq's soccer players for losing games, or murdering critics.
- 36. Children aren't imprisoned or murdered when their parents disagree with the government.
- 37. Political opponents aren't imprisoned, tortured, executed, maimed, or forced to watch their families die

for disagreeing with Saddam.

38. Millions of long-suffering Iraqis no longer live in perpetual terror.

THE AVERAGE MILITARY MAN

The average age of the military man is 19 years. He is a short haired, tight-muscled kid who, under normal circumstances is considered by society as half man, half boy. Not yet dry behind the ears, not old enough to buy a beer, but old enough to die for his country. He never really cared much for work and he would rather wax his own car than wash his father's; but he has never collected unemployment either.

He's a recent High School graduate; he was probably an average student, pursued some form of sport activities, drives a ten year old jalopy, and has a steady girlfriend that either broke up with him when he left, or swears to be waiting when he returns from half a world away. He listens to rock and roll or hip-hop or rap or jazz or swing and 155mm howizzitor. He is 10 or 15 pounds lighter now than when he was at home because he is working or fighting from before dawn to well after dusk.

He has trouble spelling, thus letter writing is a pain for him, but he can field strip a rifle in 30 seconds and reassemble it in less time in the dark. He can recite to you the nomenclature of a machine gun or grenade launcher and use either one effectively if he must. He digs foxholes and latrines and can apply first aid like a professional. He can march until he is told to stop or stop until he is told to march.

He obeys orders instantly and without hesitation, but he is not without spirit or individual dignity. He is self-sufficient. He has two sets of fatigues: he washes one and wears the other. He keeps his canteens full and his feet dry. He sometimes forgets to brush his teeth, but never to clean his rifle. He can cook his own meals, mend his own clothes, and fix his own hurts. If you're thirsty, he'll share his water with you; if you are hungry, his food. He'll even split his ammunition with you in the midst of battle when you run low.

He has learned to use his hands like weapons

and weapons like they were his hands. He can save your life - or take it, because that is his job. He will often do twice the work of a civilian, draw half the pay and still find ironic humor in it all. He has seen more suffering and death then he should have in his short lifetime.

He has stood atop mountains of dead bodies, and helped to create them. He has wept in public and in private, for friends who have fallen in combat and is unashamed. He feels every note of the National Anthem vibrate through his body while at rigid attention, while tempering the burning desire to 'square-away' those around him who haven't bothered to stand, remove their hat, or even stop talking. In an odd twist, day in and day out, far from home, he defends their right to be disrespectful.

Just as did his Father, Grandfather, and Greatgrandfather, he is paying the price for our freedom. Beardless or not, he is not a boy. He is the American Fighting Man that has kept this country free for over 200 years.

He has asked nothing in return, except our friendship and understanding. Remember him, always, for he has earned our respect and admiration with his blood. And now we even have women over there in danger, doing their part in this tradition of going to War when our nation calls us to do so. As you go to bed tonight, remember this shot.. A short lull, a little shade and a picture of loved ones in their helmets.

Prayer Wheel

"Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Amen."

Prayer: Please stop for a moment and say a prayer for our ground troops in Afghanistan, sailors on ships, and airmen in the air, and for those in Iraq. This can be very powerful...... Of all the gifts you could give a US Soldier, Sailor, Coastguardsman, Marine or Airman, prayer is the very best one.



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 samuel.dixon@comcast.net

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 999 West Katie Ave., Unit 2238 Las Vegas, NV 89147-8371 polar bear 01@runbox.com

SECRETARY

Dave Klimek 183 Delaware Trail Venetia, PA 15367 724-941-2377

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Joe (Doc) Gilchrest 253 Jackson Ln. China Spring, TX 76633 254-836-1382 gilchrest@hot.rr.com

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