

Issue 20

January, 2014



ANGRY SKIPPER ASSOCIATION, INC. ("ASA")

WALKING POINT

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

Vietnam: February 2-4, 1970

by Garry Bruckner

After nearly twenty hours on the plane, with short stops in Alaska and Japan, I landed at Bien Hoa Air Base two days after my 20th birthday on January 22nd. While on the plane, even though it was late at night, it was easy to see where the water stopped and we were now over Vietnam. Looking out the window, I had seen flares that had been launched upward from some firebases to try to expose the enemy to see if any were approaching to attack. That made it clear that my hopes of surviving a one year tour were just that, some very thin hopes because this was the real thing.

When I stepped off the airplane, the heat, humidity and smell made it clear I was far from the cold white snow covered ground of Michigan. I was at the 90th Replacement Battalion for a few days waiting for orders to be assigned to a unit. With an infantry MOS, I knew what I would be doing.

A Vietnamese man had a crude stand where he sold flavored drinks with a large chunk of ice floating in the cup. A good cold drink was just what I needed. It was hard to believe but as I watched, the ice rapidly melted before it could cool the drink.

There was a poster on a wall showing all the unit patches and a description of the unit. The 1st Cavalry Division patch immediately caught my eye and I thought it looked better than most of the others. It was quite a surprise when my orders were to join the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).

From there I was sent to the 1st Cavalry rear area in Bien Hoa for a week of Cherry School which also gives the new guys (known as "cherries" (me) by anyone who had been in country for a while) time to get used to the very hot climate and more training. The sun was so intense that I had sunburn blisters on the back of my neck and where my sleeves had been rolled up on my upper arms.

The sun was so intense that I had sunburn blisters on the back of my neck and where my sleeves had been rolled up on my upper arms. *Garry Bruckner continued on page 6*



Guiding the slicks in on Hwy 1 for the CA to Song Be.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Vietnam: February 2-4, 1970.....1	President's Message.....2
Terry Garlock - Speaker.....2	Kentucky Kampout.....3
ASA Registration Form..... 4	Reunion Information.....5
ASA Treasurer's Report.....7	New Members / Deceased.....7
Still Got It!.....7	Ocean Dunes Resort.....8

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

First, Barb and I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. We hope you all had a safe and healthy 2013.

Well it's that time of year to start thinking about the 2014 Reunion. This year it's going to be held in Myrtle Beach South Carolina May 14 thru the 18th, Please save the date and invite any brother that you haven't seen in a while, let's see if we can make this the biggest Reunion ever. I believe this will be our first time at Myrtle Beach and I'm excited to be at the beach and smell the Ocean breeze with all of you.

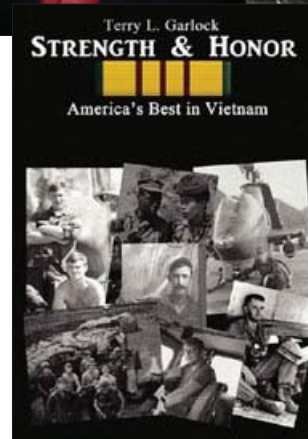
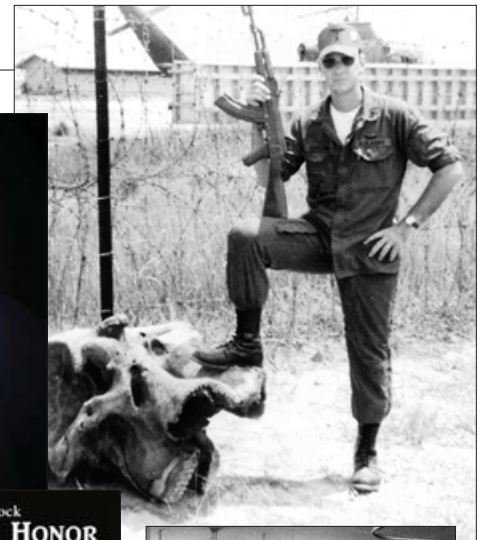
I've been thinking this past year about having an album on Angry Skipper Association, which would be a "Then" picture of you when you were in Vietnam and a "Now" picture along with the year that you were in (HELL). If you like this idea please bring the two pictures to the reunion or email, them to me at

hiltsdm@yahoo.com. We have an awesome speaker this year Terry Garlock author of Strength and Honor. I've put an ad in the Saber, Legion and VFW Magazines announcing the Reunion. I've also invited all brothers from the 2/8th. Welcome Home!

Doug



Terry Garlock will be the featured speaker at our Reunion in Myrtle Beach in May. In the Vietnam War, Terry was a Cobra helicopter gunship pilot. On December 17, 1969, he and Ron Hefner were shot down in a firefight. Ron was severely injured, Terry was disabled, trapped in the wreckage with a broken back, paralyzed legs and the enemy nearby. Two fellow pilots, John Synowsky and Graham Stevens, risked their neck by landing to help Ron and Terry, and received the Soldier's Medal for saving lives that day. Among the awards Terry received in Vietnam were the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and Distinguished Flying Cross. In 1971 Terry left the Army and put Vietnam behind him. When he had children late in life and considered the twisted version of that war they would read in their schoolbooks, he decided it was time he did his part to make sure the truth is told. This book "Strength & Honor, America's Best in Vietnam" is the result of his efforts.



Photos courtesy of Terry Garlock. All rights reserved

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



Smiley Harris at his best in the Kitchen

In 1998 when the internet really came alive, I went out and got a PC. Well after some time I found the web site for Angry Skipper.

As I looked at it I begun to see some names I remembered from Vietnam. I called James Dotson (Top Gun) and we talked for some time. It was late September so we decided to meet in Tennessee. On Columbus Day, which was a three day weekend for most of us. As it got closer to the time to meet up, Top Gun called me and suggested to meet at another D 2/8 Vets house and we would go camping rather

Kentucky Kampout

by Tommy (Smiley) Harris

than staying in a motel. It was ok with me because I had a truck with a cover

on the back. I asked if I needed to bring anything. No, everything is taken care of was the reply.

So the day came and I left out early on a Saturday morning. I arrived first at Billy Lewis's house. Billy was in Wild Cat also. At mid-afternoon in comes the wild bunch.

So Tommy Harris (Smiley), Billy Lewis, James Dotson (Topgun), Larry Hempfling (The Saint), Jonny Mays (Duck Butter) roll in. I had not seen any of the four since I left Vietnam, But the four of them had. So it was a great moment for us to stare at each other, hug, and look back at how young we were then. Well as the day went on we started to get hungry. Where is the food?

What food? We were out in the middle of nowhere without food. Billy's wife made some sandwiches for us so we got by the first night. Come



Here's the 2013 Kentucky Kampout Krew!

Straight out of the jungles of Vietnam! (Give or take a few years)

to find out we had no food at all. It was rough, just like being back in the jungle. HA! We had a great weekend and we agreed to come back next year. I said to them I will come but we will not go without food or COFFEE again! Well Billy sold his farm so we moved it to Kentucky the next year. That year I brought the food and stoves to cook with. That year we had six show up. Well it got bigger and bigger as the years went by, the kitchen also got bigger. Now we have an average 40 show up each year. A long way from four. That is a lot of brothers.

So now we are at Fish Tail Lodge in Kentucky. They have cabins and motel rooms for rent. Out in front of the motel is a 40'x40' Pavilion where we set up the kitchen and mess hall.

We do all our cooking and eat real well. Out in front of the Pavilion we have a large place to have the campfire. So after a good meal you go sit by the fire and see who can tell the biggest tale. We eat each morning around 9:30. We have hot dogs and sandwiches for lunch. Make your own. Dinner is around 6:00pm. The best time is around the fire at night when the war is fought all over again. After all these years you still find out things you did not know back then. A lot of funny things happened then.

During the day some of the guys go to play golf, some ride the countryside stopping at flea markets looking for the old stuff.

You do what you want to, go to bed and get up when you want to. Eat or not eat. It is just laid back and enjoy yourself.



Angry Skipper Association, Inc.[®]

May 14 through 17, 2014 Reunion Registration Form

Myrtle Beach, SC



Name: _____ Platoon: _____ Yr(s): _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Ph: _____
 Email: _____ How many in your group? _____ First & last names of all in your group: (On a separate sheet)
 Emergency Contact: _____ Emergency Contact Phone: _____

<u>Date/Time/Activity</u>	<u>Cost/Person</u>	<u>No. of</u>	<u>\$ Total</u>
May 14 (Wed) - 9:30 Golf at Waterway Hills — Pay at Golf Course.	STBD	_____	_____
5:30 Heavy Hors d'Oeuvres/drinks at Mulligans (Jim's hangout) courtesy of Jim and Tarheel (sign up at registration desk)	FREE	_____	_____
May 15 (Thu) - 9:30 Golf at Diamondback	FREE	_____	_____
9:00 Ladies Shopping (9:00am - 3:00pm.), Tanger Outlet, Market Commons, 11:00 Casino Cruise (11am - 5 pm) includes lunch, transportation, playbook.	\$30.00	_____	\$ _____
May 16 (Fri) - 4:30 - 6:30 Poolside cookout, burgers/dogs etc.,	\$14.00	_____	\$ _____
6:45 - 10:00 Good Vibrations Show, (60's-80's Music) includes transportation.	\$44.00	_____	\$ _____
May 17 (Sat) - 4:30 Group Photo (Everyone)	Donate for Cost	_____	\$ _____
4:30 Group Photo (Members Only)	Donate for Cost	_____	\$ _____
5:30 Banquet/Programs (meal selections below)	\$34.00	_____	\$ _____
# Beef Tenderloin Medallion: _____ # Herb Dressing Stuffed Chicken Breast: _____ # Vegetarian: _____			



The caps are jungle
camo hats this year



The Polo shirts are Cav yellow with moisture-wicking
technology and they're snag resistant.

Shirts & Caps: Number of Reunion Shirts: _____ \$26.00 _____ \$ _____
 Sizes: Small: _____ Medium: _____ Large: _____ XL: _____ XXL: _____ XXXL: _____ XXXXL: _____
 Number of Hats: (72 available; first come-first served) \$18.00 _____ \$ _____
 Size is adjustable — **Order by April 1, 2014**

TOTAL EVENTS REGISTRATION _____ \$ _____

MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATION FEE:

Membership Life Card @ \$200 ea.	.00
Registration Fee:	35.00
Total Registration & Membership Fee: \$.00
Contribution/donation:	.00
Total Events Registration from above:	.00
TOTAL PAYMENT:	\$.00

_____ Check here if you are not attending and want shirts & caps mailed to you. Add \$10.00 for postage and handling.

Please register by May 1, 2014. Please complete form and mail with check (payable to Angry Skipper Association, Inc.) or with Credit card info to:

Stacey Smith
 Register with Easesm
 473 Las Cruces
 Winter Haven, FL 33884
 Ph: 863.325-0077
 Fax: 863.325-0051

PAYMENT METHOD: _____ Check Charge to (check one): _____ MasterCard _____ Visa Billing Zipcode _____

Card Number: _____ CCV: _____ Expiration: _____
 Month/Year

Signature: _____



Do not send this form if you registered online at : <http://www.angryskipperassociation.org>

Hotel Reservations, Phone 800.599-9872

Tell them you are with the Angry Skipper Association group. Online Hotel registration at the ASA website.

You must arrange your own Hotel room. It is not included in this registration.
Your Welcome Package will be available in the Hotel Lobby. Please pick up your package when you arrive.

MYRTLE BEACH, SC 2014 ANGRY SKIPPER ASSOCIATION, INC. REUNION

Our reunion will be held at the **Ocean Dunes Resort at Sands Resorts, 201-75th Avenue North, Myrtle Beach, SC 29572 from May 14 thru May 18, 2014**. You must call the Hotel and make your own reservations. Their number is **(800) 599-9872**. The hotel will honor the discounted group rates for 3 days prior to May 14th and 3 days after May 18th, for those early arrivals and stay-over's. All of the rooms are either Ocean Front or Ocean View.

The hotel rates are as follows:

Ocean Front Double rate: \$84.45 (approx. \$105 after taxes)

Ocean View Double rate: \$76.26 (approx. \$95 after taxes)

Online Hotel Reservations are here: **You must tell the Hotel you are with the Angry Skipper Association for these preferred rates. They will not change the rate if you forget to tell them you are with the Angry Skipper Association group.** For online room reservations, go to <http://www.meetingsatthebeach.com/room-search/> (select **Ocean Dunes Resort** and use group number **14439** for our rates.

When you make your hotel reservations, tell them what flight you are on and when you will arrive and they will schedule the shuttle to pick you up at the airport. The shuttle is free. When making your airline reservations, be sure to book your flights using the Myrtle Beach International Airport.

Full American Breakfast Buffet in the Brass Anchor Restaurant is available for \$9, inclusive, per adult. Two children 12 yrs and under eat free with each paying adult. You will receive a breakfast voucher at check-in to present at the restaurant.

The hours for the Hospitality suite is from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. The Hospitality suite will open Wednesday, May 14th at 12:00 p.m. and close at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 18th. When you arrive, please pick up your welcome package in the Hotel lobby. The package will contain your meal tickets, name tags, agenda, shirts & caps, etc. **(12 STEP MEETINGS AVAILABLE)**.

The registration process will be handled by **Register with Ease** again. VISA and MasterCard will be accepted as well. Register With Ease has set-up a website for online registrations. Go to <http://www.angriskypperassociation.org> for a direct link, or you can mail the registration, with check or credit card information, to the address on the registration form. You may also fax the form, with credit card info, directly to Stacey. Or, you can register online, make the check payable to Angry Skipper Association, Inc., then send it all to Stacey.



Golf and shopping are just two of the many things to do while soaking up the sun at Myrtle Beach!



Banquet Meal description:

- **Beef Tenderloin Medallions with a Black Pepper corn & Herb Rub, with Red Wine Mushroom Sauce.**
- **Herb Dressing Stuffed Chicken Breast with Garlic & Parmesan Cream Sauce.**
- **Vegetarian Pasta Primavera; Medley of vegetables over fettuccine pasta with an alfredo sauce.**

Garry Bruckner continued from page 1 I had just been assigned to D 2/8 with four other cherries. Next we were sent to what appeared to be D 2/8 headquarters and there was a big strange looking mountain rising up out of a flat plain. I was given an M16 that badly needed to be cleaned and was covered with a reddish dust. There seemed to me like a lot of scrounging around trying to find ruck sacks, canteens and other things we needed before being sent to the field. We were flown to Song Be only to get there to find out D 2/8 had just moved to Tay Ninh.

So we had to spend the night at Song Be and word was going around there was going to be a strip show. Evidently fate had dropped me in a very strange place. I didn't feel like going but everyone else wanted to go so it sure seemed better than being alone. We entered a building, formed a big circle and a Vietnamese guy, ARVN I would guess, since he was in uniform, come around collecting money. A thin small dark haired girl walked in to the center of our group and started dancing. I was saying something to my new friend beside me when he tapped my shoulder and pointed. The girl was right in front of me, turned around and wanted me to unfasten her bra. What the heck was I to do but honor her request. The bra was held together in back by a safety pin so it was easier to open than the hook and loop type arrangement we all had fun trying to undo with girls back home.

In the morning we were flown to FB Carolyn, and stayed overnight in a bunker. The artillery would get calls for fire missions during the night making it impossible to sleep with all the noise. On top of that, something kept running across my legs during the night which I know must have been rats.

We were told Delta company is operating with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment near Firebase Carolyn which is close to the Cambodian border. Even a new guy could tell that was not a good place to be. The NVA would come over the border and fight and then go back into Cambodia to resupply and take care of their wounded, where they knew we couldn't follow.

At Firebase Carolyn we then got on the log bird (supply helicopter) to join our company in the field. They were working with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. There was some heated debate about what platoons most needed replacements. Two of us went to Range 2 platoon, one went to Cat platoon and the other two went to Range 1 platoon. The M-16 I was given was very dirty and needed to be cleaned, but there was no time as I needed to get my pack ready with a bedroll, which is a poncho

and poncho liner, 3 days supply of food, C-rations, and water. Also got a claymore mine, trip flare, smoke grenades, hand grenades, M-16 ammo and machine gun ammo to carry as I was going to be an ammo bearer with the gun team. I was given an empty M-60 machine gun ammo can in which to put my personal items, such as writing paper and letters from home. The ammo can is waterproof and fits inside my rucksack. The pack is so heavy that I can't swing it up on my back. I have to sit down with my back to it and put my arms in the straps and roll over and then stand up. We ride on top of the tracks (armored personnel carriers and tanks) which is much better than carrying my heavy pack and walking through thick, tangled jungle. The metal of the tracks is very hot from the sun and feels like sitting on a frying pan.

It was time to set up our night defensive position so the tracks formed a circle out in an open field, all facing outward. We dug foxholes for fighting positions between the tracks. In front of the tracks they placed two metal poles that hold heavy woven wire fence to stop RPG's (Rocket Propelled Grenades) that the NVA (North Vietnamese Army soldiers) fire at the armored personnel carriers and tanks to blow them up. I finally found some - one with a bore brush and rod to clean my M-16. As I'm cleaning my weapon there was a "dupe, dupe, dupe" sound and someone yelled, "Incoming!" Everyone was scrambling for a foxhole or any cover, some were crawling under the APCs, while I was trying to get my M-16 put back together and then run for a foxhole. The foxholes were already filled with people so I just dropped flat on the ground. Eight mortar rounds were fired by NVA soldiers but none of them came very close. The tracks opened up with their .50 caliber machine guns and M-60 machine guns. If we had stayed in the same place the enemy would have been able to adjust their mortar fire, so we packed up everything and moved, leaving a platoon in the woodline for an ambush. They had starlight scopes and around 2000 (8:00 p.m.) they saw four NVA soldiers moving around in the open field from which we had just moved. One platoon of tanks and another of our platoon saddled up and rapidly headed back to the abandoned APC and started shooting when they saw the NVA. It was starting to get dark and you could see tracer rounds flying everywhere arching high into the sky. One NVA soldier had been killed during the firefight and two AK 47 assault rifles were captured. None of our guys had been wounded.

First day in the field, Welcome to Vietnam.

Angry Skipper Association, Inc.® Treasurer's Report

Angry Skipper Association, Inc.®

Profit & Loss

January 1 through December 31, 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	1,362.00
Total Income	<u>\$18,181.00</u>
Expenses	
ASA Website	118.50
Bank Service Charges	36.00
Banquet - Friday Event	1,930.00
Banquet - Saturday	4,521.60
Entertainment - Reunion	770.00
Insurance	347.00
Merchant Account	1,363.12
Miscellaneous	299.72
Postage and Delivery	772.29
Printing and Reproduction	1,178.00
Professional Services - Reunion	3,730.71
Refunds	0.00
Shirts, Hats & Patches-Reunions	2,013.38
Transportation	750.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$17,830.32</u>
Net Income	<u><u>\$350.68</u></u>



Angry Skipper Association, Inc.®

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2013

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking	\$ 2,754.61
Total Checking/Savings	<u>2,754.61</u>
Other Current Assets	
Deposits	500.00
Total Other Current Assets	<u>500.00</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 3,254.61</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 3,254.61</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	3,316.97
Retained Earnings	-413.04
Net Income	350.68
Total Equity	<u>\$ 3,254.61</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>\$ 3,254.61</u></u>



NEW MEMBERS (since the July 2013 Newsletter :

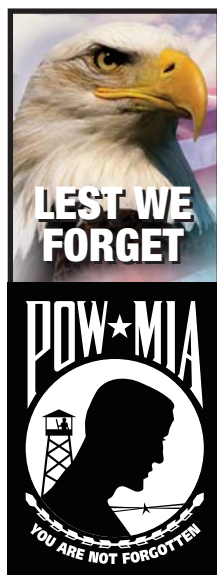
Louw-Shiang Liu,
Recon/Weapons 65-66
Brian Finn, Maj (Ret.), XO, 67
Tom Milnamow, Cat 1970

DECEASED

Lucious Cox, Wild/Cat 67-68
Dennis Appril, White/Skull 68-69
Devin Darensbourg, Cat
Leo Kincaid, Range 70-71

MEMBERSHIP COUNT

Active Members: 673
Members Online: 292



After All These Years!

by Kirk Davis

After having it checked out by a gunsmith and buying some new ammo, I took my Chicom SKS to a range in Garland, Texas with my son Kyle to see if I could still hit the broad side of a barn. After sighting three rounds at 100 yards (and not knowing if I even hit the target since we didn't bring binoculars), I fired a couple clips and ended up with 9 for 15 in the bull! Not bad considering I hadn't fired it in over 42 years. We didn't know what I hit till we went down range and saw the target. What a nice surprise!

ANGRY SKIPPER ASSOCIATION, INC.®
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STOCKTON, NJ 08559

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*“Remember the bad times once,
Remember the good times forever”*

Find us on the Web:
www.angryskipperassociation.org

2014 Angry Skipper Association Reunion — May 14 thru May 18

Ocean Dunes Resort at Sands Resorts, 201-75th Avenue North, Myrtle Beach, SC 29572

