



River Patrol Force Brown Water Log



Gamewardens of Vietnam Association, Inc.

Volume 1 No. 1

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Newsletter Editor: W.W. Cater

Material for inclusion should be submitted to:

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By Laws Section Part III: Class No. 3

(Honorary Members) - such persons, although not qualified for membership, the Board may wish to recognize as having rendered a service to the organization or its members or be otherwise worthy of recognition. These members shall be chosen by the Board of Directors subject to the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the membership of Class No. 1. Members of this class have no voting rights.

Information for Retirees: Retirees Activities Offices Phone Listings:

Arizona: Phoenix (N&MCRESREDCEN) (602) 353-3033

Tucson: (N&MCRESCEEN)(520) 228-6277/89

California: China Lake (NAVAIRWPASTA)

(760) 446-3246

Lemoore: (NAS) (559) 998-4042

Monterey: (NA VSUPPACT) (831) 656-3060

Point Mugu (NBVC)(802) 992-1023

San Diego: (NAS CORONAOO) (619) 437-2780

San Diego. (NA VSTA) (619) 556-8987

Seal Beach (NWS) (562) 626-7152

Sunnyvale (Onizuka Air Station- formerly Moffett Field)
(650) 603-9047

Connecticut: Groton (SUBBASE) (860) 694-3294

Delaware: Wilmington (N&MCRESCEEN) (302) 998-3328

Florida: Jacksonville (NAS) (904) 542-5783

Mayport (NA VSTA) (904) 270-6600

Milton (NAS Whiting Field) (950) 623-7177

Orlando (DFAS Building) (407) 646-4204/4259/4260

Pensacola (NAS)(850) 452-5990/5991

Georgia: Atlanta (NAS) (770) 919-6735

Kings Bay (SUBBASE) (912) 673-4509

Hawaii: Pearl Harbor (NA VSTA) (808) 473-4222

Illinois: Great Lakes (NTC) (947) 688-3606

Louisiana: New Orleans (NA VSUPPACT)

(504) 678-2134

Massachusetts: Quincy (NA VRESCEN)

(613) 753-4636/4626

Maryland: Annapolis (USNA) (410) 293-2641

Bethesda (NNMC) (301) 295-4120/1

Patuxent River (NAS) (301) 757-1885 Ext 911

Maine: Brunswick (NAS) (207) 921-2609

Michigan: Mt. Clemons (SELANGB) (910) 307-5580

Minnesota: Minneapolis (NA VRESREDCOM)

(612) 713-1578

Missouri: St Louis (NABMARCORPSRESCEN)

(314) 263-6443

Mississippi: Gulf Port (NCBC)(228) 870-3000

Nebraska : Lincoln (NAVRESCEN) (402) 470-2136

New Hampshire: Portsmouth(207) 438-1969

New Jersey: Earle (WPNSTA) (732) 866-2155

Lakehurst (NA V AIRRENGSTA) (732) 323-5099

Nevada: Fallon (NAS) (775) 426-3333/3332

New York: Amityville (AFRESTRGCEN) (631) 842-6620

Rochester (N&MCRESCEEN) (716) 247-2052

Oregon: Central Point (NA VRESCEN) (541) 772-2566

Eugene N&MCRESCEEN) (341) 686-9266

Portland: (N&MCRESCEEN) (503) 285-4566/9587

Pennsylvania; Willow Grove (NASJRB) (215) 443-6033
or 1-800-773-1569

Rhode Island: Newport (NETC) (401) 941-4089

South Carolina: Charleston (NAVWPNSTA)

(843) 764-7480

Tennessee: Millington (NAVSUPPACT) (901) 874-5195

Texas: Corpus Christi (NAS) (361) 961-3113/2372/3722

Ft. Worth (NAS JRB) (817) 782-5442/5287

Houston (N&MCRESCEEN)(713) 795-4109/4068

Ingleside (NA VSTA)(361) 776-4551/4552/4553

Kingsville (NAS)(361) 516-6105/6333

San Antonio (NA VRESCEN) (210) 225-2997

Virginia: Dahlgren (NSWC) (540) 653-1839/3291 or
1-800-500-4947

Little Creek (NAB) (757) 462-7763 or 1-800-372-5463

Norfolk(NA VSTA)(757) 322-9113 or 1-800-372-5463

Washington: Bangor (SUBBASE) (360) 396-4115;

1-800-562-3301

Bremerton: (NAVSHPYD) (360) 476-5113 or

1-800-634-4100 (WA Only)

Everett (NAVSTA) (425) 304-3775/3721

Whidbey Island (NAS) (360) 257-8054/55

Wisconsin: Milwaukee (N&MCRESCEEN) (713) 744-9766

Personnel Matters Contact:

Navy Personnel Command Retired Activities Branch
(pERS-622)
5720 Integrity Drive Millington, TN
39055-6220 Tel: (800) 2554950 or (901) 874- 4307
E-mail ~22@~rsnet.vavv.mil (Please include your phone
number with all correspondence,)

“Old Geezers”

(slang for an old man) are easy to spot: At sporting events, during the playing of the National Anthem, Old Geezers hold their caps over their hearts and sing without embarrassment. They know the words and believe in them. Old Geezers remember World War I, the Depression, World War II, Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Normandy and Hitler. They remember the Atomic Age, the Korean War, The Cold War, the Jet Age and the Moon Landing, not to mention Vietnam. If you bump into an Old Geezer on the sidewalk, he will apologize. If you pass an Old Geezer on the street, he will nod or tip his cap to a lady. Old Geezers trust strangers and are courtly to women. Old Geezers hold the door for the next person and always, when walking, make certain the lady is on the inside for protection. Old Geezers get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women and children and they don't like violence and filth on TV or in movies. Old Geezers have moral courage. They seldom brag unless it's about their grandchildren. It's the Old Geezers who know our great country is protected, not by politicians or police, but by the young men and women in the military serving their country. This country needs Old Geezers with their decent values. We need them now more than ever. Thank God for Old Geezers!

Family in search of information!!!!

My name is Paul Mohun. I am writing you at the suggestion of Fr. Lester L. Westling, Jr., Captain, Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy (Ret). I have been looking for anyone who might have known (or even have pictures of) my wife's uncle, Tom Copp, who was KIA on Friday, Feb. 13, 1970 while based at Ha Tien, Vietnam as a member of Mine Division 113 (part of Task Force 116). Tom was on MSR 4 on the Giang Thanh river when he was killed in an RPG attack on his boat and a second MSR (MR-6).

We are trying to locate Tom's crewmates and anyone else who may have known him. We would be interested in hearing from anyone who knew Tom or about his life in Vietnam. We are trying to collect information to be able to share with his nieces and nephews and, at an appropriate time, with their children.

Tom's memorial service (and that of David Hoffman,

KIA 02/26/70) was held on March 11, 1970 at Ha Tien with Fr. Westling presiding. Lt. Robert Aurin was the commanding officer at Ha Tien.

We have been unable to locate or even learn the names of any of Tom's crewmates, and would certainly love to hear from them or anyone else who knew Tom.

Thanks in advance.

Paul Mohun, San Francisco, CA
(415) 659-5906
PMohun@chrn.com



TOM COPP



Obituary: Kenneth J. Jenda Riv Div's 533, 525, 545: 1968-1969: Kenneth J. Jenda died 25APR 02. He was a member of Gamewardens of Vietnam Association. Mr Jenda served in what was formerly Republic of South Vietnam from 1968 to 1969, with Task Force 116; River Sections 533, 525 and 545. Jenda left a note in which he saluted the American servicemen in Vietnam who patrolled the rivers as he did. I reflected upon the rare darker moments of my life and admitted to myself that

I had given thought to the notion of suicide as an option. Instead of developing that notion further though, I chose to reach for the undeniable. Bickering strings of hope before me that could be not extinguished from with out. Strings of hope that when grasped and allowed to be woven together created an unbreakable tether that simultaneously bound me within it's truth and pulled me upward from my bed into another 'morrow.....

I was saddened by Jenda's death even though I did not know him. I was unaware of any other River Rat's in this area. I wished I could have spoken with him.

The irony of this incident is that I am not unaccustomed to death, barricaded subjects, suspects, hostage situations, homicides or suicides. As a former member and sniper of Kern County Sheriff's SWAT during the eighties I had experienced every call-out imaginable. And on every one of those call outs I wore tactical fatigues with the 458th PBR triangular patch on my left breast pocket. I had cut those patches off of my 'Nam fatigues upon making SWAT and with permission of the SWAT commander I was able to wear an "altered" tactical uniform. From the Song Dong Nai, Song Saigon, Nha Be, Cat Lai, Cogido, Binh Ninh to Kern County Calif. and "crack houses", meth labs, escaped convicts, hostage situations, shoot outs, suicides and homicides, the 458th PBR patch covered my heart and greeted those who had drawn a line in the sand.

So today, Saturday, I can't help but think of Jenda and myself as two men who shared unique reverence while patrolling the rivers of South Viet Nam in the sixties.

It is sobering to know we lived so close to one another decades later yet 'seeing' similar but distinctly different views of the same life within which we lived.

While I wrote the above note my four year old granddaughter came into the room and interrupted me, "Gwam-Pa," she said as she approached my desk with her arms behind her back. "Guess what color my hands are?" I turned and looked beyond the newspaper article titled in bold black letters: SUICIDE VICTIM LEAVES APOLOGY and gazed upon a fresh face and sparkling eyes. Her little pony tail bounced impatiently as her whole little body rippled with mischievousness. "Pink?" I replied. "Noooo", shaking her head side to side. "RED with sparkles!" she shrieked while thrusting the finger-paint covered palms of her hands threateningly toward my shirt..... I wish I could have met Kenneth J. Jenda on Wednesday. I wish we could have shared a few words together before Thursday came. Jim Anderberg
River-One 458th TC PBR69-70-71

Members already signed up for REUNION 2002

Thomas Armstrong	553 NAG Ben Luc
Larry Bissonnette	593
Buck Bowdoin	RivRon 5 572
Lewis R. Britton	NSA Mytho
Thomas D. Buckley	513
Ralph Christopher, Jr.	ATSB
Ben Keo	YRBM 21
Floyd T. Collins	RivRon 9
Clarence Cooper	511
Robert R. Cosgrove	CTF1 16
Gary Crest	533 554
Edwin Cross	531
James D. Davy	593
Thomas B. DeMott, Jr.	CNFV NSA NHA BE
James F. Dickson	CNFV
Joseph J. Dizona Jr.	NSA NHA BE
Walter Fanton	533
Mike Finegan	532
Carl Fletcher	593
Wayne A. Forbes, Jr.	534
Rick Foster	573
Frank W. Free	552
Glen Fry	514
Gene Geiger	543
Michael J. Gervais	512 552
John Herke	531521 532
Don P. Jackson	1UWG-1
Kenneth L. Kelley	553
L.M. Kildow	514
R.L. Kirk	531 553 511
Dave Larsen	593
Dan Litzenberg	593
Ron Laratta	532
Douglas L. Loff	532
James Love	532
Rod Morgan	532
John P. Nowak	CNFV
Thomas L. Perry	513
Paul Quinlan	544 593
Jim Randall	1593
Donald L. Rasmussen	593
Jerry W. Sapp	533
Edward Schneider	512
Dennis Scully	534
H.W. Sherman, Sr	511
Haman C. Smith	542 592
Herb Stephan	541 591
Stephen D. Sumerall	532
Raymond Vandermeer	CTF 116.1
Stephen Watson	511 512
David A. White	593
Burt Witham Jr.	CTF 116
John W. Woody	Boat Support Unit Two

New Orleans 2002 Reunion

This is the city to see! There is so much to do, you will need to plan your time. But, be sure to leave some leisure time for those unexpected, spontaneous happenings! Bourbon Street, and the French Quarter are only 4 blocks away from the hotel. This is a great time to enjoy New Orleans - with the Reunion and your friends!

We're really excited about the events we have planned for everyone. We hope there is something that suits your fancy! Select as much, or as little, as you wish. One thing for sure - you can bet on a great time. Denise and I have personally experienced all the activities that are shown in this newsletter. (That was really hard for us-to spend time in New Orleans and just have fun!). So, if you have questions, feel free to give us a call or e-mail your questions.

All of the events planned do have a minimum number of people required. However, the event planned for **Michaul's** ("me -shawls") on Friday evening has a **minimum of 100 required**. Sign up early so we know if we can pull this one off. Michaul's is normally closed in July and August. They are opening just for **US!** We do need to reach our numbers so we can experience an evening of food and fun.

Michaul's was recently featured in **Southern Living** magazine as "great for Cajun music, dancing, and food." Its Mardi Gras Festivities are huge and famous!

Our hotel is within walking distance of all the events. We know - we walked our little feet off. But, to make it easier for everyone to get around, the major plans all **include transportation**. In addition, cabs are readily available and fairly inexpensive. Also, it is easy to get to places on the St. Charles streetcar - which happens to stop right outside our hotel. (Are we good at planning, or what?).

Our hotel is first class. Each guest will enjoy the complimentary health club, outdoor, rooftop pool, coffee maker in each room with complimentary coffee, in-room safe, iron, and ironing board. All rooms have a mini-bar (not complimentary). The lobby lounge has entertainment Wednesday-Saturday.

We are at the Hotel InterContinental, 444 St Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA (504) 525-5566 For hotel reservations, contact the InterContinental directly at 1-800-445-6563. Mention the Garnewardens/ Navy River Patrol Reunion to receive the \$89 per night rate. This Special rate is available 3 days before and 3 days after the Reunion. If you drive, be warned: Parking at the hotel is \$25/day. City Parking nearby is \$10/day. City Parking does not allow same day in and out, our hotel does.

Arrive by plane and let the **Airport Shuttle** whisk you to the hotel. Proceed to the baggage claim area, lower level, to the left, and purchase tickets at the Airport Shuttle Ticket Desk. (Buy your return tickets here, too). Make note of your pickup time for your return trip. \$10.00 per person, each way. Wheelchair accessible vans are available.

Contact Person:
Ron Laratta
355 Ridge Court
Roswell, GA. 30076
Ph 770-641-8065 Fax 770-993-6443
Email: rflaratta@juno.com

What to See and Do

TOURS: Alternate days and tours between the Swamp Tour and the City Tour. Choose one tour on Thursday afternoon and the other one on Friday morning (You will see almost everything New Orleans has to offer - At Special Group rates).

Cypress Swamp Tour (Thursday 12:15 PM or Friday 8:15 AM) \$22.00

Watching for wildlife ... This is an adventure into the Bayou with native Cajun captains. Beyond curtains of Spanish moss, hundreds of wild animal species and plant life thrive. Watch for ancient alligators emerging from the dense waters. This amazing Cajun experience has been featured on National Geographic Explorer, the Travel Channel and ESPN Outdoors. Buses will pick you up **at the hotel** and journey across the Mississippi river to the Bayou Segnette where you will enjoy the cruise. This tour is approximately 2 hours. Refreshments are available on board, at reasonable prices.

*** **AND** ***

City Tour (Thursday 1:00 PM or Friday 9:00 AM) \$20.00

Travel through three centuries of history and romance as you encounter "The City That Care Forgot!" Absorb the sights and sounds of the famous FRENCH QUARTER and historic JACKSON SQUARE. Walk through one of the unusual aboveground "CITIES OF THE DEAD." Enjoy the shores of LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN. Follow the ST. CHARLES AVENUE STREETCARS through AUDUBON PARK and the exclusive GARDEN DISTRICT. The tour is approximately 2 1/2 hours and **starts at the hotel**.

Bubba Gump's Shrimp - Thursday Night Social \$28.95

What can we say? To quote Forrest Gump - "Bubba taught me all there is to know about the shrimping business, so I figured it was only right to open up a place like this ... ". It's casual, it's fun, and it's down-home cookin' with down home warmth! This is the place to be for a reunion social. Get together with your unit, bring the family, join the fun. Bubba's is setting aside the entire second floor for us to enjoy the evening. Fun starts 6 PM with a cash bar. Dinner will be served at 7PM.

You have your choice of 4 entrées:

- Lt. Dan's Drunken Shrimp (Shrimp in bourbon sauce with spicy New Orleans sausage)
- Cajun Crazy Mahi Mahi
- Mama Blues Southern Charmed Fried Shrimp
- Forrest's Favorite Herb Chicken Breast (2 charbroiled chicken breasts, fresh herbs and jasmine rice)

A three-course dinner, transportation, taxes, and tips are **included** in the price.

Michaul's - Friday Night \$31.95

Cajun and zydeco music are especially unique factors in the local scene. One place to cut a rug is at Michaul's. In the Cajun dining room colorful murals in a casual bayou décor surround you. There is Cajun hospitality at its best with live music, authentic Cajun cuisine, and dance lessons guaranteed to get you moving!!! Michaul's was recently highlighted in a **Southern Living** article on New Orleans. Dinner, music, dance lessons, and transportation from

National Dinner - Saturday Night \$34.95

Menu

Gumbo Jambalaya Rum Sauce

Double Line Buffet

New Orleans Gumbo Du Jour

Mixed Green Salad with House Dressing

Baked rolls and butter

Grilled Gulf Fish with Lemon Buerre Blanc

and

Andouille Sausage & Chicken Jambalaya
Chef's choice of Vegetables, and Pasta or Potato
New Orleans Bread Pudding with Rum Sauce
Coffee, Tea, Decaffeinated Coffee, Iced Tea
Price includes Taxes and Gratuities

What Else Can I Do?

Visit the French Quarter of New Orleans.

The French Quarter is very friendly and safe. Of course, as with any other city, use prudence, don't "flash" your money, walk in groups, on well-lit areas and streets. New Orleans Police are everywhere, they have a station right in the French Quarters.

Be sure to make time to enjoy café au lait and be at the world famous ***Café du Monde***. Located right on **Jackson Square**, this is the place to savor the chickory coffee and warm beignets smothered in powdered sugar! Don't wear dark clothes!!!

The **National D-Day Museum** celebrates the American spirit, teamwork, optimism, courage, and sacrifice. It also includes a terrific display of the Higgins boat - the reason the museum is located in New Orleans. They just opened a display area featuring the Navy in the Pacific Ocean - "The Battle of the Coral Sea." We've arranged for the regular admission of \$10 to be reduced to \$6 for anyone wearing our reunion nametag.

Catch a St. Charles Streetcar (go West) from the hotel to the D-Day Museum stop.

See jellyfish, penguins, and rare southern sea otters at the **Aquarium of the Americas**. Visit a Caribbean reef, the Amazon rainforest, and the Mississippi River. View one of the fabulous IMAX movies.

Try your luck at **Harrah's Casino**. It's always Mardi Gras where each of the five distinct "courts" gives you non-stop gaming in the city where the first game of craps was played.

Start your collection of Mardi Gras beads here, too!

Learn how the carnival floats are made at **Mardi Gras World**. See the floats. Try on costumes! See if you are the lucky one with your piece of King Cake. Cross the river on a free ferry (near the Aquarium and RiverWalk Shopping) and catch a Mardi Gras World shuttle on the other side of the river.

Shop for antiques on Magazine street, watch the street vendors around **Jackson Square**, enjoy musician's **'jamming**," have your palm read or your portrait drawn. Take a horse and buggy ride.

New Orleans is non stop. This is the place to be!

Les bon temp rouler (Let the good times roll)!!!!!!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Please make note of the times and dates

1 August	Thursday	11am-6pm 12:15pm 1:00pm 6:00pm	Registration Cypress Swamp Tour 1SW City Tour 1CT Bubba Gump's Shrimp Co. Social
2 August	Friday	9am-6pm 8:15am 9:00am 1:30pm 2:30pm 6:00pm	Registration Cypress Swamp Tour 2SW City Tour 2CT Board Meeting National Business Meeting Michaul's Cajun Food/Dance
3 August	Saturday	8:00am 6:00pm 7:00pm	Buses depart for Memorial Services Cocktails/Reception National Dinner/Speaker
4 August	Sunday	Travel Day See you in San Antonio in 2004	

ALL tours start at our hotel

and everything is wheelchair accessible!

Chapters and Divisions: Please let me know if you plan to meet -
Your group may meet in the Hotel Inter-Continental or
elsewhere. I will make arrangements for any location.

Print this form and send to Ron Laratta Please make note of times and dates

NEW ORLEANS 2002 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Gamewardens of Vietnam * Hotel Inter-Continental
August 1-4, 2002

(Please print clearly)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Unit in Vietnam: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Name(s)/spouse/family/guests: _____

Registration Fee (includes family only) # _____ x \$15.00 = _____

Cypress Swamp Tour 1 SW 8/1 Thursday 12:15PM # _____ x \$22.00= _____
2 SW 8/2 Friday 8:15AM # _____ x \$22.00= _____

City Tour 1 CT 8/1 Thursday 1:00PM # _____ x \$20.00= _____
2 CT 8/2 Friday 9:00AM # _____ x \$20.00= _____

Bubba Gump Social Thursday 8/1 6:00PM
Select Your Entree:
Lt. Dan's Drunken Shrimp # _____ x \$28.95= _____
Cajun Crazy Mahi Mahi # _____ x \$28.95= _____
Marna Blues Charmed Fried Shrimp # _____ x \$28.95= _____
Forrest's Favorite Herb Chicken # _____ x \$28.95= _____

Michaul's Dinner/Dance 8/2 6-9PM # _____ x \$31.95= _____
National Banquet 8/3 6-10PM # _____ x \$34.95= _____

Donation to the General Fund or RENEW 2002 \$30.00 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Total Amount Enclosed (Please indicate if you paid on-line) \$ _____

"Gamewardens of Vietnam"

Personal Check _____ MoneyOrder _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____

(Please Print)

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Cardholder Name: _____ Signature: _____

Mail payment and completed registration form to:

GWVn
355 Ridge Court
Roswell, GA 30076

Registration Form and Payment are Due June 1, 2002

***Your signature is required, no matter which Method of Payment you use**

Signature _____ Date _____