

River Patrol Force Brown Water Log



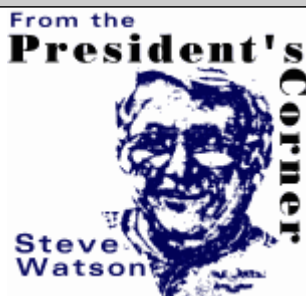
Gamewardens of Vietnam Association, Inc.

Volume 35 Issue 4

National Newsletter

Winter 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



Hello Gamewardens

Just to keep you all up to date with the latest goings-on. The 2000 reunion went very well. Our guest speaker Admiral Mauz did a fantastic job. Through the generosity of the members present we raised \$6,000!

We had over 200 members at the luncheon and over 250 at the National Dinner. The Polynesian floor show was great and lasted for over an hour. Several of our members got up on the stage and helped the dancers. It was quite a show.

I fell asleep at the business meeting "again" and woke as the President. We were able to keep Jim Davy as the West Coast National Vice President, along with Ray Snow as the East Coast National Vice President.

Herb Stephan will remain our Treasurer and Jim Ward will be our new National Secretary. We have several new Board members and a full list can be found in the newsletter.

We will be going to New Orleans, La. in 2002 with Ron Laratta, and on to Texas in 2004 we also have a new Newsletter Editor, WW Cater. He is in the process of taking over for Tom Thomson and I'm sure he will do a great job. He needs input from you and will have a section for each chapter in the National Newsletter.

Dave Ajax has taken over as the National scholarship coordinator and his address can be found on the Gamewardens Website, or he can be reached at the National Post Office Box.

All National Officers or Appointees can be reached at the National post office box.

One of the things we have been working on for the last year is our web site. While I got it started, I never got it up to speed.

Our new web site manager is Larry Bissonnette, who is already getting it in ship shape. I urge you all to check it out. The address is: www.tf116.org Keep up the good work, Larry. Larry is also our new National Supply Officer.

A word about the USN/USCG Vietnam Memorial monument at NAB Coronado, CA. The monument, when finished, will have three boats in front, a PBR, PCF, and a CCB. It is semi-circular in design and will contain all of the names of the USN and USCG casualties who died in Vietnam, along with the names of the Medal of Honor and Navy Cross recipients.

While a lot of work has been done on it, there is still lots of work to be completed. Gamewardens of Vietnam Association, Inc. is a supporter of this project. For further information on how you can help, contact Ralph Fries at 1000 Erica Street, Escondido, CA 92027 or call Ralph at 1-888-610-7080.

REUNION 2002

New Orleans in 2002

It's not too early to start thinking about the 2002 National game wardens Reunion, this time in New Orleans. The residents of NOLA boast about their unique and charming atmosphere. Rightfully so, because everywhere you turn, there is music, or dancing, all in good fun, all in a great, world class city.

The hotel is yet to be named, pending negotiations. One thing for sure - it will be in the Central Business District of town. You cannot go to New Orleans and not see the French Quarter, Jazz Clubs, fabulous world-renowned restaurants, and the Mississippi River. Just look up and you will see the hotel lights from the French Quarter, the Casino, the River Walk, Jackson Square, the Garden District, or anywhere else you may choose to visit and sight see.

The mighty Mississippi River plays an important part of the culture, history, and commerce of New Orleans. Even the Paddlewheel Riverboats will cooperate and try to get "on step" for us, while entertaining us with music, food, and a harbor tour. Well worth a visit are the cemeteries, they are above ground because New Orleans is below sea level and one of many attractions of the area.

New Orleans is easily accessible by car or by air. Since everything will be no more than 3-4 blocks away from the hotel, most likely, there will be no need to rent a car. The San Diego 2000 Reunion was great, and will be a hard act to follow, but New Orleans is shaping up to be the best Reunion ever. Start saving your pennies, set aside the dates, and stay an extra day or two - either before, or after the reunion. The dates are August 1st (Thursday), 2, 3, and 4th 2002. More information will follow, as we near the dates and secure a hotel.

For more information contact the (Gamewardens of Vietnam; 355 Ridge Court, Roswell GA, 30076

Phone: (770) 641-8065 ~ Fax: 770-993-6443 ~ E-Mail: rflaratta@juno.com ~ Ron Laratta: 2002 Reunion Coordinator

From the desk of our Website Manager; Larry Bissonnette:

My name is Larry Bissonnette. During the reunion in San Diego I accepted the responsibility for managing the Gamewardens Website. If you've checked in lately, you will recognize some significant changes from before. We have lots of changes planned.

Specifically: We've added a "Picture Gallery" of the reunion happenings under the "Reunion News" button on the Main Page. I would like to have a lot more. If you have some pictures you would like to see on the

web, send them to me by E-Mail or Snail Mail. And, (if they aren't TOO vulgar) I'll publish them. I'll be the judge as to their vulgarity.

Eventually, the pictures will be separated into Books; (ie) PBR's, Swifts, individual Chapter pictures, Reunion News, etc. as you suggest them to me. So please suggest.

My Email addresses:

laurence.bissonnette@att.net
or labiss@excite.com

My Snail Mail is:

Laurence Bissonnette
14316 NE 50th St.
Vancouver, Wa. 98682

We've published the minutes from the Business Meeting we held at the Hanalei Hotel. They are published herein. Check out the "TF 116 Memorial" button. We've published pictures by Kent Hawley of the West Coast Memorial that he took while we were celebrating the dedication ceremony. You can even read some of the names on the memorial.

I'd like to have readable pictures of each side of the memorial and pictures of the East Coast Memorial as well.

We've added links to various other Brown Water Websites, (cont. page 3)

(cont from page 2) to give an easy way to find some of these sites. For example the Seawolves, Black Ponies, PBR FVA, MRFA, the Vietnam Unit Memorial Monument, PBR MoBase One, as well as lots of individual River Divisions have graciously permitted us to link up with them.

Anyone having a Website that they would like to have linked on the Gamewardens Website, please let me know and we'll publish it.

To be updated in the very near future are the Gamewardens History page (I expect to publish the By Laws here as well as Historical information), and the Gamewardens Activity page.

The Guest Book is ten pages with ten entries per page. I promise that duplicate entries and an occasional flare will be deleted after a day or so. Please make your entries.

One of the things to be added soon is a merchandise for sale, or Ship's Store page that will take a little more getting familiar with my Supply Officer duties and will come in due process.

I've been having fun with this new job and I hope you all feel that this Website belongs to You and will provide items and info to me to help make it an interesting and informative site.

Larry Bissonnette

V.A. Website Updates by Jim Davy

To view any and all V.A. information on health-related items, claims filing, and any other information, go to the V.A. website at www.va.gov.

For V.A. benefits click on Veterans Benefits and Services.

If you would like information on Agent Orange, for example, click on Health Benefits and Services, click on Programs, click on Agent Orange health effects.

This site has all current and past information on Agent Orange and conditions recognized as service-connected for Nam Vets.

This site also lists conditions under consideration, those pending a review and information on how to get on the National Agent Orange registry, which has more than 300,000 Nam Vets on it.

This program started in 1978 and will continue as long as we have Nam Vets around.

If you are unable to find the information you are looking for on the website, call the nearest VA Office and ask for the service officer.

Health Topic

Veterans and Hepatitis C by Jim Davy

What is Hepatitis C?

It is a viral infection that is passed from person to person through blood contact. The numbers for Vietnam Veterans is as high as 15%, that is why all Vietnam Veterans should be tested.

Many of the veterans that have Hepatitis C have no symptoms or they could be very mild. The best bet is to be tested.

Many of us received blood prior to 1992 and that is why we are at such high risk for this. The V.A. will test you as part of your Veterans Medical Benefits.

The Department of Veterans Affairs, Vietnam Research, is the leader in research testing and treatment for Hepatitis C. If you would like to be screened call your nearest Veterans Hospital or Clinic and ask for the Hepatitis C Outreach Coordinator.

Fatigue and You by WW Cater

Have you ever felt tired twenty minutes after you awake - after you've had what you consider a good nights sleep? NASA's sleep study lab says sleeping disorders are more common than we think. If you have a 17-1/2 or larger neck size, chances are you have a sleeping disorder.

(cont. on page 4)

Email List

If you have an address that you would like on the list, send it to: wwcater@attbi.com and it will be included in the next newsletter.

Steve Watson
swatson9@pacbell.net
 Capt. Burt Whitham
burtonw106@aol.com
 Sherman
blackblackdog@yahoo.com
 Herb Stephan
leesa@juno.com
 Mark W. Weachter, Sr.
weachter@voicenet.com
 Nelson Family
enelson@efn.org
 Norm Howell
NHowell699@aol.com
 Al Lambinus
lambinus@scan.missouri.org
 Paul Cagle
pwc01@hotmail.com
 Ken Coen
pbr38@aol.com
 Ralph Fries
Rhufries@pacbell.com
 Tom Demott
Westpac96@aol.com
 T. Waite
twait2811@aol.com
 Alvin Horn
vh1000@email.msn.com
 Joel A. Adams, GMG1
pbrdog@worldnet.att.net
 Jeff Warnock
Jeffrey@nh.ultranet.com
 Nolan Nelson
Enelson@efn.org
 Fred Languell
Fairlanes@aol.com
 Dennis Scully
RivDiv534@aol.com
 Mike Persico
Persico2@cnrf.nolanavy.mil
 Jim Hott
Gm2hott@aol.com

Health Topic

Fatigue and You (cont from pg 3) by WW Cater

If you are sleepy twenty minutes after you've had what you consider a good nights rest, you might have a sleeping disorder.

If your sleeping partner complains that you snore too much or says they think you quit breathing, you probably have a sleeping disorder.

Sleeping disorders can lead to more serious health problems, like cardiac arrest. The only way to find out is talk to your health care provider and discuss the feasibility of a sleep study.

The solution for some sleeping disorders, can be as simple as a C-Pap machine that produces positive pressure air in the airways. The machine helps eliminate snoring and provides better rest for you and your sleeping partner.

If you think you might have a problem, contact your health care provider and discuss your situation with them, only a sleep study can tell.



Hey, this damn tree leaks!

On the Lighter Side

"In the Doghouse" Ever wonder where the term came from?

This phrase has its origins in the Slave-shipping trade. In those days when sailing ships were plying their trade, every space available was in use, which meant that the crew would have to sleep anywhere about the decks.

For the Mates, long narrow huts were built on the upper deck aft near the helm for their accommodations. A Mate having the mid-watch was permitted to sleep during the day, but would often find the space offered little but shade. It didn't take long to equate this situation to being in the doghouse, and so these structures were named.

YOUNG LOVE

Little Johnny had a next door neighbor, Little Susie. They had been telling everyone that they were going to get married. One day Susie's Dad was mowing his yard and saw Little Johnny playing next door. He called the boy over to the fence, and said, "Johnny, I hear that you're going to marry my daughter". Johnny said, "Yes Sir. We're gonna get married". Susie's father asked, "How you going to support yourselves?". Johnny answered, "We have it all figured out, I make 75 cents a week, and she makes 50 cents a week. We can cover it. Susie's father continued questioning and asked, "But what about Kids?" Johnny responded, "Oh we've been lucky so far".

Minutes from, the National Meeting 2000

The National meeting held 10 Nov 2000, at the Hanalei Hotel in San Diego, CA produced the following minutes:

National President: Steve Watson
National Vice President - West Coast: Jim Davy
National Vice President - East Coast: Ray Snow
National Treasurer: Herb Stephan
National Supply Officer: Larry Bissonnette

Other national appointments:

National Newsletter: WW Cater
National Website Manager: Larry Bissonnette
National Scholarship Manager: David Ajax.

The 2002 reunion will be held in New Orleans, LA. Ron Laratta is hosting. "A. Billy Rat" our mascot was promoted to P02 (River Rat Second Class), officially by Adm. Henry Mauz, USN Ret.

The 2004 reunion will be held in San Antonio, Tx. and will be hosted by Glen Fry and Jay Eichorn.

The Treasurer's report shows us in good condition. The Class I Dues will be raised to: \$200.00 for Life Memberships, \$30.00 for yearly memberships.

The split will be as follows: Life \$200, 50% for chapter, 50% for national. Yearly \$30, \$10 for chapter, \$15 for national fund \$5 for national scholarship.

(Continued on Page 6)

Ship's Store News

All items listed below are available at the Gamewardens' Ship's Store (<http://shop.westsoundtoday.com>)

On Sale:

Papa Bravo Romeo by Wynn Goldsmith is new in paperback and is now available for \$6.50 plus \$3.50 shipping and handling. The book is 277 pages of excitement, covering the authors tour in Vietnam from September 1967 to September 1968. It covers the time of temporary assignment with River Section 522, and the 1968 TET OFFENSIVE and the first action in Operation Giant Slingshot. The details are real, (you'll remember them clearly), and the antagonisms are hard to forget . It names names and has an assortment of black and white pictures. Other River Sections are prominently remembered. River Section 534 was the first section to use the NEW MKII PBR's, the first one to be commissioned in Vietnam, and it sunk,incombat.

GAMEWARDENS OF VIETNAM - Second Edition

Now Available: We have recieved from Turner Publishing Company, the Second Edition of Gamewardens of Vietnam Book. If you would like to rccieve one or more, please advise the Supply Officer, Larry Bissonnette of the number you want. All orders will be filled with one book until it has been determined how many orders are to be filled. The cost of the book is the same as prior orders, \$49.95 per book plus \$6.00 per book S&H costs. Orders will not be be filled unless payment is recieved. Checks should be made payable to Gamewardens of Vietnam. I'm sorry, we are not equipped to handle credit card charges yet. Supplies of the book are limited.

We now have two **Videos** from Brown Water Productions, available for purchase:

1: **River Patrol: The Gamewardens of Vietnam;** (Narrated by Robert Stack)

2: **PBR! Into Action With The Mark II River Patrol Boats.**

Either tape is available for the price of \$25.00 plus \$3.50 S&H.

To order any of the above-listed items, send check or money order to:

Larry Bissonnette
14316 NE 50th
Vancouver, Wa. 98682
or Email laurence.bissonnette@att.net

Minutes from, the National Meeting 2000

(continued from page 5)

New members of the Board of Directors are as follows:

Charles Benninghoff 2004

H.W. Sherman 2004

John Babcock 2004

Clarence Cooper 2004

Bobby Johnson 2004.

It was decided to create a flow pattern for all paper work within the organization. This is to ensure that the National Database is kept up to date and accurate.

An all inclusive membership application will be devised and distributed to all chapters and to put on the website by the new National Secretary Jim Ward.



Clarence Cooper



MK5 Special Operations Craft

Navy Lore:

Every sailing ship had to have a cannon for protection. Cannons of the times required round iron cannon balls. The master wanted to store the cannon balls such that they could be of an instant use when needed, yet not roll around the gun deck. The solution was to stack them up in a square-based pyramid next to the cannon.

The top level of the stack had one ball, the next level down had four, the next had nine, the next had sixteen, and so on.

Four levels would provide a stack of 30 cannonballs. The only real problem was how to keep the bottom level from sliding out from under the weight of the higher levels. To do this, they devised a small brass plate ("Brass Monkey") with one round indentation for each of the cannonball in the bottom layer.

Brass was used because the cannonballs wouldn't rust to the "Brass Monkey", but would rust to an iron one. When temperature falls, brass contracts in size faster than iron.

As it got cold on the gun decks, the indentations would get smaller than the iron cannonballs they were holding. If the temperature got cold enough, the bottom layer would pop out of the indentations spilling the entire pyramid over the deck.

Thus it was quite literally, "cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey".

Note from the Editor:

Hi my name is W.W. (Bill) Cater, I'm your new Newsletter Editor and here is a little background information about me I was the engineer on the 135 boat with River Division 571.

Since my discharge from the Navy I've been working for the Railroad, not all that different from being a snipe on a ship or being in the service. I still have the same all night vigil and am working with the same diesel engines. I live and work out of Casper, WY and I am gone alot.

I hope I can produce as good of a newsletter for you as your last editor did.

We all owe a big thank you to Tom Thomson and Wayne Janousek for the fine newsletter they produced. I will try to review any and all news-worthy items for Gamewardens and include them as space is available.

Any information you would like to see in the newsletter, please forward to me at my home address:

WW Cater
4420 Sunrise Dr.
Casper, WY 82604-5106
Or email me at
wwcater@attbi.com



Membership Application Gamewardens of Vietnam Assoc. Inc.

To qualify for membership, you must have been in TF116 or in support of TF116. A Copy of your DD214 or sponsorship by Gamewardens member or Associate membership is required.

Please circle the Chapter that you wish to be affiliated with:

West Coast South East East Coast North East Member at large (National)

PERSONAL INFORMATION: (This information will never be released to anyone!)

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home phone number _____ Email Address _____

Work phone number _____

Spouse's Name _____ Sponsor's Name _____

VIETNAM SERVICE:

Unit Assigned (1) _____ Unit (2) _____ Unit (3) _____ NIOTC Training Class _____ When? Mo./Yr. _____

Pay Grade/Rate in country _____ If still active, present command _____

Retired _____ From to (Mo./YR.) _____

Decorations received:

Navy Cross _____ Purple Heart _____ Silver Star _____ Bronze Star _____ Combat Action _____ PUC _____

NUC _____ MUC _____ NatDef _____ VietCampagn _____ CivicAct _____ Cross of Galantry _____

Other _____

Searching for a former "River Rat"?

If so, who? _____

Type of membership:

New Renewal Life+= \$225.00 Life= \$200.00 Yearly= \$30.00 Associate= \$15.00

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ Cash _____ Check _____ Other _____

Print this page, fill it in. Make check payable to: "Gamewardens of Vietnam Assoc. Inc."

Mail to: National President, PO Box 180896, Coronado, CA. 92178-0896

If you have any questions concerning Gamewardens of Vietnam Assoc. Inc., Please call Steve Watson on our toll-free line 1-888-722-4986 or E-mail: swatson9@pacbell.net

Received by _____ Date _____ Check _____ Number _____