

River Patrol Force
Brown Water Log
Gamewardens of Vietnam



GAMEWARDENS OF VIETNAM ASSOCIATION INC.

Phone : (307) 237-5755

Volume 1 No. 1

Editor: W.W. Cater:

W.W. Cater : 3510 E 8th ST : Casper, WY. 82609 - 2708 or E-Mail to wwcater@bresnan.net

National Newsletter

Material for inclusion should be submitted to:

Presidents Corner

John Woody, Winter 2010

2009 State of the Gamewardens

2009 was a good year for Gamewardens. The formation of the Mid States Chapter was completed. The SE Chapter also completed its re-organization. The Mid Atlantic Chapter completed the 2009 Gamewarden/Riverine Group One Leadership Excellence Award presentation. A WC Chapter mini reunion was held in San Diego.

Our membership started 2009 at 1076. We now have 1100 as of January 2010. We are getting more of the new Brown Water sailors aboard from the Riverine Group Squadrons and the Special Warfare Craft Crewmen Special Boat Teams. Thanks to all who have had a hand in this recruiting effort.

I again attended the Vietnam Center Conference in March '09. This year's subject was Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand. Larry Serra, WC Chapter member, made a presentation on the role of Naval Intelligence Liaison Officers (NILO) in Vietnam. He again gave his presentation at the WC Chapter mini reunion.

Clarence (COOP) Cooper received a Bronze Star for actions during his Vietnam tour as Craftmaster of USS Kodiak (YF 866). We all attended in Little Creek for this celebration.

Ken Delfino is putting the final touches on this year's National Reunion to be held in Suisun City, CA. Details follow in this newsletter.

Chapter Events

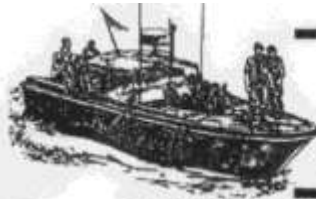
SE Chapter

I traveled to Melbourne FL again to visit the Vietnam and All Veteran's of Brevard annual reunion. This trip was primarily in support of SE Chapter. In the past trips to Melbourne, we had recruited several new members and found old members. The SE Chapter held a chapter meeting and elected new officers. Ron Laratta was elected President; Al Sears, V President; Charles White, Secretary; and no nominee for Treasurer. Ron Laratta reported the SE Chapter income and inventory. As there are many members in the Orlando area, and this area is close to the Bunker PBR, the majority of the SE Chapter meetings may be held in this area and in support of the Bunker PBR. The Bunker PBR was not displayed at this venue this year due to lack of a towing vehicle and the death of one of the primary maintenance supporters.

I was able to again meet with the South Florida Veterans group which is associated with the restoration of PTF Three. I met with a former BSU One veteran, CMC Bill Morano, who had also been closely associated with the Nasty's in Vietnam. Bill and I talked about forming a BUS One/MST Chapter as most of the unit had served in TF 116 at one time or another.

If you live in the Alabama, Georgia, or Florida area, contact Al Sears at adsears@embargmail.com about joining the SE Chapter.

Ron Laratta has since resigned as President SE Chapter for personal reasons. Al Sears is now President. Charles White remains Secretary/Treasurer.



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We are building a relationship with the VFW Bunker group in Orlando. This group has a MK II PBR on loan from NHC as we do. The Bunker group would like for Gamewardens, primarily SE Chapter to be associated with them and provide knowledgeable experience in that PBR up-keep. It is shown each year at the Melbourne Veterans gathering. The Bunker group does not have any PBR experienced sailors, i.e., TF 116 members in its VFW group. The PBR does have a trailer and they have had trouble finding a tow truck each year to bring it to Melbourne.

We will not be financially responsible for the Bunker PBR.

Vietnam Center Conference

In March 2009, I attended the Vietnam Center Conference on Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand. This trip again allowed me to meet with the Vietnam Center directors and others associated with the history of the Vietnam War. I delivered a MK II PBR model to the Center for display under the Gamewarden heading. I was also able to place Burt Witham artifacts in his name in the archive in accordance with his family wishes. I talked to Steve Maxner and Kelly Cramer about having a Navy Vietnam History conference.

Cooper Award Ceremony

In May I attended with the Mid Atlantic Chapter members, the Award Ceremony for the presentation of the Bronze Star to Clarence Cooper, Senior Chief Quartermaster, retired. This ceremony was held on the Naval Base Little Creek. VADM Jay Donnelly, USN, Commander Submarine Force made the presentation. Coop finally has received the reorganization of his service in Vietnam.



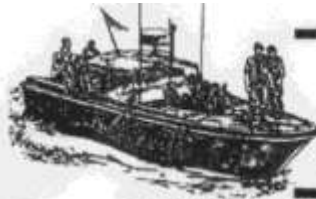
Coop and VADM Donnelly at the award ceremony

If you live in the Norfolk/Little Creek area and have not attended a Mid Atlantic Chapter Quarterly meeting, contact Jerry Gandy at jgandy2959@aol.com.

WC Chapter Mini Reunion

During July we met in San Diego for a WC Chapter reunion. Gene Glasco set the reunion up at a Holiday Inn. About twenty WC Chapter members and families were in attendance. A WC Chapter meeting was officiated by Larry Bissonnette for the election of new officers. Gene Glasco was re-elected as President, Brad Story, new member was elected as V President, Michael Sullivan was elected as Secretary/Treasurer, and David Larsen as Historian. Carl Fletcher will lead the WC Chapter BoD.

Day trips were arranged to visit San Diego harbor and the Vietnam Unit Memorial Monument (VUMM) on Naval Base Coronado. The WC Chapter under the guidance of Carl Fletcher has the VUMM in wonderful shape.



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We met mostly at the hospitality room at the Holiday Inn. Thanks Gene and Carl for this reunion.

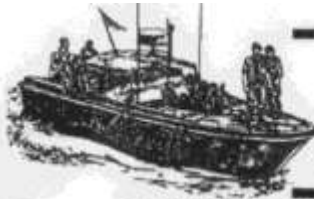


The hospitality room was busy all the time.

On Saturday, we visited the VUMM site and held a memorial ceremony.



The group forms in front of the monument.
 The PBR is in good shape.



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The monument is always inspiring
 the obelisk and PBR

If you live in the California area and would like to participate in the VUMM, contact Gene Glasco at gene69-70@sbcglobal.net .

Mid States Chapter (Mid West Chapter)

The Mid States Chapter was granted an Informal Chapter Status by the BoD on October 11, 2008. They have been contacting members in the states around Illinois. In October I traveled to Orland, IL to meet with Jim Woods of the Mid States Chapter. They were getting ready for their first Chapter meeting to be held later in the

month. I stayed in the hotel that had been arranged for the Chapter weekend.

Jim and I went over the national documents and the member databases for their use. I reviewed how to keep the databases current.

The Chapter has plans to make Great Lakes Training Base as one of their projects. It turns out that Ralph Christopher found that the barracks named for SN Ouellet had been re-named something else. This would be a good start for a project for them to work on and get the TF 116 history into the Navy Training lessons.

If you live in the Central States area, contact Richard Cragg at rjc29339@aol.com .

NE Chapter

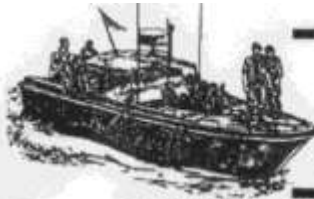
NE Chapter held their quarterly chapter meeting at Middleboro VFW hall on February 27, 2010.

NE Chapter will again hold its Chapter reunion at the Plainville Beagle Club, Plainville MA on June 26, 2010. The Chapter will participate in the Bourne National Cemetery Parade on November 8, 2010. Contact the Chapter for detailed directions on each of these events.

Contact Nancy Re if you live in any of the North East area states at nancyre@yahoo.com .

NW Chapter

NW Chapter will again display the operational PBR at various venues. All the 2010 events will be static and on the boat trailer. Events include the Bremerton parade in May, June at the Rose Festival, Everett Naval Base for July 4th, Sea Fair in late July; and Veterans Day for November.



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Contact Heinz Hicketier at president@gamewardensnw.org for latest schedule of events and how to contact NW Chapter to join.

Mid Atlantic Chapter

Mid Atlantic Chapter will attend the Change of Command for RADM Pottinger on April 9, 2010. She is being relieved by RADM Tilliston. I will attend this ceremony also.

The Mid Atlantic Chapter represented Gamewardens at the service for LT John (Jack) Lynch, SEAL, who passed away in February. The Chapter raised funds to donate to the UDT-SEAL Association building fund. Gamewarden National also donated to this fund. Jack Lynch was a great supporter of Gamewardens over the years.

Contact Jerry Gandy at jgandy2959@aol.com about joining Mid Atlantic Chapter or attending any of their events.

Boat Support Unit One Trip

In September, I traveled to Lubbock to meet with Boat Support Unit One personnel I had served with in '66 / '68. Bill Moreo, Rick Shephard, and John Rapp met at Blas Mojica's house in Lubbock. We had all served together on the Nasty PTF Thirteen boat and in MST Two in Vietnam. I introduced them to the Vietnam Center Archive and to Kelly Crager.

We talked about forming the BSU One / MST Two Chapter. This is potentially a large new member group who served in TF 116. This group brings a new rich source of Vietnam memories to Gamewardens. Most were MST Two SEAL boat support sailors. Essentially, we were the forerunners of the current Special Warfare Craft Crewmen

(SWCC). There is an approximately 300 member potential by bringing this group into Gamewardens.

Naval Historical Center Boat Agreement

I completed our NHC Loan Agreement document in February 2009. It covers both monument PBRs and the operational PBR. Under this arrangement, we will have greater leeway to do our things with the boats.

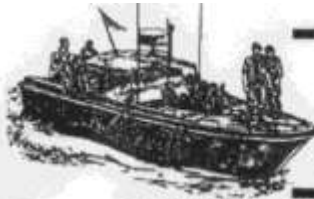
The NHC has had a turnover of personnel. I will personally meet with the new NHC administrators in the near future.

We also cleared up a misunderstanding about weapons custody with NHC. We provided NHC with the weapons tracking for the VUMM PBR.

The VUMM PBR weapons were turned back to the NAB Coronado unit who owned them and we have replicas in their place.

We have approved two VUMM site cost funding requests. One was our share of the cost of a riding lawn mower to ease the up-keep of the monument grounds and the second was to cover direct up-keep costs of the memorial PBR. Our one/quarter share of the lawn mower is \$980.00. Our cost to the PBR up-keep is \$1,000.00 of which \$250.00 has been spent and \$750.00 in reserve for the future. Carl Fletcher has been the lead member in seeing to the building and maintenance of the VUMM from its beginning. **Thanks Carl!**

The VUMM PBR and the Little Creek PBR, as well as the operational PBR are NHC assets in our care. We are financially responsible for them until turned back to NHC. We are very fortunate that the Mid States Chapter has been able to fully maintain the Little Creek Memorial PBR.



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National will assist this Chapter if they need or request help in that maintenance.

As noted above, the Florida Bunker PBR is a NHC asset also and they have the responsibility to care for it.

Board of Director Changes

Glen Fry submitted his resignation as a BoD member and Membership Chair. I have appointed Joe Dizona as Membership Chair. Joe will concentrate on finding our "lost/unknown members". He has had some success so far. Tracking lost TF 116 sailors and members is a hard task to accomplish.

Tracking lost TF 116 sailors and "unknown" members will be the subject of a separate letter to everyone this spring. There are approximately 75 plus "unknown" members in our database. As everyone remembers, these "unknowns" were the subject of our membership analysis in 2005. This analysis changed in how we handle "annual" memberships. A by-law change made the "annual" memberships "Bi-annual" with a cost savings to members and a USPS cost savings to the corporation by having all memberships renew at the next National Reunion. The form for registration contains a line for **Bi-annual Membership Renewal** regardless of attendance at that reunion. Please renew on that form and send it and the \$50.00 dues to the P. O. Box address on the form. We will respond with a renewal letter and new ID card at the end of the reunion.

Tom Moffett has been appointed to the BoD in Glen's position until the next General Meeting to be held in Suisun City this year at the National Reunion.

Membership Action

As noted above, we started the year with 1076 members and now have 1100 members. The NW Chapter, Mid Atlantic Chapter, and WC Chapter are to be commended for their efforts in recruiting younger members from the current "Brown Water" Navy operations. NW Chapter has been very successful in recruiting the current boat operators from the units in the Washington and Oregon areas.

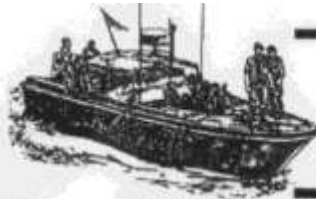
Again, as noted in the section above, please get your Bi-annual renewal in by September 1, 2010 regardless of attendance at the reunion. Reunion attendees must cover their renewals to attend the reunion.

Corporate Name Change

Brad Story, VP WC Chapter, has undertaken the task to lead a survey and recommendation about a name change that would incorporate all "Brown Water" sailors' currently on active duty and from later conflicts into Gamewardens. If any member has ideas or suggestions to assist Brad in this project, please contact him at bwstory71@yahoo.com. It would be nice to be able to present this idea at the 2010 General Meeting.

East and West Coast Obelisk Repair

During the Norfolk Reunion in 2008, we discovered that at least two names on the obelisks were spelled wrong. A BoD motion was approved to obtain a bid from Norfolk Monument to make the repairs on both obelisks for \$1,309.00. Coop and Roy Adair lead each coast repair job. It was completed.



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After this was completed, we were contacted by one of the LST units that they were not listed on the obelisks. We will need to determine exactly which units were left off and then make these final repairs. We would share the cost with the ship organizations in the name additions. There is also the problem of room for any additions to be determined.

This is a subject for the Suisun City Reunion General Meeting.

Operational PBR at Suisun City Reunion

The NW Chapter is attempting to find a means to bring the operational PBR to the reunion. We need a truck and low boy trailer capable of handling at least 31,000 lbs of MK II PBR. The NW Chapter is actively working this problem and has requested any assistance or ideas from everyone.

It would be great to have the PBR in the water next to the hotel during the reunion.

Contact Heinz Hickethier at president@gamewardensnw.org if you have any ideas or suggestions of a donated truck and trailer or other support.

Private PBRs in Georgia

Jack Carrico owns two PBRs and is attempting to restore them. The PBR hull numbers are 31RP7331 and 31RP7334 for any historians. Jack would like to have Gamewarden members who live in the adjoining areas contact him at carricoj@yahoo.com or 856 701 3702. He could use some help in the restoration. His web site is www.brownwater.net.

Trail of Honor in Jackson MS

Larry Bissonnette, Al Sears, David Larsen, Vaughn Shuler and I will be attending the next Jackson MS Trail of Honor gathering in May. SBC Daniel Boyles (SWCC) of Special Boat 22 invited us to participate with them. We will be staying at the hotel with the SWCC's. The SBT 22 will have one of their SOC-R boats on display. This is an annual event put on by the Jackson Harley Davidson dealer.

I have five rooms arranged for so far. If any other member wants to attend, please contact me about room arrangements. Bring your berets.

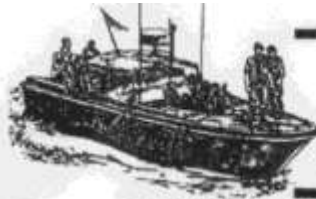
I am also working with SBT 22 about getting an annual SBT 22/Gamewardens Leadership Excellence award for the team as we have with Riverine Group One. Thanks Larry for forwarding SBC Brandon Hartwell's (SWCC) e-mail request to me about this project.

Reunion General Meeting Elections

All the officer positions are up for election or re-election at the Reunion General meeting. The following board members are up for election or re-election: Bob Johnson, Glen Slay, W.W. Cater, Tom Moffett and Ralph Christopher. Ken Delfino, Larry Bissonnette, and Dennis Scully are up for election or re-election in 2012. Tom Moffett was appointed by me to fill the vacated position by Glen Fry.

Anyone considering not running for office again or new member who wants to run for office please get in touch with me for planning purposes for the General Meeting.

I am planning on running for President one more time.



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Miscellaneous

These items are one liners about certain health or other events that each of us may want to consider.

There is a **Social Security Benefit** for anyone who served an active duty prior to 2002 and is retired or planning on retirement soon. If you fit the active duty prior to 2002, you may qualify for a higher social security payment because of your military service. This applies to anyone who served from 1940 to 2002. You must bring your DD 214 to the Social Security Office and ask for this benefit. It is worth looking into.

There is a web site depicting a **virtual wall of those lost in Vietnam**. It contains the names, bios, states and medals plus other information about the individual. It is <http://www.virtualwall.org/istates.htm> . First click on a state, then on a name. You may be able to add to the comments of that individual.

Individuals may contribute to the **SEAL DEFENSE FUND** in support of the three SEALs on trial for the alleged mistreatment of Ahmed Hashim Abed, suspected mastermind of a 2004 ambush in Iraq that left four employees of the private security company Blackwater USA dead. The three SEALs are Special Warfare Operator 2nd Jonathan Keefe, Special Warfare Operator 2nd Matthew McCabe, and Special Warfare Operator 1st Julio Huertas. For Gamewardens, this is strictly an individual thing to do. Any donation should be sent to First Western Trust Bank, 5460 South Quebec Street, Suite 200, Greenwood Village, CO 80111. The president of this bank is SEAL Lindsey Thomas Kough, Class 158.

Brandon MO Reunion 2012

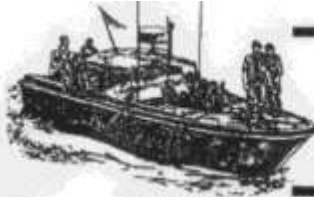
James Renick has a preliminary arrangement for our hotel in Brandon MO. He will be able to brief us in detail about his plans at the 2010 General Meeting.

Suisun City CA Reunion 2010

The following portion of the newsletter has been prepared by Ken Delfino for those attending the 2010 Reunion this September 29 thru October 3, 2010. Hotel arrangements should be made directly to the Hampton Inn & Suites, 2 Harbor Center Drive, Suisun City, CA 94585, phone 707 429 0900. Their web site is on www.tf116.org.

Start thinking now about the 2014 reunion and the location you would like to have it in. This will also be a subject at the General Meeting.

Ken's attachment below details his plan and the registration form. Use the form to register and remember, Bi-annual renewals all need to use this form as well, sending it to Ken at the address on it.



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Notice Program

I am rebuilding the rebuild Notice Program to get it back up to date and working. Please bear with me.

One Last Reminder

This reminder is about keeping National Office up to date about physical address and e-mail changes. We need to know when addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses change to be able to keep you informed.

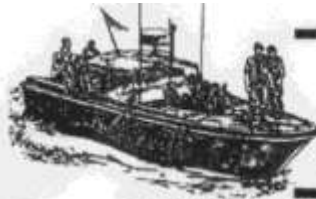
The 2010 Suisun City reunion details are attached.

John Woody
President
1 (866) 220 7477
president@tf116.org
jwoody@texas.net

Winter2009.doc

Back to Suisun!

It has been 40 years since the last of our TF-116 brothers left Suisun City for 1 and IV Corps of South Viet Nam. A lot has changed in this once "backwater swamp town". It was actually used as the backdrop for the 1949 movie "All the King's Men" starring Broderick Crawford. The movie and Crawford won two of the movie's three Academy Awards.



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The city has changed immensely and I witnessed part of that positive change from 1983-2001. In 1987 it was ranked as “the worst place to live” in a San Francisco Chronicle poll. I now shamelessly consider it to be the “Gem of Solano County”.

The city officials and vendors have been working with me to make sure all flows smoothly for this reunion. I have received nothing but POSITIVE FEEDBACK and CONTINUED SUPPORT from staff and elected officials.

Suisun City is:

- 1 hr SW of Sacramento Metropolitan Airport
- 1- 2 hr NE of Oakland International Airport (depending on time of day)
- 1 ½ - 2 ½ hr NE of San Francisco International Airport (depending on time of day)

There are many attractions such as the world-famous and nearby Napa Valley, San Francisco (accessible via Vallejo Ferryboat) to Pier 39 and Ferry Building, visit to Old Town Sacramento via the Capitol Corridor train that you can pick across from our hotel and for most of us who took that big bird to the jungle, Travis Air Force Base and the Doolittle Museum.

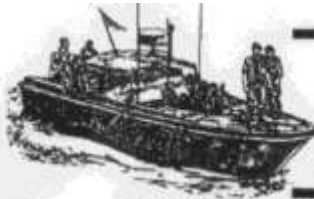
During the Gold Rush of 1849, the gold was sent by wagons to Suisun City where it was loaded on ships and sailed to San Francisco’s banks. Some of the original buildings from the late 1800s still remain in Old Town for your exploring pleasure. I invite you to visit www.suisun.com to see some great photos plus a background on the city’s rich history.

Here is the basic info...a form will be placed on the website for you to download and submit with payment for whatever you wish to do. I am not set up to accept credit cards. Personal checks or money orders okay.

Activity Period: September 29-Oct 3, 2010

HDQ **Hampton Suites Inn – 2 Harbor Center – Suisun City, CA 94585**
Complimentary Breakfast each day
Hospitality Suite on Ground Floor - Ship’s Store on Ground Floor
Must be booked directly through link posted in TF-116 Reunion Info website
NOTE: Some will be arriving on 28SEP with no planned activities.

RV: **For those arriving by and needing an RV park, the nearest facility is in Fairfield.1700 N. Texas St – Fairfield, CA. It’s about a 10-minute drive. The next two nearest are (Midway RV Park) is north of Vacaville about 20” away and Vineyard RV Park. If I were to use an RV, I’d use these. www.midwayrvpark.com & www.vineyardrvpark.com**



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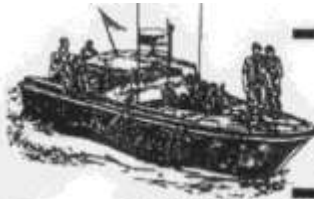
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E V E N T S

- WED 29SEP Early Arrivals
 On your own to recon Old Town Suisun and dine in any of her many restaurants such as:
La Cabana – Mexican – across the street
Athenian Grill – Greek – on waterfront
Bab’s Delta Diner –American – on waterfront (until 1400 only)
Taqueria Tepe – Mexican – Old Town
Main Street Bar & Grill – American – on Main Street
Joy of Eating Café – American – Old Town
El Capitan Coffee Co. – American –in train station (0500-0900)
Tasuke – Japanese – across the street
Pad Thai – Thai – on Main Street
Puerto Vallarta – Mexican – across the street
Uncle Bong’s Pizzeria – Pizza – at train station
Cast Iron Grill – American – Old Town
- P.S. The “Vista Club” we used to visit at night while on training ops “looking for bad guys” is no longer here!!! A few locals still remember our visits!!*
- THU 30SEP Tour Mare Island – Jelly Belly Factory – Travis AFB Museum
 (optional pending interest)
 Visit “Old Town” Sacramento via Capitol Corridor – optional
 (Group rates available for 20 or more on same trains – 14day advance purchase)
- FRI 01OCT 0900 Bus departures for Napa Valley Tour
 * *Castello di Amorosa Winery* 1.5 hr
 * *Calistoga (on your own for lunch...many restaurants here)* 2.0 hr
 * *Clos Pegase Winery* 1.5 hr
- 1600 Estimated return to Hampton Inn Suites
 1730 “Welcome Home” Waterfront Barbecue Buffet (*Note: Be hungry!*)
- SAT 02OCT 1030 Muster for Waterfront Memorial Service
 1100 Waterfront Memorial Service
 1200 **Lunch on your own**
 1300 Officers & Directors meeting
 1400 Annual Membership meeting and Elections
 1730 Boarding “Lady of Suisun” commences
 1800 Underway “Cruise on the Sloughs” Buffet Banquet
- SUN 03OCT Departures



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**Gamewardens of Viet Nam Association 2010 Reunion and Yearly Renewal Form
 Hampton Suites Inn – 2 Harbor Center - Suisun City, CA 94585
 29SEP-03OCT 2010**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____ - _____

e-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Unit/s and Dates in RVN: _____

Name/s Spouse and Family Guests: _____

Registration Fee per family: # ____ @ \$ 40.00 = \$ _____

Train ticket to Old Town Sacramento (R/T) Optional # ____ @ \$ 28.00 = \$ _____
(less 20% p/p if group of 20 or more on same train)

Bus tour of Napa Valley # ____ @ \$ 90.00 = \$ _____
 Includes tours and tastings at Castello di Amorosa and
 Clos Pegase Wineries and a two-hour stop in the City of Calistoga. (Lunch on your own)

“Welcome Home” Waterfront Buffet Barbecue # ____ @ \$ 30.00 = \$ _____

“Cruise on the Sloughs” Buffet Banquet # ____ @ \$ 65.00 = \$ _____

Renewal Biennial Membership # ____ @ \$ 50.00 = \$ _____

Donations: Scholarships - \$ _____ Newsletter - \$ _____ Operational Fund - \$ _____ = \$ _____

Total Payment ----- \$ _____

Registration and Payment due by: JULY 31, 2010

Please mail payment made out to **“Kenneth A. Delfino-GWVN”**. and registration form to:
Ken Delfino - Reunion Chairman - G.W.V.N - P.O.Box 1690 - Colfax, CA 95713-1690

You will receive both an e-mail confirmation of your payment plus a packet sent via snail mail with brochures. Your event tickets will be given to you when you check in.