



Walking Point

The newsletter for D Co. 2/8 Vietnam 1965—1972

I'm the One

by Dave Gough, Range/Skull 70-71



I received my first newsletter and recognized Sgt. Stan Dillon's name, my platoon sergeant. I had believed for more than thirty years that he was dead. I spoke with him via e-mail and learned about the Angry Skipper Assoc. and the reunions. I was curious, somewhat excited, and something else I couldn't identify. I really wanted to attend a reunion, I thought. With each subsequent newsletter, I wanted to attend a reunion but just before the reunion I backed out. I didn't know why but I couldn't bring myself to go.

Living in California, when I heard about the reunion in San Diego I knew I had to go, right up to the week before the reunion and it cost too much and I didn't really want to because I couldn't remember any of the guys and stuff. Then they had one in Las Vegas and I was going to go because I wanted to take a trip to Vegas anyway but I didn't really have the money and those guys wouldn't remember me anyway, but I always felt the urge to go.

After returning from Viet Nam, I never seem to be able to feel part of anything. Like most of us, my military service didn't seem to be something to be proud of and I didn't like admitting to being a Viet Nam vet. Still, when I read about a reunion coming up I got the urge to attend but they were so far away and I didn't have much money and they were so expensive.

I had a couple of conversations (via e-mail) with Robin Woo and Stan Dillon who strongly urged me to attend a reunion. By this time I had realized that the cause for my hesitation to attend was due to my fear. Of what, I didn't know. I believe, I began to question my memories and didn't want to tell a story and be contradicted.

I have discovered over the years that two or more people in the same action have different perceptions of what happened and we change our memories to make ourselves feel better. Stan Said " we are not getting any younger and we have to get the platoon together again while most of us are still here". I knew I needed to see him again and I vowed to myself I would make it this year.

We went to the hotel in Washington D.C. to check in. I was feeling sticky and sweaty and wanted to take a shower. We went up to the Angry Skipper table and met Robin Woo and everything went different than what I might have expected.

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Angry Skipper Association, Inc.® Board of Governors (2011-2013)

- President: Doug Hilts (Range, 70-71)
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- Vice President: Tom Clark (Skull, 70-71)
tmctool@juno.com
- Treasurer: Ed Regan (Range, 68-69)
smilez4747@yahoo.com
- Secretary: Robin Woo (Skull, 71-72)
rwoo@surewest.net

I'm the One *(continued)*

Robin Woo lead us to the hospitality suite while introducing me to some of the guys and said, "This is Don Miller, he was in your platoon. Do you remember him?" We shook hands and I said, "Do you remember me?" He didn't look familiar to me. He said "I don't know, talk to me." As I began to identify myself he stopped me and said, "You are the one!" I replied, "Which one?" He said, "You are the one that got shot in the magazine." I stated, "Yes I am the one." That was when he said, "I was on your left side in that fire fight and I remember it like it was yesterday, every detail but I could never remember your name. I have been looking for you for over forty years."

Don ran out and brought back his family and said, "He is the one." I realized he had been telling my story for forty years and couldn't remember my name and I thought for forty years that no one knew or remembered me. I vouched for his memory and he vouched for our experience. It was real and not just another one of my nightmares.

I saw this tall guy staring at me with a poker face and no reaction when I walked into the room. He looked so familiar, I looked at his name tag and knew I should know him but couldn't remember. After a time I couldn't stand it anymore and approached him and said, "Do you remember me?" He said, "Of course, I was the platoon RTO and we used to play cards with the LT."

I couldn't believe the instant welcome, acceptance and camaraderie I received. My fear was so completely unfounded and I was disappointed I had waited so long. For years, vets I didn't know have called me brother but these are the brothers I was there with.

By Dave Gough, Range/Skull, 70-71

In an email, Kirk Davis wrote:

I was fearful of attending my first reunion in San Diego in 2004 with the same doubts as Dave expressed ... Would anyone remember me? Would they be glad to see me? Would my memories be the same as theirs or were mine manufactured in a way to heal my mind? Would all the bad memories be dredged up after all those years? I had a lot of concerns and trepidations going into that first trip. But as soon as I arrived and began seeing and talking with all my buddies, all the old lingering questions and fears just melted away. I instantly felt a closeness and camaraderie that I had never known before. I've been very close to a lot of people in my life, but there's a different type of closeness between the guys who've had your back and gone through the same life and death experiences as you. And I still cherish all the great times and happy memories we shared over there as well ... and those are the memories I try to remember most of all. I'm happy to see that Dave showed the courage to come to his first reunion, especially since it was in Washington DC and he got to visit the Wall, and I hope he can attend many more with us! *By: Kirk Davis, Range '71*

New Members since the January, 2011 Newsletter:

Rick "Ollie" Aulenbach, Cat, 70-71

Deceased Member/s: (Date of Death)

Roy Harris, 65-66 (11Nov10)

Donald E Rumppe, Cat, 65-66 (11Feb11)

Mike "Mouse" McGhie, Skull, 68-69 (20May11)

Membership count:

Active Members: 719

Members Online: 262



Angry Skipper Association, Inc.® Treasurers Report

Angry Skipper Association, Inc.®
 Profit & Loss (unaudited)
 January 1 through June 18, 2011

Angry Skipper Association, Inc.®
 Balance Sheet (unaudited)
 June 18, 2011

Ordinary Income & Expense

Income	
Banquet/s	\$ 4,640.00
Donations	3,617.25
Membership Dues	400.00
Registration Fees	1,315.00
Group Photograph	815.00
Tours	3,966.25
Shirts, Hats, Patches	<u>2,025.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 16,778.50

Expenses

Banquet—Saturday Event	4,697.33
ASA Website	00.00
Corporate	35.01
Flowers/Funeral	00.00
Insurance	332.00
Member Assistance	00.00
Merchant Account	647.38
Photographer	845.00
Postage & Delivery	368.31
Printing & Reproduction	552.00
Professional Services—Reunion	3,085.45
Transportation	4,150.00
Shirts, Hats & Patches	<u>1,693.70</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 16,406.18

Net Income (Loss) \$ 372.32

ASSETS

Current Assets:	
Checking	\$ 1,216.88
Deposits	00.00
Accounts Receivable	<u>00.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 1,216.88</u>

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities	
Current Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable	<u>00.00</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 00.00
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	3,316.97
Retained Earnings	(2,472.41)
Net Income	<u>372.32</u>
Total Equity	\$ 1,216.88
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>\$ 1,216.88</u>

Note: Thank you Robert Burke (Skull, 70-71) for filing our tax return again this year!

Minutes of the Business meeting held 13May11 Crowne Plaza Dulles Airport, Herndon, VA

New Officers were elected to the Board of Governor's whose term is 2011-2013. Doug Hilts (Range, 70-71) as President; Tom Clark (Skull, 70-71) as Vice President and Robin Woo (Skull, 71-72) as Secretary. Ed Regan (Range, 68-69) is our Lifetime Treasurer. The members agreed to the following:

- Membership approved minutes from last year;
- Membership approved the Treasurer's report;
- Introduction and discussion of Denver for June 20 - 24, 2012;
- Increase the Registration Fee to \$35, from \$25 to help defray costs of the reunion;
- We will be in San Diego, CA in 2013. June 19 thru 23, 2013;
- We will try to change our hats to "Jungle Hats" for the next reunion.

Join our Facebook Group: "D 2/8 CAV 65-72"

ANGRY SKIPPER ASSOCIATION, INC. ®
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*"Remember the bad times once,
Remember the good times forever"*

We're on the web:
www.angryskipperassociation.org

Ya'll Are Invited By: Tom (Smiley) Harris (Wild Cat 68/69)

The **Annual KY Kampout Reunion** for all former members of D Co., 2/8 Cav will be held on **October 19 thru October 22, 2011** at **Fishtail Lodge, in Buchanan Tn.** The room rate is \$30.00 per person, per night for a double room. If you want a room by yourself then it will be \$60.00 a night. Please **do not call** the lodge for reservations. Just notify me, Tommy Harris, at 1-770-254-0705 or tharris@numail.org and I will take care of making your reservation. I'll need to know what date you will be arriving and what date you will be checking out. James (Top Gun) Dotson (Wild Cat 68/69) will collect the money for rooms and I will collect for the meals. The food bill per person runs around \$60.00 for the 4 days. It will be split up by the number of folks attending. We take cash and checks only, no credit cards. **Pay when you arrive.** This is a **Men Only** reunion with **No Registration Fee.** You will not be disappointed, we cook our own meals and enjoy each other's company. Bring your photo's and stories. This is very informal so keep the "Dress Blues" and "Class A's" at home!!! I'm sure ya'll will have great time!!!

Additional information and the roster of those attending will be sent out as we get closer to the reunion. **BOOK EARLY** because space is limited. For planning and travel purposes only, here is the information about the lodge: **Fishtail Lodge**, 14275 Hwy. 79 North, Buchanan, TN 38222, 1-731-642-7113 <http://www.fishtalelodge.com/>