

Issue 22

January, 2015



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

WALKING POINT

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

"This letter was written about 45 years ago! It went to a Veterans group and has laid there for all these years. Now someone has found it and put it on the internet. The letter's author is now in her early 70s and still believes in the letter she wrote those many years ago. I emailed her and got her permission to put this in the paper. She wanted her contact information included."

— Mike Priven, President, VVA GA chapter 1101

★ An Open Letter to Anyone Who Served in Vietnam

Dear Hero,

I was in my twenties during the Vietnam era. I was a single mother and, I'm sad to say, I was probably one of the most self-centered people on the planet. To be perfectly honest I didn't care one way or

the other about the war. All I cared about was me how I looked, what I wore, and where I was going. I worked and I played. I was never politically involved in anything, but I allowed my opinions to be formed by the media. It happened without my ever being aware. I listened to the protest songs and I watched the six o'clock news and I listened to all the people who were talking. After awhile, I began to repeat their words and, if you were to ask me, I'd have told you I was against the war. It was very popular. Everyone was doing it, and we never saw what it was doing to our men. All we were shown was what they were doing to the people of Vietnam.



For all our men that served from 1965 through 1972

My brother joined the Navy and then he was sent to Vietnam. When he came home, I repeated the words to him. It surprised me at how angry he became. I hurt him very deeply and there were years of separation not only of miles, but also of character. I didn't understand. In fact, I didn't understand anything until one day I opened my newspaper and saw the anguished face of a Vietnam veteran. The picture was taken at the opening of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. His countenance revealed the terrible burden of his soul. As I looked at his

Open Letter continued on page 6

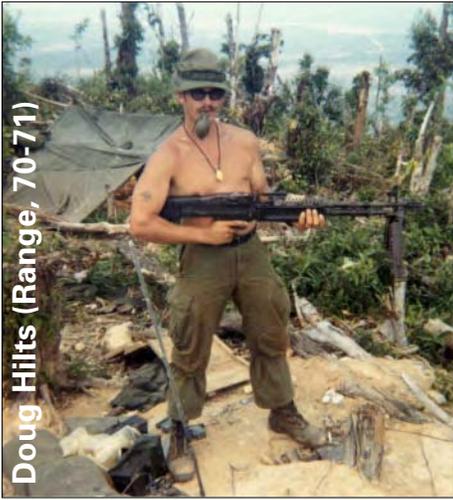
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BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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) egbar4747@gmail.com
- Secretary: Robin Woo (Skull, 71-72) rwoo@surewest.net



From the President To the Members of the ASA

Happy New Year to All !!!

Can you believe it, it's time to be planning our 2015 Reunion. May is only five months away.

Reunions are always a great time of sharing and are therapeutic for us. The same challenge as always, let's try getting some new Brothers to San Antonio. Last year's reunion was the largest ever.

This year is elections for President, Vice President and Secretary, so be thinking who you would like to see in these roles. I will not be a candidate this year. It's time to share this with others to experience the Honor that I've had. We've lost several brothers since our 2014 reunion, so please come to San Antonio. If it's your first time, you won't regret it. I promise!!!

— Doug



This was written by Randy Kline upon receiving his "Welcome Home" Quilt

Dear Doug and Barb,

Well this will be hard for me to write, Number one. Thank You for your kindness to Me and Rachel. Lets just say I had not had a good day, pain level over the top, this thing in my chest seeming to want to escape thru my right shoulder blade, even though the swelling in my feet has all but disappeared, the dreaded leg cramps have returned for my nightly terror and then at 5pm the mailman shows up at my door with a package. Thank you for this gift, my wife has never ever seen me just lose it before. I have always rejected "after the fact" welcome home gestures from VietNam, but I cannot ignore the sincerity that this was sent from. I can truly say that I found what I have been looking for in a long long time, my comrades in arms. You can look your whole life and never find what you desperately need, a place to fit in. The Men in Delta 2/8 have become that place for me. I must admit I am not an overly religious person, and My hate for God has softened as I have aged, anyway I am rambling. Thank you Doug and Barb, once I get through the Chemo, I will let you know about D.C.

With much Love from US, Randy & Rachel

(Editor's Note: Randy & Rachel made it to D.C. - See page 6: "FO")



A Quilt made by Barb Hilts and her group



Kentucky Kampout 2014



You need to make plans on attending next years Kampout!

"The sun is out. Good friends and old soldiers have started sharing memories."

Everyone had a great time at Fishtail Lodge in Buchanan, TN, this past October! This is just part of the crew that attended this year's Kampout! A total of 40 guys this year ... Great food and even better friends!

Kirk Davis, Editor, *Walking Point* Newsletter: Article submissions; kirkadavis@hotmail.com

Robin Woo, Membership Roster: Additions, changes, and updates; rwoo@surewest.net

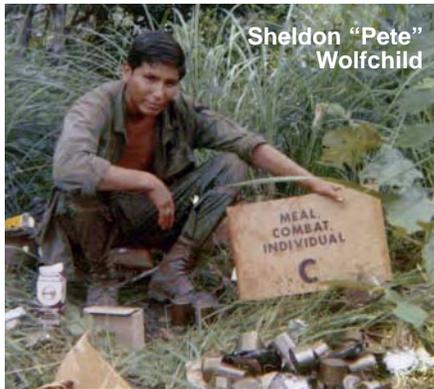
Sunday, January 25, 1970.

You see, this was our first day out in the field — Donny Watts, Sheldon “Pete” Wolfchild and me. These are the events of that day as I remember it.

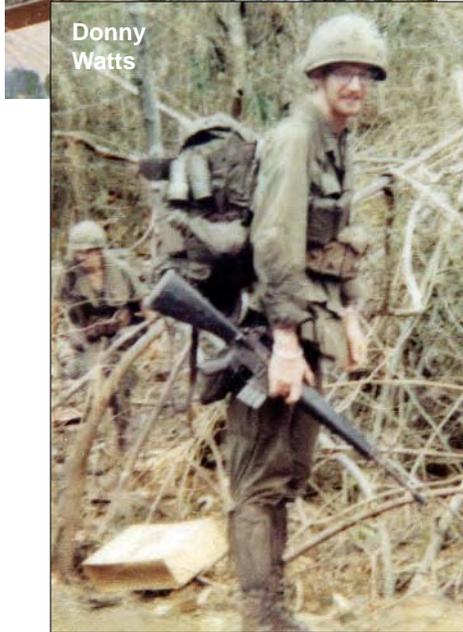
Our First Day Out!

by Jimmy Pearson

We were on FSB Buttons getting our shit together when we first got mortared, about 8-10 rounds fell short. Later that day we went to the log pad, a chopper came in and picked up a bunch of supplies and took off, we were told then that when the chopper came back we were to get on board. Then again we heard thup, thup, thup and someone yelled “incoming” and we all hit the ground waiting for the rounds to come in, seemed like a lifetime, but



Sheldon “Pete” Wolfchild



Donny Watts

again, the rounds fell short. Then someone said to get ready for the chopper is coming back. When the chopper landed the three of us jumped on board with more supplies and the three of us were riding the skids, just looking at the view when suddenly the chopper banked hard to the right, I could feel my body slipping out the door and with the weight of our packs it wouldn't take much more to fall out of the chopper. The only thing that was going through my mind was “holy shit, what a way to die, falling out of the chopper!” Then to my relief, the door

gunner had grabbed my pack and that made me feel at ease.

We had flown for a bit more at tree top level and was

told to be ready to jump out, and we got to the log site and jumped out. We had jumped out knee deep into a swamp and you could see the leeches crawling up our legs, we then got to dry land and someone told us to sit there and to keep our mouths shut. And was helping us to lighten our load. We were sitting there looking at the guys already there, holy shit, they needed shaves, had long hair, were wearing dirty uniforms, had holes and rips in them! Holy shit! As we were sitting there we then heard the radio going crazy, explosion, after explosion, gunfire, lots of gunfire, someone then said that Cat platoon was ambushed, lots of wounded, to saddle up and get ready to push out to help Cat platoon, it's was hot, humid, and the sweat was just pouring off. Cat was about 2-3 clicks away but it was like humping 10 miles through the thick jungle, getting caught on the hurry-up vines, I thought I would just melt away. We then met up with Cat platoon, as Pete would say seeing all those helmets of the wounded lying on the ground, because Cat was hit hard, “the three of us are going to Cat Platoon.”

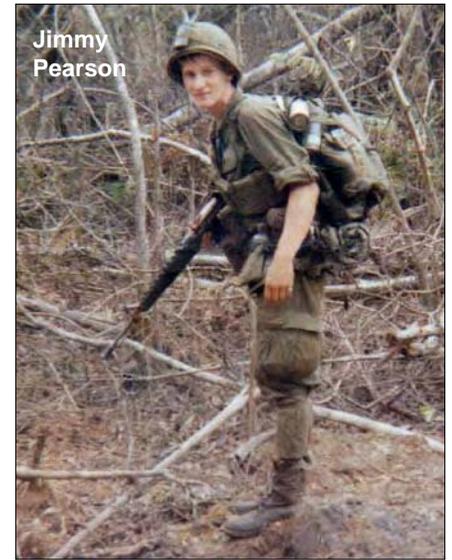
Lt. Glen Beasley came over to us and welcomed us to Cat platoon. We were just wondering ... wondering if we were gonna hit the shit, our minds were in shock. What's next? Later that night we had to put the dog down because his handler was KIA and they didn't bring the dog back with them, he was just barking and barking.

That next morning we just looked at each other — on our first day we had got mortared not once, but twice, then that chopper pilot screwing with us (bastard), Cat platoon got ambushed, humping through the jungles at a quick pace, had to put down the dog, and this was our first day out and we have 12 more months.

Jim Pearson, Donny Watts and Sheldon “Pete” Wolfchild ... our first day out.



January 25, 1970 — KIA on our first day: Dog handler, PFC Kenneth Frierson, Alcolu, SC. In Memoriam, RIP.



Jimmy Pearson



Angry Skipper Association, Inc.[®]

May 13 through 17, 2015 Reunion Registration Form

San Antonio, TX



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: _____



The hats are black this year



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

MAY 16-SATURDAY

	<u>No. of</u>	<u>\$ Total</u>
4:30 Group Photo (Everyone)	Donate for Cost _____	\$ _____
4:30 Group Photo (Members Only)	Donate for Cost _____	\$ _____
5:30 Banquet/Programs (meal selections below)	\$35.00 _____	\$ _____
# Sliced Roast Beef: _____ # Roasted Br east of Chicken: _____ # Vegetarian : _____		

Shirts & Hats

Number of Reunion Shirts: _____ @ \$26.00 _____ \$ _____
 Sizes: Small: _____ Medium: _____ Large: _____ XL: _____ XXL: _____ XXXL: _____
 Number of Hats: (Size is adjustable) _____ @ \$18.00 _____ \$ _____

Shirts and hats must be ordered by April 1, 2015R

TOTAL EVENTS REGISTRATION = \$ _____



NO ORGANIZED EVENTS LIKE GOLF, tours or shopping are scheduled this year, so you might want to gather some of your close friends and organize mini-groups, and visit the multitude of attractions offered in San Antonio. Of course there's the Alamo, and right across the street there's the historic Menger Hotel where Teddy Roosevelt organized and signed up the Rough Riders in the bar, not to mention the Riverwalk, the Buckhorn Saloon, all the wonderful Mexican and Tex-Mex restaurants and shopping! And visit their website for other attractions that might interest you at [http://visitsanantonio.com/!](http://visitsanantonio.com/)

MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATION FEE:

Membership Life Card @ \$200.00 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 & hats mailed to you. Add \$10.00 for postage and handling.

Register by May 1, 2015. Please complete this form and mail with your 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.angriskypperassociation.org>

Hotel Reservations, Phone (877) 736-4311

Tell them you are with 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.

SAN ANTONIO, TX — 2015 ANGRY SKIPPER ASSOCIATION, INC. REUNION

Our reunion will be held at the **El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel, 110 Lexington Ave., San Antonio, TX 78205 from Wednesday, May 13 thru Sunday, May 17**. You must call the Hotel and make your own reservations. Their number is **(877) 736-4311**. The hotel will honor the discounted group rates beginning May 8 through May 19 (with checkout on 20th), for those early arrivals and stay-over's. **IMPORTANT: Room reservations at the group rate must be made prior to April 10, 2015!** If you'd like more info about the hotel, here's their website: <http://www.eltropicanohotel.com/default-en.html>

The hotel rate is as follows: \$95.00 (approx. **\$111.00 after taxes**)

Hotel reservations:

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 reservations you may email reservations@eltropicanohotel.com or call you can call **(877) 736-4311**. You can make your Hotel Reservations Online using this link:

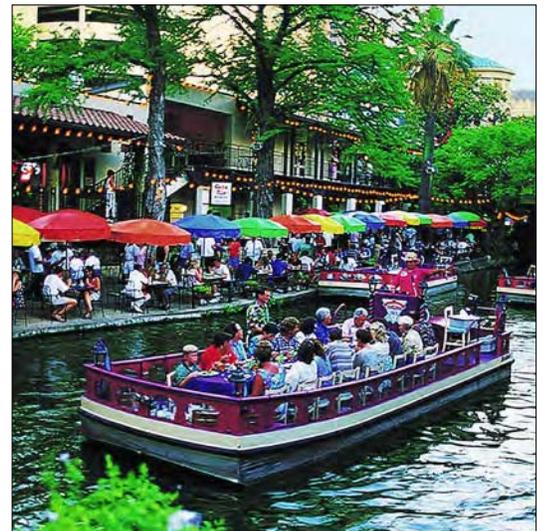
<https://bookings.ihotelier.com/El-Tropicano-Riverwalk-Hotel/bookings.jsp?hotelId=75553&groupID=1284106>

There is no Hotel Shuttle Service to or from the airport but it is only a short 10-15 minutes away.

Mangos, the onsite restaurant, serves a daily breakfast buffet featuring all your breakfast favorites. Fluffy Scrambled Eggs, Hash Browns, Applewood Smoked Bacon, Sausage, Pancakes, Fresh Fruits, Yogurts, Cereals and Juices for only \$9.95 for adults and \$3.95 for children 12 and under. Check in for a latte or smoothie at our Espresso Bar located just off the main lobby area. Enjoy Lunch and Dinner with ready to go sandwiches, fresh salads, soups, or enjoy your favorites from the Grill Menu.

The Hospitality Suite hours are from 8:00 a.m. until midnight Wednesday - Saturday, May 12-16, and 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 17. 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 ARE 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.angriskyipperassociation.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.



Visiting the Alamo and cruising the Riverwalk are just two of the many attractions in San Antonio!

Banquet Meal description:

- Sliced Roast Beef in Mushroom Sauce with Roasted Herbed New Potatoes.
- Rosemary Roasted Breast of Chicken with Home Style Potatoes.
- Pasta Primavera featuring mixture of Grilled Seasonal Vegetables mixed with Pasta.

Open Letter continued from page 1 picture and his tears, I finally understood a tiny portion of what you had given for us and what we had done to you. I understood that I had been manipulated, but I also knew that I had failed to think for myself. It was like waking up out of a nightmare, except that the nightmare was real. I didn't know what to do.

One day about three years ago, I went to a member of the church I attended at that time, because he had served in Vietnam. I asked him if he had been in Vietnam, and he got a look on his face and said, "Yes." Then, I took his hand, looked him square in the face, and said, "Thank you for going." His jaw dropped, he got an amazed look on his face, and then he said, "No one has ever said that to me." He hugged me and I could see that he was about to get tears in his eyes.

It gave me an idea, because there is much more that needs to be said. How do we put into words all the regret of so many years? I don't know, but when I have an opportunity, I take it, so here goes. "Have you been to Vietnam? If so, I have something I want to say to you. Thank you for going! Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Please forgive me for my insensitivity. I don't know how I could have been so blind, but I was. When I woke up, you were wounded and the damage was done, and I don't know how to fix it. I will never stop regretting my actions, and I will never let it happen again."

Please understand that I am speaking for the general public also. We know we blew it and we don't know how to make it up to you. We wish we had been there for you when you came home from Vietnam because you were a hero and you deserved better. Inside of you there is a pain that will never completely go away and you know what? It's inside of us, too; because when we let you down, we hurt ourselves, too. We all know it and we suffer guilt and we don't know what to do so we cheer for our troops and write letters to "any soldier" and we hang out the yellow ribbons and fly the flag and we love America. We love you too, even if it doesn't feel like it to you. I know in my heart that, when we cheer wildly for our troops, part of the reason is trying to make up for Vietnam. And while it may work for us, it does nothing for you. We failed you. You didn't fail us, but we failed you and we lost our only chance to be grateful to you at the time when you needed and deserved it. We have disgraced ourselves and brought shame to our country. We did it and we need your forgiveness. Please say you will forgive us and please take your rightful place as heroes of our country. We have learned a terribly painful lesson at your expense and we don't know how to fix it.

From the heart, Julie Weaver 237 East Gatewood Circle, Burleson, Texas
76028-8948 (817) 295-6287 Email address: julieweaver@juno.com
<http://www.vietamericanvets.com/Page-Records-ServedInVietnam.htm>



FO

**working with
Skull Platoon**

**JOHN C. DULLAHAN.
FORWARD OBSERVER.
ATTACHED TO DELTA CO.**



AND ASSIGNED TO SKULL PLATOON, 1972. It was John, Randy Kline and another Trooper that were bumped off that ill-fated Chinook flight that crashed heading toward Vung Tau in May 1972 killing all on board. John also saw to it that Randy got to the Wall in D.C. to see his Brothers for the very first time in 2013. That was the top item on Randy's "Bucket List" before he passed. Thank you John, you are a true Brother!

Angry Skipper Association, Inc.® Treasurer's Report

Angry Skipper Association, Inc.®
Profit & Loss

January 1 through December 31, 2014

Angry Skipper Association, Inc.®
Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2014

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Banquet	\$ 5,479.91
Donations	3,364.00
Membership Dues	600.00
Other Events & Activities	8,010.00
Registration Fee	3,007.00
Shirts, Hats & Patches	3,621.00

Total Income \$24,081.91

Expenses

ASA Website	363.84
Bank Service Charges	177.50
Banquet - Friday Event	1,817.49
Banquet - Saturday	5,365.25
Entertainment - Reunion	450.00
Flowers / Funerals	679.74
Insurance	349.00
Legal	562.50
Merchant Account	1,435.98
Miscellaneous	100.00
Photographer	200.00
Postage and Delivery	849.17
Printing and Reproduction	1,403.00
Professional Services - Reunion	3,595.00
Shirts, Hats & Patches-Reunions	2,333.86
Tours Costs	3,561.00
Transportation	1,788.00

Total Expenses \$25,031.33

Net Income - \$ 949.42



ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings	
Checking - BofA	\$ 2,305.19
Total Checking/Savings	<u>2,305.19</u>

Total Current Assets \$ 2,305.19

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 2,305.19

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Opening Balance Equity	3,316.97
Retained Earnings	-62.36
Net Income	-949.42

Total Equity \$ 2,305.19

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY \$ 2,305.19

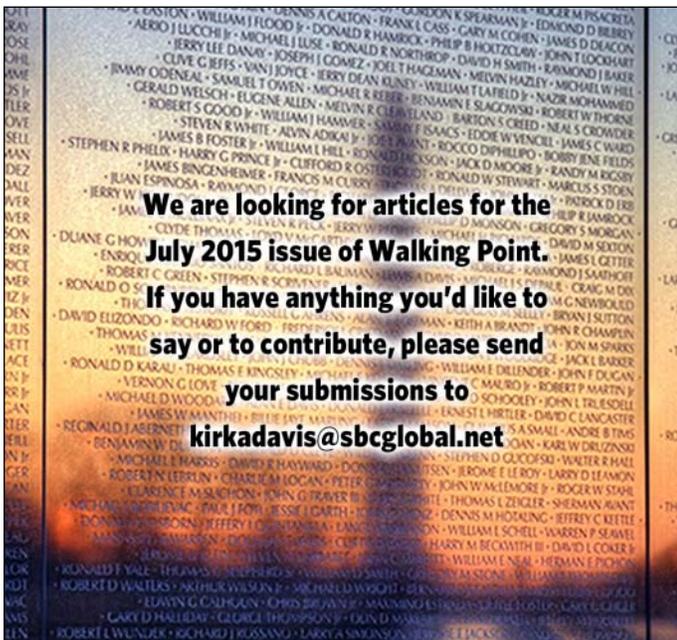


NEW MEMBERS since the July 2014 Newsletter:

- Mitch Davis, Cat Platoon (Medic), 69-70
- Joseph H. Louwagie, Cat Platoon, 69-70
- Steve Thovson, Cat Platoon, 1970
- Mark Bieberich, Cat Platoon, 70-71

DECEASED (Date of Death):

- Ed Waterman, Range, 1969 DoD 01/14/14
- Dwayne Serge Logan, Cat DoD 04/02/14
- Frank Trapnell, COL (ret), 1965 Recon 6, DoD 05/31/14
- Gale "Doc" Brown, Cat, 67-68 DoD 08/08/14
- Henry Deemer, Range, 70-71 DoD 09/11/14
- Willis G. Bacon, COL (ret), 1971 Stone Mountain, DoD 11/10/14
- Randyl Kline, Skull, 1972 DoD 11/13/14



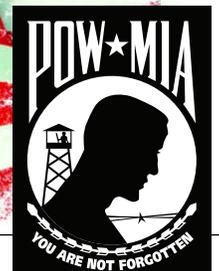
We are looking for articles for the July 2015 issue of Walking Point.

If you have anything you'd like to say or to contribute, please send

your submissions to kirkdavis@sbcglobal.net

MEMBERSHIP COUNT

Active Members: 666
Members Online: 263



ANGRY SKIPPER ASSOCIATION, INC.®
PO Box 501
STOCKTON, NJ 08559

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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

Find us on the Web:
www.angryskipperassociation.org

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2015 Angry Skipper Association Reunion — May 13 thru May 17, 2015

THE
BUCKHORN
SALOON & MUSEUM



The last reunion we had in San Antonio was held in 2009 and everyone had a great time visiting the “Alamo City” and all it’s historic sites and abundant entertainment venues such as the Riverwalk, La Villita, The HemisFair, the historic Menger Hotel bar (where Teddy Roosevelt signed up soldiers for the Rough Riders for the Spanish-American War), and too many others to list here!

