

Issue 19

July, 2013



ANGRY SKIPPER ASSOCIATION, INC. ("ASA")®

WALKING POINT

THE NEWSLETTER FOR D CO. 2/8 — VIETNAM 1965-1972

The ASA Reunions: From A Woman's Point of View

by Jan Vollmar

I was very nervous the first time my husband took me to an ASA reunion. "I don't know these people," I thought. "There's nothing for me to do." "What do I do when he is talking to the guys?" "Why do I need to go with him?" These questions and more ran through my head the week before our trip as well as during the whole flight.

But, it was important to my husband, so I decided to go with him. I thought that at the very least I could stay in the hotel room and sleep in late, read and enjoy breakfast and dinner at a restaurant! I discovered it was impossible to "hide" in our hotel room. The ASA group, both veterans and their wives, were warm and welcoming, anxious to know you and include you in their conversations and activities. And, while the guys talked, so did their wives! These conversations were very therapeutic. We discovered we had a lot in common. We discovered that we were not alone in what was going on in our homes, with our children and even in our relationships with our husbands. In fact, during one of our discussions one of our vets overheard what we were saying and thought we were talking only about him!



Jan Vollmar and Tom (Skull 70-71) at the 2013 San Diego Reunion Banquet at Holiday Inn Bayside.

These conversations led us to an impromptu girls meeting last year in Colorado. There we discussed what we were experiencing at home, what we knew about PTSD, and more importantly, what we didn't know about PTSD and some of the questions we had. Because we had so many unanswered questions, we decided it would be beneficial to many of us, to have someone with expertise in this area come and talk to the wives. This year at the San Diego Reunion, we invited Randy Ogle, a Readjustment Therapist from the San Marcos Vet Center, to come and talk about PTSD, how it affects the

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BOARD OF GOVERNORS

ASA, Inc.

- President: Doug Hilts (Range, 70-71) hiltsdm@yahoo.com
- Vice President: Tom Clark (Skull, 70-71) tmctool@juno.com
- Treasurer: Ed Regan (Range, 68-69) epr47@comcast.net
- Secretary: Robin Woo (Skull, 71-72) rwoo@surewest.net



Doug Hilts (Range, 70-71)

From the President To the Members of the ASA

I want to take time and thank our hosts Tom and Jan Vollmar for a great reunion, everything was perfect as usual. The Holiday Inn Bayside and it's proximity to everything was great. We received exceptional service from the banquet staff hotel workers, bus the transportation and hospitality suite were awesome, from the size of the room to making sure our ice was kept full, draining off the water from the coolers to cleaning the room at the end of the day. Also the staff worked with us as our numbers grew to make sure the banquet room would accommodate all of us. I can't say enough about the great service that ASA received, from the Holiday Inn Bayside San Diego. The BBQ at the Vollmars for us early arrivals was exceptional ... thanks to Tom and Jan Vollmar and Greg and Vicki Amaral. Greg, who taught you your grilling skills? Wow!

I want to also thank Tom for our speaker Randy Ogle from the Veterans Center. Randy also spoke to the Women's group. This is the second meeting for the women, they had about 30 in attendance. I sincerely believe Randy's talk to the women, as well as at our banquet, that we aren't alone, that there is help out there for all of us.

Registration went well, thanks to Stacey. We sold out all the hats, shirts and even sold several boonie hats. We also had a few CAV Patches that were signed by the soldiers fighting in Iraq left from last year and I believe they all went as well. I also want to thank Stan & Gail for donating the Vietnam Memorial stand and flags to the first 25 at the registration desk. It went over very well. Stan that was a great gesture! What a great idea. I want to thank Mike Martin for making his boat available, especially for Dirk ... hahaha!!! Also want to thank Bob Buke for bringing the Army badge holders, they were a big hit as well.

I'd personally like to thank my wife and all the volunteers from the Sew Nice fabric store that put their gifts and talents into providing my brothers-in-arms with a Welcome Home quilt. This is my wife's mission to give each member of the ASA a quilt. Thank you Barb for thinking of us ASA members that never received a "Welcome Home," it means a lot to us.

We are already looking forward to gathering next year in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina,. Tarheel (Eugene Curtis) and Jim Wagner will be our hosts. Please mark your calendar and join us there!
Here are our Membership stats:

The "active" members in ASA total 673 members. In other words, these are troopers whose addresses are good and the Newsletter is mailed to them. Returned newsletters result in moving the 'active' member to a "Returned Mail" list. Currently, there are 191 names on the returned mail list. I suspect some may have passed. Our Deceased list of troopers, who have passed after coming home, consists of 124 names. Ed Regan mentioned that the total number of grunts who served from 1965-1972 in D 2/8th is estimated to be around 1,500. Having found approximately 988 members (combining all lists), that is not a bad record. If you want to find your comrade-in-arms, whose name is on the "Returned Mail" list or want a copy of the roster, please email Robin Woo at rwoo@surewest.net. So please take time to hunt down a brother and invite them.

I believe these gatherings are very important in helping each other in putting the puzzle pieces of our experience in Vietnam together after 40 plus years. OMG, does this mean we are getting old!!!

I'll be putting an agenda together for next years meeting, after the first of January and will share it with the board for input as well. I'm also thinking of putting an album together. I'll be looking for a pictures when you were in Vietnam and now, along with your name, platoon and year in country. If the album isn't too big I'd like to put it on our website if it's OK with all of you. Thanks in advance.

Doug Hilts, *President*



ASA SAN DIEGO REUNION

JUNE 19 THRU 23, 2013



ANGRY SKIPPER ASSOCIATION®





A Special "Tip of the Hat" to Bob Burke, CPA

We'd like to offer a special thanks to Bob Burke (Skull, 70-71) for the work he has done preparing the tax returns for our

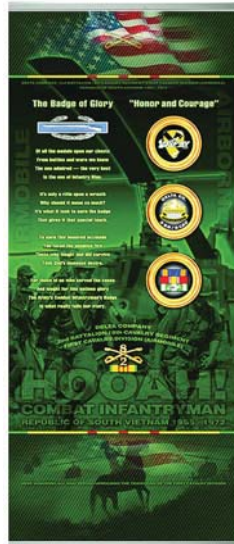
Association since our inception in 2006. His time and professionalism over the past eight years is, and has been, greatly appreciated by all the Board Members to keep this organization functioning. Without a doubt, Bob's efforts are truly integral to the lifeblood of the ASA. He doesn't get much recognition for his work behind the scenes, but without that work, we wouldn't be where we are today. Thank you Bob for your time, your efforts, and most of all, your friendship and brotherhood! Thank you for a job well done!

Rich O'Brien, *Chairman*
Board of Directors
ASA, Inc.®



Badge of Glory D 2/8 Banner displayed at the San Diego Reunion

A new fabric banner, measuring approximately 32" wide x 84" tall was displayed at our recent reunion in San Diego. The purpose for the banner will be to stand next to the registration table in the lobby of the hotels at future reunions to help attendees locate Stacey Smith and the "Register with Ease" sign-in table and collect their "goodie" bags of hats, shirts, meal tickets, activity schedules, etc. Look for it in the hotel lobby in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina next May 14th!



Badge of Glory Banner



Margaret and Carl Thompson

We Are Not Alone

by Margaret Thompson (wife of Carl Thompson,
White Skull 69-70)

It was several years after my husband began reading the "Walking Point" newsletter that we decided that we could attend one of the reunions. We were in Florida; the reunion was in St. Petes Beach. We waited to drive home to Maine later than usual so that we could attend. That decision was an important one for us.

We made the trip with great apprehension. He was nervous about seeing guys from a war 40 years ago. I was nervous about his reaction. And the first night was difficult, as we feared. The first guys we met wanted to tell "war stories." Like my husband, many others whom we met later in the evening, wanted to know what had happened since the war: "Whom did you marry?" "What was your job?" "How many kids do you have?"

Since then, we have made so many connections. We have new friends from New England, New York and New Jersey, from California, Washington state, Texas and Tennessee, from Puerto Rico and Nevada, in other words, from all over the country! We have met others with children our daughters' ages, people with children much younger than ours, people with grandchildren who attend the reunions with their grandparents.

Following that first reunion, we planned our trip to Washington, DC for the next one. We both thought it would be easier to go to the Wall with others who shared the same experiences so many years ago. The trip changed a lot of things for us. The highlight, of

course, was the actual visit to the Wall. Unless you have been a soldier in Vietnam, or the wife of one, you cannot understand the emotional impact of seeing it, with the names and dates inscribed thereon. Watching our husbands, fathers, brothers marching together behind their flags brought tears to our eyes – tears of sadness for those lost, and for the suffering, physical and mental of so many others, and tears of gratitude that our guys had survived.

In the last two years, we have had reunions in Denver and, most recently, in San Diego. These last two have been important since those of us who live with these vets have had a chance to meet and exchange experiences and thoughts. We have made, many of us, the discovery that although they are very different as men, they are much the same as former soldiers from a difficult era in American history. They were treated badly upon their return home. They were disrespected and scorned. They were unwilling to share their experiences as very young men. (Many were 18 or 19 years old; some were 20, 21, or 22.) As a result, most suffer today. Some have been diagnosed with PTSD. Some will not seek a diagnosis, even though their families realize the reality of the condition. Being able to talk to other women, wives and daughters, has affirmed for us that the experiences of their lives in Vietnam, no matter how successful they have been since, have affected their relationships, their working lives, their self-perceptions. Knowing this has made things easier for all of us. The knowledge that they are not alone has helped these men. The understanding of other women living in the same emotional circumstances has helped so many of us.

[I would encourage those of you who have not done so to consider attending one of these reunions. As a group, we love and respect each other. We can help one another to heal.]

Stacey Smith

*President
“Register with Ease”*

Stacey: “Wow, what a fun and terrific reunion! It never ceases to amaze me the strong feelings I have for your group. It continues to be a true pleasure to work with you, Diane and all the ASA members!”

Stacey has handled the registration process since the inception of ASA, Inc.® in 2006. She has most recently handled our reunion in San Diego, CA in 2013. Beginning in Orlando, FL in 2006, and continuing to Washington, DC in 2007, Salt Lake City, UT in 2008, San Antonio, TX in 2009, St. Pete Beach, FL in 2010, Washington, DC in 2011 and Denver, CO in 2012, she did an exceptionally outstanding job each and every year! Her intuitive initiative made each reunion run seamlessly while giving members of the Board the freedom to spend time with members of our group. Over the years, her consistently friendly and professional presence was a definite plus in making our members feel comfortable and welcome. She provides attendance reports, function statistics and financial accounting reports which are timely and accurate. Her efforts have materially contributed to the ease of handling the growth of our Association. We look forward to working with Stacey again in Myrtle Beach, SC in 2014. I highly recommend “Register With Ease” to any group who is organizing a gathering anywhere in the country.



Doug Hilts, *President*
ASA, Inc.®



863-325-0077
www.registerwithease.com



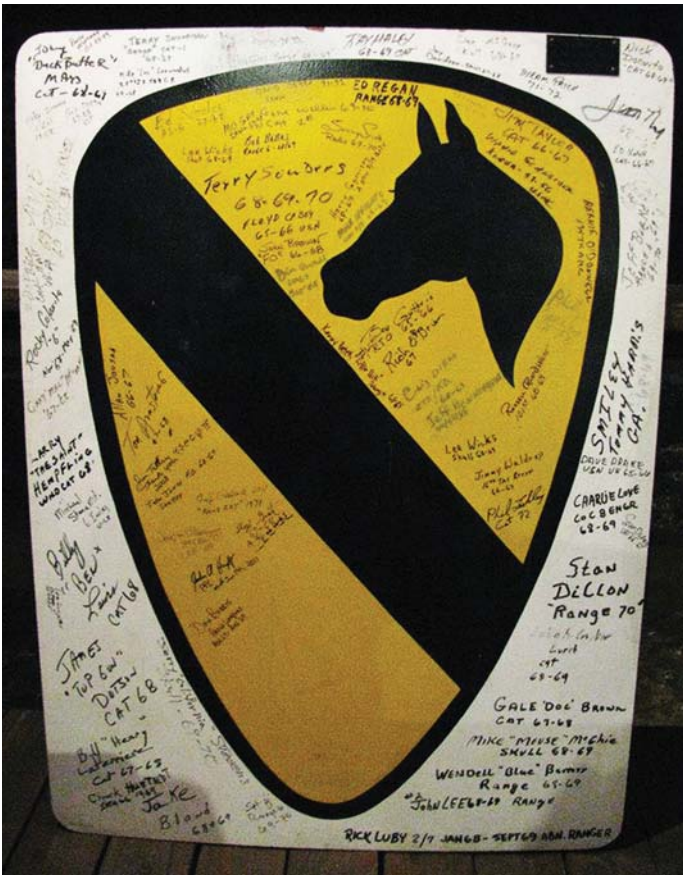
THANK YOU to our Beverage and Snack Volunteers in San Diego!

Many of our members took a proactive role in helping keep the drinks and snack supplies and replenished on a regular basis. Vets helping Vets! Thank you “Ricochet” and John Kutay! And thank you to all those others who assisted in keeping our members thirsts quenched and taste buds stimulated. Greg Amaral (Skull, 70-71), your initiative and efforts in assisting with the Beverages and Snacks in the Hospitality suite is greatly appreciated. Monitoring of the beverage and snacks inventory, making multiple trips with John Kutay (Recon/Weapons, 66-67) to the NEX (that’s Navy talk for PX), all in making sure our members had an adequate supply of drinks and snacks, was very much appreciated! Thanks again guys, great job!

Woman's Point of View continued from page 1

veteran and his family, and to answer some of our questions. He was very helpful but we found that we just didn't have enough time. We still had more questions. We needed more time to share our own experiences. We needed to know how we could help our husbands through what they are going through. We are hoping to have someone come and speak with us again next year in Myrtle Beach. If you were unable to attend the San Diego meeting, perhaps you will be able to come in Myrtle Beach.

I never, in my wildest dreams, expected that these reunions would be beneficial for me. I have learned so much and made so many new friends! If you have not had the opportunity to attend a reunion or maybe just the wives meeting, I encourage you to do so!



From LTC (Ret.) Bob Babas (Rifle/Range 6, 68-69)

“All those who attend the Kentucky Kampout sign the ‘Cav Patch.’ You gotta attend to sign the patch!!! Hope everyone had a good Veterans Day!!!”

— Bob Babas, KY Kampout, 10/2011

NEW MEMBERS (since the Jan. 2013 Newsletter):

- Robert Clonch, Cat 70-71
- William Johnson, Cat 70
- Lynn Marty, Cat 70
- Bradford Smith, Cat 70-71
- Steven M. Dyer, Cat
- David L. Spence, Cat 70
- David Abraham, Range 67-68
- Mark Burchett, Cat 70-71

MEMBERSHIP COUNT

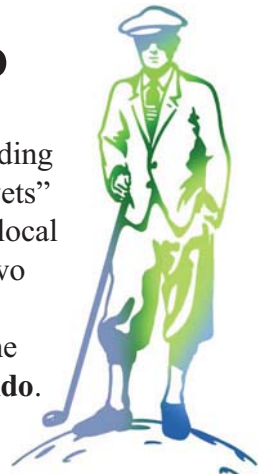
Active Members: 673
Members Online: 287



Golf in San Diego

by Tom Vollmar (Skull, 70-71)

Every year on the two days preceding the reunion, a group of “golfing vets” pair up and play at several of the local golf courses. This year, we had two golf outings in San Diego. On Wednesday, we golfed at my home course, **The Vineyard at Escondido**. On Thursday, we played at **The Riverwalk** in San Diego. Both days were very entertaining with banter going back and forth between the teams of John Bourdelais/Eugene (Tarheel) Curtis, and Michael Martin/Tom Vollmar. I must say it was nice to collect \$5 from John and Tarheel on the first day! But as luck would have it, Mike and I had to pay it back on Thursday. John had the low score on both days. Jack Langan, Eddie Odom, Bill Bott and Bill Davidson joined us at the Riverwalk on Thursday. We always have a great time and EVERYONE is welcome! We are hoping to have more players in Myrtle Beach in 2014, so come out and join the fun. It’s a good way to have fun and connect with your buddies who enjoy the same sport as you!



Kirk Davis, Editor, *Walking Point* Newsletter: Article submissions; kirkdavis@hotmail.com
Robin Woo, Membership Roster: Additions, changes, and updates; rwoo@surewest.net

Angry Skipper Association, Inc.® Treasurer's Report

Angry Skipper Association, Inc.®
 Profit & Loss (Unaudited)
 January 1 through July 3 2013

Angry Skipper Association, Inc.®
 Balance Sheet (Unaudited)
 As of July 3, 2013

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Banquet	\$ 4,940.00
Donations	3,317.00
Membership Dues	800.00
Miscellaneous Income	0.00
Other Events; Cocktail party	2,286.00
Registration Fee	2,290.00
Shirts, Hats & Patches	3,186.00
Tours	<u>1,362.00</u>
Total Income	<u>\$18,181.00</u>
Expenses	
Banquet - Friday Event	1,930.00
Banquet - Saturday	4,521.60
Entertainment - Reunion	770.00
Insurance	347.00
Merchant Account	994.22
Miscellaneous	290.01
Postage and Delivery	383.97
Printing and Reproduction	589.00
Professional Services - Reunion	3,730.71
Shirts, Hats & Patches-reunion	2,013.38
Transportation	<u>750.00</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$16,303.87</u>
Net Income	<u>\$1,861.11</u>

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking	<u>\$ 4,265.04</u>
Total Checking/Savings	4,265.04
Other Current Assets	
Deposits	<u>500.00</u>
Total Other Current Assets	<u>500.00</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 4,765.04</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	
	<u>\$ 4,765.04</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	3,316.97
Retained Earnings	-413.04
Net Income	<u>1,861.11</u>
Total Equity	<u>\$ 4,765.04</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
	<u>\$ 4,765.04</u>

*Deposit of \$500 held by Sands Resorts Hotel in Myrtle Beach, SC



Minutes of the Business Meeting held 22June13

at the Holiday Inn Bayside, San Diego, CA @ 3:00 PM

1. Treasurer's Report and the Minutes from the last Business meeting were accepted by the membership;
2. Discussion and vote to change going to D.C. every 4 years to 6 years was held. ASA will visit Washington D.C. every 6 years. This means that the next reunion in D.C. will be held in 2017;
3. Discussion regarding recognizing Weapons Platoon along with Cat, Range and Skull. Recon/Weapons Platoon will be added to the banner that was posted outside Hospitality Suite;
4. Kirk Davis will be the Editor of our Newsletter; Walking Point. Story submissions should be sent to him for consideration at kirkadavis@hotmail.com;
5. Discussion to create an SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) for scheduling, negotiations and management of future reunions. A reunion committee will be formed, consisting of 4 members. Vote passed. Initial members of this committee are Robert Burke Ed Regan and Thomas Vollmar with 1 other member yet to be appointed;
6. Vote for Board of Governor's resulted in current Officers appointed for another term. President: Doug Hilts, Vice President, Tom Clark and Secretary: Robin Woo,. (Ed Regan is the Life Treasurer);
7. Membership voted for San Antonio, TX in 2015;
8. Motion to adjourn made and passed.

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*"Remember the bad times once,
Remember the good times forever"*

Find us on the Web:
www.angryskipperassociation.org

Ya'll are invited by Tom (Smiley) Harris (Wild Cat 68/69) to the

KENTUCKY KAMPOUT REUNION

for all 65-72 members of D Co., 2/8 Cav. It will be held **October 16-20, 2013** 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'll be arriving and what date you'll 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 photos and stories. This is very informal so keep the "Dress Blues" and "Class A's" at home!!! I'm sure ya'll will have a 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/>