

Gamewardens of Vietnam – Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Hi Everyone!

The 1st Qtr., 2007, meeting of the GWVN Mid Atlantic Chapter took place on Saturday, February 24th, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at:

American Legion Post 126
William Paul Stallings
115 W. Academy St.
Hertford, NC 27944

A group of us gathered for an excellent late breakfast at the little café next to the Episcopal church and then headed over to the Legion Hall for our meeting. Ed Huntington, local Hertford photographer, joined us at the café and stayed with us through the meeting. Ed is a former Navy Photographer's Mate who served aboard a heavy cruiser off Vietnam in 1966 and 1967 and who has a photography business in Hertford.

Prior to starting the meeting, the Mayor of Hertford, the Honorable "Sid" Eley, was kind enough to welcome us to his picturesque North Carolina town and brief us on the history and current events taking place in the area. He gave an excellent (unscripted) presentation and it is obvious he truly loves his town and is among it's biggest champions! FYI, among other things we learned, Hertford's original Charter is dated 1758!

We had (10) members, (1) new applicant, (1) mascot and (1) guest present for the meeting. In attendance were:

Clarence Cooper, Jerry Gandy, Pat Doyle, Gary Marker, Vaughn Schuler, Fred Olds, Bill Ferguson (our host!), Roger Alston, Jim Horvath and Larry Weatherall. Our newest applicant was Gary Grahm, our mascot was (and IS) A. Billy Rat, Jr. and our guest was Ed Huntington.



We began with the Pledge of Allegiance and covered the following agenda items during the meeting:

Gamewardens of Vietnam – Mid-Atlantic Chapter

1. East Coast MK I PBR Maintenance Committee:

Larry Weatherall has volunteered to head up the Maintenance Committee that will work on “our” MK I PBR located at the entrance to the NSWG-4 Compound at NAB Little Creek. The focus of the maintenance efforts will be to ensure that the MK I is always in a presentable condition and to minimize the effects of exposure on the appearance and physical condition of the boat.

A. The boat is in VERY GOOD condition at the present time. Coop, Jerry Gandy and Larry Weatherall met at the boat on Thursday, 2/22, and found the paint to be holding up well, the top to be in excellent condition and the overall appearance to be top notch.

B. The maintenance items to be undertaken later in the year are the following:

1. Replacement of the STEEL armor with ALUMINUM to eliminate the possibility of rust.
2. Repair of the coxswains flat floor (over the fuel tanks) where the fiberglass has delaminated.
3. Re-anchoring the canopy legs to their mounting bases.
4. Fabricating “U” mounts for the M-60 MG’s so they can be mounted.



5. FUTURE: Possible reconfiguration of the MK II front gun mount to a MK I layout.

C. Larry Weatherall will call for volunteers when the weather warms up a little.

2. Manufacture & Installation of a plaque of statistics near the MK I at Little Creek:

A. Coop distributed copies of the proposed content of the plaque and has solicited input from the membership. No changes were made and the proposed content and layout were approved by a unanimous vote by the members present. The suggestion to add the GWVN web site address (www.tf116.org/) to the plaque was also approved.

B. Information for an additional plaque with details on our specific boat will be provided by Larry Weatherall and reviewed at an upcoming meeting.

C. Coop and Gary Marker will get the plaque fabricated and mounted ASAP.

Gamewardens of Vietnam – Mid-Atlantic Chapter

3. Information on the GWVN presentation done at NCWS FOUR on 01/23/07.

A. CMDCS Tanya Delpriore hosted a gathering at NCWS FOUR for GWVN to explain what we are all about and to invite them to join.

B. Larry Weatherall prepared a PowerPoint presentation with some highlights of the following items: (the CD was left with CMDCS Delpriore)

1. How the GAMEWARDENS name came to be.
2. How we came to wear Black Berets.
3. The types of Navy TF's that operated in Vietnam.
4. Info about what the GWVN Association consists of and what we do.

C. Larry Weatherall passed around hard copies of the presentation for the members present to review.

4. Information on the USS JE Williams “GWVN Leadership Excellence Award”:

A. The first GWVN Leadership Excellence Award was presented on 02/02/07 to FC2 (SW) Stefanie M. Dressell, USN.

B. The CO of the USS Williams, CDR Ian Hall, kicked off the event with all hands mustered on the mess decks. He explained the criteria for the award and spoke about how FC2 Dressell had demonstrated leadership excellence during the ships recent deployment.

C. Larry Weatherall read the award document and presented FC2 Dressell with a Black Beret in recognition of her leadership.

D. John Woody, GWVN National President, presented FC2 Dressell with an associate membership to GWVN and a presentation coin.

E. Gary Marker presented FC2 Dressell with an award plaque.

5. Info on the Establishment Ceremony for RIVRON TWO at Little Creek on 02/02/07.

A. Approximately (20) Black Beret wearing Vietnam era Brown Water Navy GWVN and MRFA members were present at the RIVRON TWO establishment ceremony.

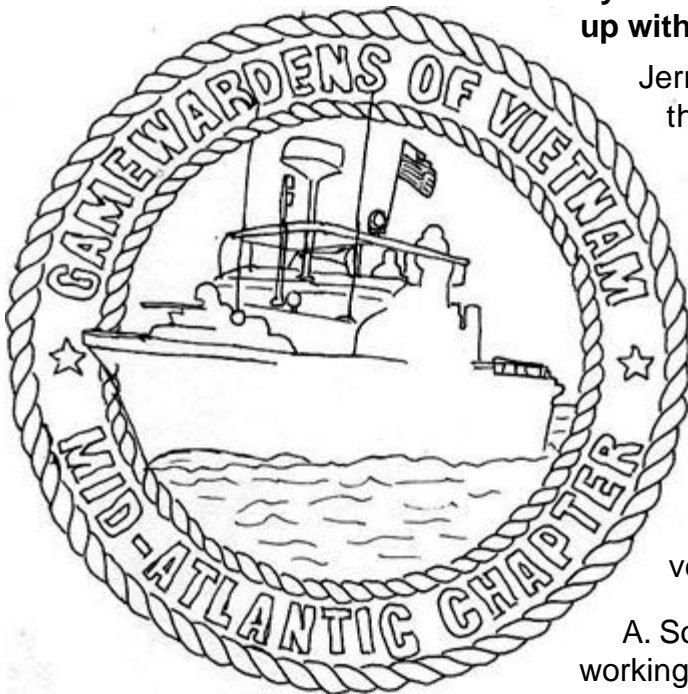
B. During the ceremony, John Woody, Vaughn Schuler and Larry Weatherall were personally recognized as representing GWVN by Commodore Mike Jordan.

Gamewardens of Vietnam – Mid-Atlantic Chapter

C. GWVN will be invited to the Establishment ceremony for RIVRON THREE when it is scheduled. RIVRON THREE is currently forming and GWVN is helping the Intelligence Officer with info from the Vietnam era.

NOTE: Coverage of the GWVN Leadership Excellence Award and RIVRON TWO Establishment Ceremony can be seen on the GWVN web site at www.tf116.org/.

6. Jerry Gandy advises that he'll be asking for help in coming up with COLORS for our Mid Atlantic Chapter Logo.



Jerry brought a drawing of the current logo and asked for the membership to review it and send colored in recommendations back to him at: jgandy2959@aol.com or call him on (757) 479-4544 to arrange to mail your suggestions to him.

The colored logo would be used on clothing items and well as possibly being used for MID ATLANTIC CHAPTER Challenge Coins.

7. Information on GWVN Mid Atlantic Chapter VESTS:

Coop advises that he is working on finding a LOCAL vest supplier and will update us on his efforts.

A. So far, he's not had much luck but will keep trying and is working on finding someone who is willing to make them in more than one size.

B. Most of the members present at the meeting on 2/24 were interested in a vest and if we can find a suitable supplier, perhaps they can become Ships Store items for the Mid Atlantic Chapter.

8. Info on the Annual UDT-Seal Assn East Coast Reunion at Little Creek:

A. The dates are July 19th through July 22nd this year.

B. We are welcome to join as Associate Members of the UDT-SEAL Assn.

1. Annual Membership is \$50.00 a year and that includes (4) issues of their OUTSTANDING Newsletter/Magazine "THE BLAST".

C. Being able to attend the "Capability Demonstration" during the reunion is worth the price of membership. It's THE BEST "demonstration" I've ever seen.

D. The UDT-SEAL web site is at www.udtseal.org/.

Gamewardens of Vietnam – Mid-Atlantic Chapter

9. Info on 2007 PBR-FVA Reunion in Seattle, August 2nd through August 5th.

A. The PBR-FVA 2007 Reunion is in Seattle this year and more info on how to sign up and the details can be found at www.pbr-fva.org/.

10. Information on the GWVN NW Chapter.

Those guys are having TOO MUCH FUN! Check out their site at: <http://www.gamewardensnw.org/> and click on the NWC Events section to see some VERY COOL stuff.....

A. They were recently involved in the taping of a recreation of the event for which David Larsen was awarded the Navy Cross.

B. The “BATTLE ZONE” program will show that recreation on:

1. The Military Channel - March 21, 2007.
2. The Discovery Channel - April 26, 2007.

C. The NW Chapter is keeping the operational MK II but is having to refurbish a MK II hull to send to the Naval Historical Center in Washington D.C. to become a static display out at the Washington Navy Yard. When the boat is ready, it will be trucked across the country and plans are being prepared to stop at strategic locations during the trip to raise awareness of GWVN and the Vietnam Era Brown Water Navy in general. Details to follow as they develop.

11. Our newest Mid Atlantic Chapter member, Gary Grahan, CWO2 from TF-117, advises that there is a website that is being used to gather Navy Vets online.

It is at <http://Navy.TogetherWeServed.com/>. This is what it says at the site:

For current and former serving Members of the United States Navy, TogetherWeServed is a unique, feature-rich resource helping Sailors and Naval Aviators re-connect with lost Shipmates, share memories and tell their Navy story.

12. **Treasures Report:** Gary Marker reports that the Mid Atlantic Chapter has on hand a total of \$1,801.57.

The total consists of \$685.00 in the Monument Fund and \$1,116.57 in the General Fund.

13. **Ships Store Report:** Pat Doyle reports that the Mid Atlantic Chapter Ships Store has on hand an inventory worth \$2,682.60

We are looking at adding more Mid Atlantic Chapter logo shirts and vests when then become available.

14. **NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting of the GWVN Mid Atlantic Chapter will be on May 19th, 2007.

Gamewardens of Vietnam – Mid-Atlantic Chapter

May 19th was chosen because it is Armed Forces Day and will not interfere with Memorial Day events the following weekend.

The meeting will be held **from 1:00 to 4:00 pm and will again be held at VFW Post 392 located at 2408 Bowland PKWY, Virginia Beach, VA.**

The following directions are provided courtesy of Clarence Cooper:

On Hwy I-264, take Lynnhaven Parkway South Exit. Turn left on Potters Rd. at the first light.

Go about two miles & turn right on London Bridge Rd.

Go about a mile & turn right on Bowland Parkway (look for the VFW sign).

The VFW will be on your right and parking is in front and along the East side.

Many of us will gather for lunch from around :30 to 12:30 before the meeting at:

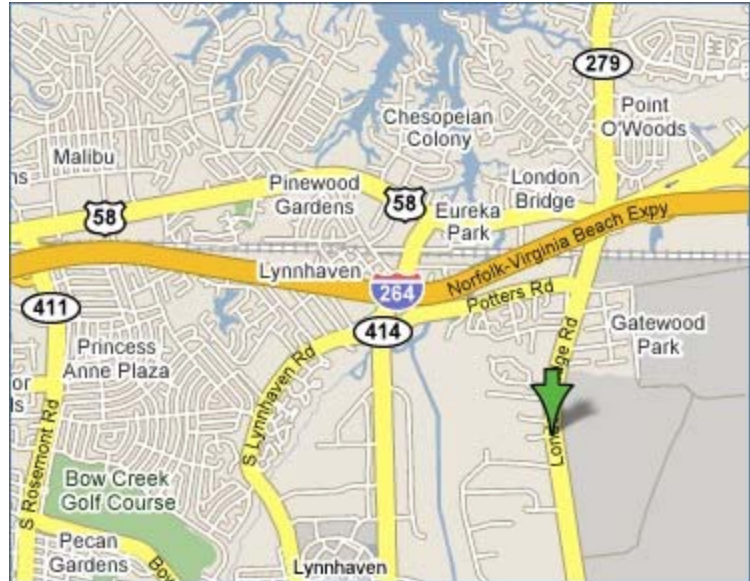
Conklin's Irish Rover located in the Village Shoppes at Rose Hall, 3157 Va Beach Blvd., 631-1294. It's owned by Retired MCPO Bob Conklin and is only about 3 miles from VFW Post 392.

NEW BUSINESS:

15. A proposal was raised to solicit interest from the membership in having a **PURELY SOCIAL GATHERING**, either in addition to or in place of one of our quarterly meetings. One thought was to plan a dinner gathering at a Norfolk / Virginia Beach restaurant and get together with our families instead of just the members. When I proposed this to my wife, she said that she would definitely attend a gathering like this so maybe we are on to something.....

For those of you who would like to have a PURELY SOCIAL GATHERING, please be prepared to make your wishes known by our next meeting. I'll be asking for votes at that time and we'll see what the actual level of interest is.

FYI, we pretty much vetoed the idea of having a combination Quarterly Meeting & Social Gathering. We spend too much time in the meeting where our "significant others" are bored to tears and we need to spare them that agony....



Gamewardens of Vietnam – Mid-Atlantic Chapter

16. A question was asked about the interest in acquiring a **Mid Atlantic Chapter Banner** to use for parades and other gatherings of Veterans Groups. We kicked it around a little and didn't really nail it down so I'd like to ask if there is sufficient interest from the Chapter in participating in the type of events where a GWVN Mid Atlantic Chapter Banner would be used. If there is enough interest in participating in parades and other gatherings, this is something that we can vote on at the next meeting.

If there are any other "pet projects" that the membership would like to see the Chapter involved in, PLEASE make your voice(s) heard!

That's it for now! I hope to see as many of you as possible at our next meeting on May 19th.

Best regards,

Larry Weatherall

President, GWVN Mid Atlantic Chapter
lweatherall@cox.net