



# River Patrol Force Brown Water Log



Gamewardens of Vietnam Association, Inc.

Volume 35 Issue 5

Brown Water Log

Spring Quarter

Newsletter Editor: WW Cater. Material for inclusion should be received by the first of March, June, September, and December to be included in the next newsletter. Mail all information to: WW Cater -- 4420 Sunrise Drive, Casper WY 82604-5106 or email to: [wwcater@attbi.com](mailto:wwcater@attbi.com)



From the  
**President's**  
**CORNER**  
Steve  
Watson

## Hello Gamewardens

Just wanted to catch everyone up on the current status of several items. Our Website is doing just Great. Larry has done a fantastic job with it. It now contains a "For Sale" area which you can order new books and such. The address is [www.tf116.org](http://www.tf116.org) (all lower case letters).

We need your help! If you have an article that can be used in our National Newsletter, please send it to our newsletter editor, [W.W. Cater](mailto:W.W. Cater).

In this newsletter and in the future, you will find a paragraph from the By-Laws. This is intended to let everyone know what are the By-laws of our organization. [Ron Laratta](#) is working hard to get everything going for our [National Reunion at New Orleans](#) in 2002.

*(check our website and this newsletter for further information)*

We got a letter from Ray Snow, (National Vice President East Coast) asking about starting a "Mid west" group. He will be bringing the matter to the Board of Director's at the National Reunion in 2002.

Does anyone out there have a copy of the Naval Message concerning the wearing of the "Black Beret"? I'm looking for information, so I can correctly answer the lingering question about who was authorized to wear it. It was the last thing I was asked to do at the 2000 National Reunion meeting. If you have a copy of it please forward it to me at P.O. Box 180896, Coronado, CA 92178-0896.

## By-Laws Section

There shall be five classes of members: Class 1 (regular or full members in good standing) to be chosen by the Board of Directors and limited to those persons who have served with or in direct support of Naval Task Force 116 in the Republic of South Vietnam. Denials of the membership by the Board of Directors shall be subject to review by the membership of the class when the membership becomes comprised of fifteen (15) or more individuals and a two-thirds (2/3)

vote is required to reverse any decision of the Board regarding membership. Members of this class shall have voting rights, including the right to amend these Articles and elect directors and herein after provided.

## Subject: PBR's from Vietnam that are for sale.

1. I got an E-Mail from a guy who has family in Vietnam (see message #1)
  2. My question to you is; Are we interested? These are of significant historical interest, as They are the actual boats that we served on.
  3. While the cost is well within our means, the shipping may be a bit high, but that depends on what we want (if we want) them.
  4. Anyway, please let me know what we want to do. Personally, I am very interested in recovering them for our history. We can show our grandkids what we served, fought, bled and died on. We often see airplanes that served in wars, but our Navy has a habit of scrapping old ships and boats.
- (cont. page 2)



**REUNION 2002**

New Orleans next year:

Start saving your pennies for the 2002 Reunion August 1st - 4th, plan for a Friday Attendance. New Orleans is legendary for its music, lively celebrations and festive atmosphere. Rich in history, culture and famous restaurants. It is one of the most exciting destinations in the world!

We cannot go to New Orleans and *not* stay downtown near everything. The Hotel Intercontinental of New Orleans, in the heart of this colorful city, on the historic St. Charles Avenue Street Car Line, is situated two blocks from the French Quarter, near the Aquarium, the Casino, River Walk Center, the Mississippi River attractions, World Class Restaurant, and much, much more!!

The room rates at the Hotel Intercontinental are only \$89.00 per day single or double. Make your reservations TODAY! Call 1-800-445-6563. All of you know how this works, make your reservations early so we'll know how many will attend, and you won't be shut out of the Intercontinental Reunion. Parking is at a premium. Plan to take the Shuttle from the airport to the hotel. No need to rent a car because everything New Orleans has to offer is at your doorstep! You must mention GAMEWARDENS to get the special room rate. Hotel parking is \$25.00/day, public parking is \$10.00/day, the airport shuttle is \$10.00 each way.

**Hotel information -**

Hotel Intercontinental of New Orleans  
444 St. Charles Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
General Phone # 504-525-5566  
Website: [www.interconti.com](http://www.interconti.com)

**For more information -**

The Game wardens of Vietnam  
Ron Laratta - 2002 Reunion Coordinator  
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(cont. from PBRs for Sale - pg 1)

**Message 1:**

I came across your website while looking for Vietnamese Boat Builders. Because of family ties in the South of Vietnam, I managed to purchase 4 PBR's MKIII or MXIV, not sure which. 3 were still running with the last for parts. I don't know if they're of interest to you for purchasing or someone you know, but I thought I would pass it on. Cost would be my purchase price plus what ever the shipping is going to be. I live in Vancouver BC so they can be imported into the US, I believe.

**Message 2:**

I purchased a lot of stuff through my family while I was there. Ballpark price as I see it was about \$1500 CDN (\$1200 US) per vessel. There are 4 that I own 3 running that have been "rebuilt" and one parts vessel. I will Email them for numbers this weekend I can also have pictures taken of everything including out of water shots and so on, after the 15th of June, as my mother-in-law is going there for 3 weeks and they are stored in a warehouse. I will want my investment back plus what it costs to ship them here. I have paperwork on what I paid for them and don't want a scratch more even though I know they are worth about \$10,000 US a piece. I served with PPCU in Canada and exchange with the Marines for 8 years, and know what it means to have something that you used. They have other vessels, equipment and so forth, if you are looking something from there, let me know and I'll E-Mail it over to see if they can find it.

## Health Topic

### VA News About Diabetes:

Acting Secretary Gober, on 9 Nov 2000, announced the determination that there is a "positive association" between Typell Diabetes and herbicides used in Vietnam.

The VA expects to receive many claims for service connection of Diabetes, as a result of the announcement and other public service or outreach efforts.

The proposed regulation amending 38CFR3.309(e) that will add Typell Diabetes is now in the concurrence process. We estimate the final regulation will be April 2001.

Control of any claim received (or pending claim discovered by review) for Typell Diabetes, as related to herbicides exposure in Vietnam, by establishment of end product 685 as a future diary data to advise stake holders of the claims volume.

The Data will also help us determine staffing and other resource needs.

Any questions regarding the content of this letter should be directed to the person listed on the appropriate page at

[www.va.gov/pressrel/aodiab.htm](http://www.va.gov/pressrel/aodiab.htm)

*Robert Eply,  
Director of  
Compensation and Pension*

## VA Update

### Toll-free Agent Orange Helpline

VA has a new national toll-free telephone information and referral service to help Vietnam Veterans with questions and concerns about Agent Orange Exposure and Va benefits.

The new service was added after the Department's decision to add adult-onset (Type II) diabetes to the list of diseases associated with Agent Orange exposure. A regulation to provide monthly disability compensation to Vietnam Veterans with adult-onset diabetes is expected later this year.

VA estimates that approximately 200,000 Vietnam Veterans will receive service-connected disability for diabetes within the first five years under this new policy.

By dialing 800-749-8387, callers can either speak directly to the VA representatives Monday through Friday from 8am to 4 pm, Central Standard Time, or access a 24 hour automated system. They can leave voice messages to have information sent to them or listen to recordings about health care and benefits available to Vietnam Veterans who may have been exposed to Agent Orange.

The new Agent Orange help line is part of a stepped-up outreach effort to by VA to in-country Vietnam Veterans as they age

and as studies continue to expand knowledge of possible long-term health effects of exposure to the defoliant. The VA now recognizes 10 medical conditions as being associated with Agent Orange.

An element of the increased outreach effort is the expansion of the mailing list for the VA's Agent Orange Review newsletter. A special issue of the newsletter, summarizing VA benefits and services available to veterans exposed to Agent Orange and the procedures to obtain these benefits, has been mailed to more than 300,000 veterans currently on the Agent Orange registry. It is also being sent to veterans that are added to the mailing list through a VA DOD computer matching project. The VA has also established a new Agent Orange Web page at <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/herbicide/>

### Scarcoidosis Alert:

Scarcoidosis is a disease of "unknown cause" with no cure in it's later stages. It often resolves itself in the early stages. Medically it is classified as an "auto-immune disorder". With sufficient testing the cause is usually determined and the diagnosis is changed to reflect that. Jerry Cochran, a Naval Veteran, was diagnosed with Scarcoidosis. Jerry believed his work on Aircraft Carriers had something to do with it.

(cont. page 4)

**Email List** To add your name, email: [wwater@attbi.com](mailto:wwater@attbi.com)

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**Scarcoidosis Alert:**

(cont. from page 3)

Jerry was frequently tasked with grinding of the Anti Skid material and then reapplying it. Jerry insisted that the VA do additional testing in his case. After years of effort, the VA changed his diagnosis as a result of mineralogical testing (toxins) that showed his illness was a result of materials consistent with that of the Anti-skid materials he inhaled while working as a "Deck Grinder".

Dr Jajosky was given the task to investigate this issue, his investigation indicated that Deck Grinders had a substantially higher rate of Sarcoidosis (a misdiagnosis) than the general population. Dr Jajosky was reassigned and finally terminated after publishing his research. Those of you who have been exposed to this situation should be aware of this diagnosis and help make this a high profile issue with the VA.

**On the Lighter Side**

Recently Beloit College published a list for faculty to give them a sense of the mindset of the incoming freshman. For the graduating class of 2004, here is the list.

The people who are starting in the fall across the nation were born in 1982. They have no meaningful recollection of the Reagan Era and probably did not know he had ever been shot. They were prepubescent when the Persian Gulf War was waged. Black Monday, 1987, is as significant to them as the Great Depression. There has been only one Pope. They were 11 when the Soviet Union broke apart and do not remember the Cold War. They have never feared a nuclear war. They are too young to remember the Space Shuttle blowing up. Tianamen Square means nothing to them. Bottle caps have always been screw off and plastic. Atari predates them, as do vinyl albums. They have never owned a record player. They may have never heard of an 8 track. The Compact Disc was introduced when they were 1 year old. As far as they know, stamps have always cost about 33 cents. Most have never seen a TV set with only 13 channels, nor have they seen a black and white TV. There have always been VCR's, but they have no idea what BETA was. They cannot fathom not having a remote control. They were born the year that Walkman was introduced by Sony. Roller skating has always meant inline for them. Jay Leno has always been on the Tonight Show. They have no idea when Jordache Jeans were cool. Popcorn has always been cooked in the microwave. They have never seen Larry Byrd play. They never took a swim and thought about Jaws. The Vietnam War is as ancient history to them as WWI, WWII, and the Civil War. They have no idea that Americans were ever held hostage in Iran. They have never heard: "Where's the Beef?", "I'd walk a mile for a Camel" or "De plane, De plane!". The Titanic was found? They thought we always knew. Kansas, Chicago, Boston, and Alabama are places not rock bands. McDonalds never came in styrofoam containers. There has always been MTV. Finally, they don't have a clue how to use a typewriter. Feeling old yet?

## Notice of Congressional Bills

Two Bills have been introduced to Congress: H.R. 303 and S 170 are bills to amend Title 10 United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have service connected disability to receive both military retired pay by reason of their years of military service and to receive disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability.

That is, any member with sufficient service to be eligible for non-disability retirement (including Reserve) with at least 20 years of service would be allowed to keep their military retired pay plus any disability compensation subsequently awarded by the V A.

Both Bills have short title "Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2001." Receipt of both retirement and VA disability compensation is known as "Concurrent Receipt".

Service-connected Military Retirees are currently the only persons singled out to waive one dollar of their retired pay for every dollar received from Department of Veteran Affairs Disability Compensation.

No private-industry workers, local civil servants, state civil servants, federal civil servants, nor appointed or elected officials are required to pay for their own disability compensation as they can draw their pensions and VA disability compensation without the dollar for dollar reduction in their retirement benefit.

These service connected disabled military retirees spent their lives into middle age, in service to our country. They served with distinction dedication and honor around the world, many of them in bloody battle. It is clearly unjust not to seize the opportunity to end the unfair practice of offsetting military retirement pay by the amount of VA disability pay.

Those stipends are earned and awarded for entirely different purposes, yet current law ignores any distinction. This is a unique opportunity to show our gratitude to the remarkable men and women who have sacrificed so much for this great country of ours by supporting the Retirement Pay and Restoration Act of 2001.

You can help in the effort to pass this Bill by contacting your Legislators and urging them to support H.R.303 and S170 by each of them becoming co-sponsors of the Bills.

## Taps

### *Obituaries and death notices:*

**Mal Fullam** was a life member and a good friend. He served in River Section 544 and also served in another River Section prior to River Division 593. He was a really good person and served a career in law enforcement. Mal lived in Smith River, CA and retired from the Navy shortly after his tour in Vietnam. He died 8 March 2001 of a heart ailment.

**Philip E. Mendoza**, an Associate Member from Bellevue, NE deceased 2001.

### **A Great Holiday**

Brad Robison, our Marine Corps League Commandant here in Idaho, captures our fourth of July just perfectly. We were driving the Disabled American Veterans van in front of a truck full ex-POW's. The people applauded and waved. The respect was palpable. The feelings were physical. Our blind veteran could feel it wash over him.

Yesterday was one of the best 4th of July's I have seen since I was a kid. It was a typical "real America" day here in North Idaho. By the time the Marine Corps League Detachment (in white shirt uniforms with ribbons and badges, red fore and aft cap, black trousers and spit-shined shoes) formed up for a parade at 1100. It was almost 90 degrees on 15th St. The 4th Infantry soldiers in the 1889 period uniforms with the 38 star flag and the black powder rifles were right behind the VFW color guard, then us. We had the platoon of Young Marines behind us, then the truck load of former POW's, the members of the Chosin Few, and on and on, mounted sheriffs posse, classic old cars, pretty girls.... 150 units. In took almost 2 hrs to pass the review stand.

As I marched the 1.5 mile course, I was impressed by the turn-out of the crowd. They were 12-15 deep on both sides of the Street for the length of the route! Never have I heard such applause! We were saluted, waved at, smiled upon applauded every inch of the way. Little kids and old Folks, all ages, paid respects to the flag of the color guards removing hats, saluting, placing their hands over their hearts. Never have I seen such brilliant colors of red, white, and blue clothing almost everywhere! (cont. page 6)

## A Great Holiday

(cont. from page 5) About every five blocks, we would sing the Marine Hymn and the crowd would go wild! Their cheers helped me past the pain I felt in my hips and knees, past the shortness of breath from emphysema I felt in my lungs. As we neared the end of the course, my legs felt like lead weights -- another 200 yards and I might have been a horrible thing to watch. My shirt was soaked in perspiration, it was running off my forehead and I had not been happier in weeks. The theme of this year's parade was "Honor American Heroes" and the crowd truly made me feel like a "hero".

We enjoyed a huge ice cold watermelon in the afternoon, followed by a pork rib barbecue, and by dusk we were back at the waterfront at the lake's-edge with our lawn chairs for the fireworks show. Watching the crowd arrive for the display was fun, so many beautiful ladies. The rockets went off at 2200 and for 20 minutes the crescendo of noise and pyrotechnics lit the Idaho sky. Reports were that there were over 30,000 at the lake watching the show and untold numbers in their boats on the lake. (We did that in our boat a few years ago, but didn't get home until 3 am) By the time it was over, \$25,000 worth of celebration had been expended. It was truly an American celebration, a Norman Rockwell fourth of July, and a day that reminded me how proud I am to be an American. How grateful I am to all the Real Heroes who sacrificed so much that we could all be here today, in the home of the brave, and the land of the Free!

**Brad Robinson**  
Marine Corps League Commandant, Idaho

## Hanoi Jane

This year Jane Fonda is being honored as one of the "100 Women of the Century", unfortunately many have forgotten and still countless others have never known how Ms. Fonda betrayed not only the idea of our country but specific men who served and sacrificed during the Vietnam War.

Jerry Driscoll, a F4E pilot who suffered her attentions, remembers well as a POW at the Hanoi Hilton being dragged from his cell, cleaned, fed and dressed in clean PJ's, only to be ordered to describe -- for a visiting American "Peace Activist", the "lenient and humane treatment" he'd received. He spat at Ms. Fonda, then was clubbed and dragged away.

During his subsequent beating, he fell upon the Camp Commandant's feet which entitled him to a frenzied application of the Col.'s wooden

baton. This incident left Jerry with double vision, permanently ending his ending his flying career.

Col. Larry Carrigan spent six years at the Hanoi Hilton -- the first three listed as a MIA. His group also got the cleaned/fed/clothed routine for a "peace delegation" visit. This group was greeted by Ms. Fonda who shook their hands and asked if they were grateful for the humane treatment of their captors.

The men slipped slivers of paper with their SSN numbers into Ms. Fonda's hand only to have her give the papers to the officer in charge.

It cost three of them their lives from beatings, Carrigan would have been number four but he survived. She needs to know that we will never forget!

## What's new?

### Ship's Store

Renew/sign-up for your Gamewardens membership online!

Handmade models of STAB, Mike, Swift, MKII, ATC & ASPBs with great details!

.50 Caliber Bullet Pen that actually writes!

TF116 Polo Shirts Available in red, white, and blue.

### GamewardensForum



Join in! Our online Forum is a great place to find old freinds, discuss recent events, or just spread the word about issues that concern US! Click into [Gamewardens Message Forum](#) And join the fray!

