

Issue 23

July, 2015



ANGRY SKIPPER ASSOCIATION, INC. (ASA)®

Walking Point

The newsletter for D Co. 2/8 Vietnam 1965—1972

“I remember Nov 4, 1965, la Drang Valley, LZ Cavalier”



We had all come in via Plei Me and the Special Forces camp that had been hit by the 33rd Regiment of the trained NVA. It was our job to find them and engage as later on we would and certainly Col Hal Moore and his men indeed did in the Battle of X-Ray beginning 14, November, 1965. And several days later, the terrible Battle of Albany.

I was hanging around Delta Company Capt Linton’s CP when the call came in from somewhere around 1000 hours if my memory serves me from Recon’s RTO Patterson. Recon had been hit and needed assistance ASAP! I could hear the shots and explosions in the background of Patterson’s transmission. Capt Linton immediately asked for Lt. Ward, Recon’s Plat Lt., Patterson in his southern drawl candidly saying, “Sorry sir, I’ve been hit and am laying in a dried out stream bed and can not get the radio to Lt. Ward. but we need some help ASAP, sir.” Linton scrambled around and sent Lt. Frank Trapnell and a dozen men or so including myself, the Senior Medic for Delta Company, 2/8, to Recon’s destination. I did not know at the time that later elements from several of Delta’s sister companies would be sent in as well.

On the way there I remember finding an NVA hand grenade, picking it up from the trail like a dummy and signaling to Lt. Trapnell as to what I had found! He quickly make me lay it in the fork of a tree, admonished me for such stupidity of picking it up and we continued on towards Recon. As we approached the area, it seems as if we just melted out in different directions, and I seemed to be alone. I could hear mean screaming, machine gun fire and lots of small arms fire with intermittent explosions! I began to try and find a safe collecting place for the wounded and made a collection area behind a fallen tree slightly down from the crown of a small hill. It was backed up in the wood line and a little off from the fairly open area where lots of activity was going on as best as I can remember. I immediately begin crawling out into the open and bringing back wounded men to my little safety area.

I remembered going back and forth out into the fields of fire to retrieve the wounded and bringing them back to my area. One guy I remember was laying down with another soldier hovering over him calling “Medic,” when I arrived, the soldier took off and left me there with the unconscious casualty. I checked for wounds, blood, etc., and found none. Then I realized this guy was having a heat stroke! His shirt was buttoned to the top, his flak jacket zipped all the way up and he was pale and unconscious. I unbuttoned his shirt, flak jacket, and poured his canteen all over his face. No response. I then took my canteen and did the same as I slapped his face. Suddenly he came too and began to fight me with all his strength. Now he was a big guy and I was only about 5’10” and Maybe 165 pounds! But with the adrenalin pumping, I quickly anchored him down and got his attention that I was a Medic and not an NVA! Then I remember how concerned I was when I gave him back his M-16 and told him to crawl with me back to safety, hoping all along this guy would not shoot me in the ass....we got back and after some time, the 105’s started to rain in! The sound was deafening! You could hear them screaming in through the tree tops and exploding with ungodly noise! *(continued)*

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Angry Skipper Association, Inc.® Board of Governors

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- Treasurer: Ed Regan (Range, 68-69) smilez4747@yahoo.com
- Secretary: Robin Woo (Skull, 71-72) rwoo@surewest.net

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I remember the air was hot, filled with dust and hot pieces of shrapnel, the smell of burning powder and the falling of limbs that were pelting my men and our safe collection area! Some of the shrapnel was still smoking it was so hot! I remember it was awfully close and later learned that we had casualties from friendly fire. Some of those I remember patching up were Pablo Ortiz who was shot through one of his wrists and because he had been holding his wounded wrist between his legs, he was covered with blood all over his crotch. He was worried that his genital area was damaged....I checked and assured him that it was only a wrist wound and that he would one day father some children; all the equipment was in tact!

There also was Patterson, Recon's RTO that I found laying in a dried out stream bed with a round completely through his left femur! By now he was in a lot of pain and I had to administer morphine to him. I remember it didn't seem to help and maybe I even gave him a second shot. Later when we finally got some Med Evacs to come in, I remember Patterson begging me to just let him lay there for one more minute before we moved him.

I also remember among all the fallen, Sgt. Richard Coffee, Cpl Hill, and PFC Hamill. All from Recon being KIA that day. We lost them and about half of the rest of the platoon to wounds, decimating Recon! It was really bad. Another of the wounded would be Sgt. Robert Wilson, squad Sgt., if I remember right from Recon. He had taken a round or a flack wound in the upper thigh area and had lost a lot of blood. He was from Texas, red headed and light complexion as well which meant he just got almost completely pale and white from loss of blood. I remember telling one of the Med Evac Medics to pay special attention to him because of the loss of blood. Little would I know that Sgt Wilson would recover, spend more tours in Nam, and would become the Command Division Sergeant Major for the 1st Cavalry Division later in his career! We finally saw each other at a reunion in Washington D.C. years and years later!

I remember working with Sgt. Marshall, a great leader and friend, as we begin to put KIA's on ponchos and were going to take them with us after the Med Evacs left and it was getting dark. Many of the WIA's were still with us, those that could ambulate and couldn't be evacuated earlier via the air. It was around then I was hit by a single round after we had called in a Navy Skyraider to bomb the cache of weapons we had stacked up and found. I don't recall much after that except I told the other medics how to fix my leg, Patke, a junior Medic from Texas was one of those medics I have never seen since. I do remember him crying over my wound after ripping my pants! That didn't go to well. From there, all the walking wounded and me being carried on a litter were marched back to LZ Cavalier, where I would be air evacuated later on.

Before being sent to Fort Gordon, Georgia, for 7 more surgeries and 13 months of hospital time, I do recall while I was next to Patterson in some sort of holding area after the battle the next day. They had put a cast on my leg from my groin to my toes. My toes were turning black and I knew why being a medic. I was not getting in oxygen to my foot. No matter how I tried to explain to the doctors and orderlies, nothing was done.

Then in he walked! Non other than General Westmoreland! As he would stoop by nearly every cot and whisper words of encouragement to each of us, he told me he was proud of my unit and me and if ever I needed anything just let him know. Well, I reached up when he started to leave and grabbed him by his shirt and explained to him about my foot and that I was a Medic and knew what I was talking about but nobody seemed to want to listen. He snapped his fingers, said something to one of his aides, and then reassured me all would be ok. Before he was two cots down from me in hustled a team of doctors and vented my cast, therefore unknown to them, but saving my foot! True Story!

From there I was shipped backed to the states for a lengthy recovery period in which heroic doctors eventually saved my leg. I came home, got a degree and taught in the public school system for over 30 years before my wounds began to rise up once again and force my retirement in 2007. I have a wonderful wife, 2 successful boys, and a great daughter who love and take care of my needs now every day. Not to mention five grandchildren! As a note of reference....I was awarded the Purple Heart for my wounds that Nov 4, 1965 day and also awarded the Bronze Star with the "V" device for valor displayed on the battle field that day. My citation says that I personally carried over 12 men down that small hill to a safe collection place while exposing myself to machine gun and small arms fire. Before I was wounded, I was given credit for the safety and evacuation of over 20 casualties that day. Naturally, I remember little of what was actually done, except for what I have written here today. I was like most everyone else, just trying to survive and do my job during demanding times. As I look back, I find myself being extremely proud to have served with such outstanding young men. We all had a job to do and we all did the very best we know how, no matter how it began to be felt at home. I am not ashamed and would answer the call of my country again if needed!

By David W. Wilson, E4, Senior Aid Man, assigned to Recon, D Co., 2/8 ,65-66



It was in 2006 when we contacted the Orlando Convention and Visitor’s Bureau for assistance in registration for our reunion. That was the year we all met Stacey Smith. In 2007, the Orlando Convention and Visitor’s Bureau decided to close Stacey’s department. She called Robin Woo (Skull, 71-72) to inform him of their decision and he told her she should start her own business and that we would continue to be her client. She did. That was when “Register with Ease” was born. It has been 10 years that Stacey has taken care of our registration process. Her business has performed beyond her expectations. I understand we are her smallest group, but her favorite. We are her first dollar bill on her wall.

Stacey has handled the registration process since the inception of ASA, Inc.® in 2006. She has most recently handled our reunion in San Antonio, TX in 2015. Beginning in Orlando, FL in 2006, and continuing to Washington, DC in 2007, Salt Lake City, UT in 2008, San Antonio, TX in 2009, St. Pete Beach, FL in 2010, Washington, DC in 2011, Denver, CO in 2012 and San Diego, CA in 2013, Myrtle Beach, SC in 2014, she did an exceptionally outstanding job each and every year! Her intuitive initiative made each reunion run seamlessly while giving members of the Board the freedom to spend time with members of our group. Over the years, her consistently friendly and professional presence was a definite plus in making our members feel comfortable and welcome. She provides attendance reports, function statistics and financial accounting reports which are timely and accurate. Her efforts have materially contributed to the ease of handling the growth of our Association. We look forward to working with Stacey again in 2016.



*“With respect to Stacy: I really miss having lots of cash in shoe boxes with anybody or nobody watching it. And guys thinking free hats & shirts came w/the registration. Or sure that they ordered stuff that they didn’t & us screwing up the stuff that they did. And hosts pulling what hair they had left out. I cannot believe how easy she makes this look or how good she makes the planners/officers look. **She’s the only person who really does know all of us by name.**” Going forward, I’d like to revive the Reunion Committee (RC). Once a site is voted on by our group the RC goes and checks out sites (cities usually) and gets proposals from 2 or more potential hotel hosts. They also check out potential local attractions & activities. They then make recommendation to the officers who try to negotiate a final deal. We need at least 3 at large members. Large or not. RC volunteers travel at their own expense as do all of us. After 19 years of successfully avoiding being president (nobody asked me), I must say I am honored and always ready to listen (speak up). I am also wondering why Barb & Doug were so elated when they left... As ever, Chuck. (Skull, 69)*

New Members since the Jan, 2015 Newsletter:

Lewell R Crain, Cat, 1970
James Cutchins, Range, 70-71

Deceased Member/s: (Date of Death)

Dale P. Davis, Skull, 67-68 (1Feb15)
Ray Haley, Cat 67-68 (10Feb15)
Ronald W Wilson Skull 70 (1July15)

Membership count:
Active Members: 666
Members Online: 264





Reunion After Action Report

It was another great reunion. Just like in the Nam, collectively, we all contributed in making the reunion a success. Thanks to our hosts in San Antonio; Henry Cruz (Skull, 70-71) and Everett Tolbert (Skull, 69-70). Everett arranged for the Color Guards, who posted our colors at the banquet and Henry made daily (most times twice a day) runs to replenish the snacks and beverages in the Hospitality room. Thank you Dirk Olson (Skull, 71-72), who since St. Pete Beach in 2010, donates \$1,000 in cash to stock the Hospitality room. Top shelf, baby! We consumed about \$1,700 in goodies during this reunion. Thank you to George Mauldin (Recon, 66) for arranging Major General (ret) Alfred Valenzuela to speak to us at our banquet. During the opening programs of our banquet, Barbara Hilts was recognized for her incredible sewing and embroidery resulting in 25 quilts for 25 more of our members. It was a year long endeavor. She received a standing ovation from the banquet attendee's! During our business meeting, our wives attended their own auxiliary meeting. Both meetings lasted approximately 2 hours. Both were very good meetings. They share a special sisterhood, as well. Thanks to Jan Vollmar for moderating the women's gathering. This year, it was very apparent that we have so many of our members battling illness. Too many caught in various stages of cancer. On behalf of the membership, the Board wish a speedy recovery to all our members battling for their lives at this very moment.

"Let me thank Barb & Doug Hilts for their great service these last four years. The San Antonio reunion was great fun (especially since we got out of town just before it all flooded). Sleeping In Seattle !!! I just signed the contract (most of which Robin negotiated) for the Seattle reunion. Jan & I drove up there to see 2 really neat options. We'll be at the Red Lion Conference Center in Renton, Washington at of \$109 (about \$122 w/ tax). The hotel has 24 hour free shuttle to the airport & back 24/7. Since we checked in @ 1:30 a.m. & they were sending it everywhere it really is 24/7. There is also bargain mass transit from our hotel to nearly anything in the Seattle area. There are free things to do in the area as well. Reunion dates are 5-18 thru 5-21. (The rates are also good for 3 days prior & 3 after.) So mark your calendars! In addition to Robin, I'd also like to thank Robert Burke & Don Miller for their help with our 2016 reunion site. Check Seattle on the web & lets us know what interests you. (see page 5) We'll have more details in the next newsletter." by Chuck Hustedt, President (Skull, 69)

Angry Skipper Association, Inc.® Treasurers Report

Angry Skipper Association, Inc.®
 Profit & Loss (unaudited)
 January 1 through July 24, 2015

Angry Skipper Association, Inc.®
 Balance Sheet (unaudited)
 July 24, 2015

Ordinary Income & Expense

Income	
Banquet/s	\$ 4,970.00
Donations	2,195.00
Membership Dues	600.00
Registration Fees	2,255.00
Tours	0
Shirts, Hats, Patches	<u>2,824.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 12,844.00
Expenses	
Banquet—Saturday Event	4,765.39
Banquet—DJ	300.00
Corporate	26.98
Flowers/Funeral	118.78
Insurance	384.00
Legal	00.00
Member Assistance	00.00
Merchant Account	557.51
Photographer	200.00
Postage & Delivery	435.20
Printing & Reproduction	589.00
Professional Services—Reunion	3,645.55
Tours (Transportation)	0
Shirts, Hats & Patches	<u>1,980.02</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 13,025.46
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$ (181.46)</u>

ASSETS

Current Assets:	
Checking	\$ 1,623.73
Deposits*	500.00
Accounts Receivable	<u>00.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 2,123.73</u>

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities	
Current Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable	<u>00.00</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$ 00.00</u>
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	3,316.97
Retained Earnings	(1,011.78)
Net Income	<u>(181.46)</u>
Total Equity	\$ 2,123.73
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>\$ 2,123.73</u>

* Deposit: held by Red Lion Hotel in Seattle/Renton

Minutes of the Business Meeting held 16May15 at the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel, San Antonio, TX @ 8:00 AM

- Robin Woo, Secretary, read the minutes of the Business meeting held May 17, 2014 at the Ocean Dunes Resort at Sands Resorts in Myrtle Beach, SC and were approved by the membership;
- Ed Regan, Treasurer, gave a report of the financial condition of ASA, Inc.;
- Updated the members of the reduction in Merchant account fee's from approx. \$70/month to \$20.50 per month. Also acknowledge and thank Robert Burke, CPA (Skull, 70-71) for preparing the ASA tax returns since 2006;
- Elections for the Board of Governors were held. The Officers are: Chuch Hustedt (President), Tom Clark (VP) Ed Regan (Treasurer) and Robin Woo (Secretary);
- Voted for shirts and caps for 2016; Infantry Blue shirts and black caps. Check to see if there is any additional cost to have the American Flag embroidered on the left sleeve (closest to the heart) and check if availability and pricing for a sweat shirt with our embroidery on it;
- Reunion in 2016 discussed. No contract as of date of the meeting. Looking at finishing negotiations with a few hotels in Seattle; checking on a suitable hotel in Portland, OR; Tom Vollmar will check with Town & Country in San Diego and Tom McGough will check on a suitable hotel in Phoenix, AZ;
- Stacey Smith of "Register with Ease" was acknowledged and received a standing ovation for her 10th year of working with our group. Mention in the Newsletter was called for by the members;
- Acknowledge and thank Barbara Hilts for her incredible sewing and embroidery of the quilts she made for each member. This year, she made 25 quilts which was an full year endeavor.
- The meetings was Adjourned.

ANGRY SKIPPER ASSOCIATION, INC. ®
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*"Remember the bad times once,
Remember the good times forever"*

[We're on the web:
www.angryskipperassociation.org]

Red Lion Hotel

One South Grady Way
Renton, Washington 98057

May 18 to May 21, 2016

After months of searching and negotiations, the Reunion Committee has found an excellent hotel for us for 2016. The hotel is located just 5 miles from the Sea-Tac International Airport. The hotel offer 24 hours shuttle service from the airport and back. Also, the Light Rail is located at the location at the airport where the shuttle will pick you up, so they will also take you to the Light Rail station via the airport. Light rail is about 20 minutes to downtown Seattle. Round trip cost \$6. Room rates are \$109/night, including taxes, the all-inclusive rate is \$122.52. Here is the link to the hotel for you to peruse:

<http://www.redlion.com/renton> To research sights in Seattle, go here:
<http://www.visitseattle.org/>

