

VINH LONG OUTLAWS NEWSLETTER

VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION
(VLOA)

October– December 4th Quarter 2009

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National Director's Corner

Wow! What a year the VLOA has had! We have had a lot of activity in many areas. This article will discuss our Outlaw Roundup 2010 in Nashville, Directors' Award Committee, Officers/Directors' Nomination Committee, finding lost Outlaws, change of addresses, and application for nonprofit status.

Plans for Roundup 2010 in Nashville at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel are final, with our Roundup dates set for September 30 through October 4, 2010. We sent each member listed on our roster a reunion letter with lots of information attached announcing Roundup 2010. Elsewhere in this newsletter is more information on our plans, schedule, a registration form, and driving instructions from all quadrants to arrive at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel. This is a Five Star hotel but for us at Three Star prices. Additionally, our website contains a wealth of reunion information on the Reunion Tab. Nashville is a great venue with great attractions, so please make plans now to attend this reunion; and, bring some friends to join us. Let's make this the best attended Roundup we have ever had. I am convinced that anyone who attends will have a great time.

During three previous reunions, we have given a Directors' Award to individuals who made special and significant contributions to the VLOA mission, programs, and causes. Earlier this year, we formed a Directors' Award Committee to identify potential candidates for the 2010 award, and to select the most deserving person to receive this award during our Roundup 2010. Ernie and Linda Isbell, Al Iller, and Chuck Wren compose the membership of this Committee. Ernie Isbell's article found elsewhere in this newsletter discusses this Committee mission and activities. If you want to nominate someone, check Ernie's article to find out how.

As you know, we elect new officers and directors during our biennial reunions. Earlier this year, we formed an Officers/Directors' Nominating Committee to identify candidates to fill all our officer and director positions for the 2010-2012 time-frame. Tom Anderson serves as Committee Chairman, with Tim Bisch and John Doyle serving as members of the Committee.

(continued on Page 2)

We need dedicated volunteers to fill our officer/director positions, so please let Tom know if you desire to be considered. Additional information is contained in Tom's article found elsewhere in this newsletter.

During the last 12 months, our Membership Committee has worked hard to find "lost Outlaws" and bring them into our membership. My article elsewhere in this newsletter discusses in more detail our efforts to find our "lost Outlaws." This is a critical area we need to pay attention to now or we will truly end up as a "last man standing" organization. We need to continue finding newer and younger members to continue the Outlaw legacy.

Over the last year, we have noticed an increase percentage of our newsletters and correspondence to confirmed members is being returned as "undeliverable." Your help is needed. Please give us advance notice so Larry Jackson can update the roster and Nell can update her mailing list for the newsletters. Larry's roster is one of our most key documents, and keeping it updated with current mailing addresses and phone numbers is pivotal to the continued success of our newsletter and website programs.

Finally, let me conclude with an update on our efforts to obtain official nonprofit status. For many years, we were of the opinion that we were a nonprofit organization. However, after searching our records, we found that we had not submitted an application for nonprofit status, but have operated under the rules applicable to a nonprofit organization. In November, we began a full effort to determine actions the VLOA must take to be recognized by the IRS as a nonprofit organization. After searching IRS guidelines, we determined that the VLOA fell more closely under a 501(c)19 "organization of past members of the U.S. Armed Forces" than a 501(c)3 "charitable/educational organization." Therefore, we elected to apply as a 501(c)19 organization because it describes more closely what the VLOA is, does, and stands for. The filing process required us to first file Articles of Incorporation for a Domestic Non-Profit Corporation with the State of Alabama and obtain its approval. We have done that, and received the requested designation as of December 17, 2009. Now, we must submit the required IRS form and application fee, along with copies of the Alabama approved Articles of Incorporation, latest VLOA newsletter, VLOA Constitution, and VLOA By-Laws. We expect to have the application submitted to the IRS just after mid-January.

My thanks go to Linda Isbell, Chuck Wren, and Charles Bouton for all the records searches. A huge thanks goes to Tom Anderson and Tony Clement for the IRS literature searches, developing the Articles of Incorporation, and finalizing IRS documentation. The IRS approval process will take four to five months.

In closing, let me assure you that this has been an active and full year of VLOA activities. Thanks to a lot hard work on the part of many members, we have kept the ship afloat and pointed in the right direction. We would love to have you attend our Nashville Roundup and bring a friend or two to celebrate with us.

DON'T FORGET TO LOCK IN YOUR CALENDER FOR ROUNDUP 2010 IN NASHVILLE and REGISTER BEFORE THE DEADLINE!!

New Agent Orange Diseases

By Frank Estes

The Veterans' Administration (VA) recently added three diseases the VA considers to be caused by exposure to Agent Orange. These three newly listed diseases are: B Cell Leukemias, Ischemic Heart Disease, and Parkinson's disease. The definitions for each of these diseases are:

B Cell Leukemias: Cancers which affect B cells, such as hairy cell leukemia.

Ischemic Heart Disease: A disease characterized by a reduced supply of blood to the heart.

Parkinson's Disease: A motor system condition with symptoms that include trembling of the limbs and face and impaired balance.

Other diseases the VA considers caused by Agent Orange are: acute and Subacute transient peripheral Neuropathy; AL amyloidosis; chloracne; chronic lymphocytic leukemia; diabetes mellitus (Type 2); Hodgkin's disease; multiple myeloma; non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; porphyria cutanea tarda; prostate cancer; respiratory cancers; and soft tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma).

If you were exposed to Agent Orange while serving in Vietnam, contact your local VA office for assistance. Additional information is available at the VA website for Agent Orange sufferers: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/diseases.asp>.

Lost Outlaws

By Frank Estes

Dave Logan, Larry Jackson, Nell Moist, and I have worked on this effort off and on over the past year. We have taken a number of steps and plan on focusing our efforts in a new direction this year.

First, we have followed up on returned newsletters and correspondence to find members who have moved and not given us a forwarding address.

Second, we have responded to individuals leaving messages on our website, and provided them an invitation letter to join the VLOA.

Third, we searched internet records to identify former members and their current addresses and provided them a membership invitation letter.

Lastly, we have obtained names and addresses from a few Outlaws in other year groups subsequent to 1965 and provided these former members with a membership invitation letter.

For the future, we plan on focusing our efforts in a new direction. We need to put notices in various publications oriented on the active and retired military communities to get the word out about the VLOA membership includes all year-groups from August 1964 through the present date. Hopefully, this will get some attention from some of the later year-groups, and result in increased memberships.

Now, you can help. If you know anyone in year groups after September 1965 that might provide us with one of their old rosters, we will continue following up to find the members in those year-groups and send them membership invitation letters. The Outlaw legacy depends on us being able to find lost Outlaws who served in the 175th Aviation Company and B Troop 1st Battalion 158th Aviation Regiment, AND encourage them to become active VLOA members.

Changing Address?

By Frank Estes

Over the last year, we have noticed an increase percentage of our newsletters and correspondence to confirmed members is being returned as "undeliverable." When I mailed out the reunion invitation letter, about 10 percent of the letters were returned as "undeliverable." I was able to trace down enough of the "undeliverables" to bring that percentage down to about 2 percent. Even that number is too large.

Your help is needed. If you change your address or have an update caused by E-911 or 911 requirements, please give us advance notice so Larry Jackson can update the roster and Nell can update her mailing list for the newsletters.

Larry's roster is one of our most key documents, and keeping it updated with current mailing addresses and phone numbers is pivotal to the continued success of our newsletter, website, and reunion programs.

You can drop us a note with your new address and phone number, use one of the membership forms on the last page of our quarterly newsletter, or download a copy of the membership application form from our VLOA website (Membership Tab) and use it to provide your updated information.

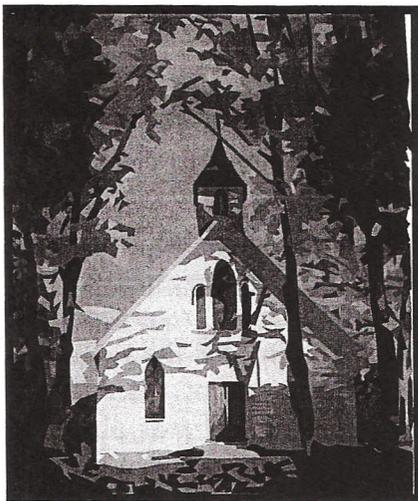
We appreciate your help in this area.

PLEASE NOTE:

If you have an address change please notify us at alandnellmoist@aol.com so we can keep our mailing list up-to-date.

We will probably be changing our email address in the next few weeks. Not happy with this one. We will advise everyone when this happens.

**Thanks,
Al & Nell
Our mailing address is on the back of this newsletter.**



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"The Back Pew"

From our VLOA Chaplain: John Doyle

The Stopping Tree

Ruth and I are blessed in that we live in a location that has some great hiking trails. There is a special tree on one of our favorite trails, that we call "The Stopping Tree." We gave it this name because, every time we hike this trail, we stop at it to take a breather and drink some water. When we start hiking again, we are refreshed and ready to face whatever the trail ahead holds.

I got to thinking, everyone should have "a spiritual stopping tree." Now I don't mean a literal tree, just a place where we can have a one-on-one with the Lord. It might be a comfortable chair or even at the kitchen table with a cup of coffee. What is important is that we have a quiet place where we can give thanks for the day the Lord has given us and the many blessings he has bestowed upon us. What! You don't feel blessed? Friend, if you got out of bed this morning, and your feet hit the floor and carried you this far into the day, then you are indeed blessed. What do you mean you have troubles? If you want to see troubles, visit a VA hospital where troops returning from combat are being treated. What we have are inconveniences - not troubles.

Now is a great time to search out your "stopping tree". God Bless.

John

Reunion Committee Needs Your Ideas for Silent Auction Items

One of the most popular features of the Outlaw reunions has always been the "Silent Auction". Those who have attended previous reunions will attest to the fact that the auction tables have included some rather unique, eclectic, interesting, curious, matchless, one-of-a-kind and, on occasion, even rare items.

One item that comes to mind immediately to this writer occurred at the Pigeon Forge reunion. A highly secret, mystery auction item was carefully described in the Auction Booklet merely as a **"Dinner For Four – Anywhere in the United States"**. However, the auction table contained only a printed sign with those same cryptic words. Nothing to look at, shake, heft, or otherwise get an idea of what the item consisted of. Now who wouldn't be intrigued, and fascinated, by such a possibility? What great gourmet cuisine delight could the donor(s) have possibly concocted? What would be the value of such a dinner? How high should the bidding go? A number of attendees bid early on the item but I was determined that I would be the winner. . . . price would be no object because the money would go to the VLOA treasury! As other bidders gradually dropped out, Linda Kirkley and I became the last two still in the bidding. There we were, Linda and I: poised, steely-eyed, jaws set, standing side by side next to the bid-sheet at the auction table. The bid-closing hour, and minute, approached. Both of us had hovered over the bid sheet for the last hour, occasionally adding to each others previous high bid with a new, higher, bid of our own. At this point I must confess I may have questionably distracted Linda with some irrelevant and fraudulent ploy just as Ole Thornton, the auctioneer announced, that the bidding would be over in 30 seconds! As he started to make that announcement, I pounced on the bid sheet and raised Linda's \$120 last bid to \$125! The bidding closed! My questionable ruse had actually WON the bidding! The auctioneer then handed me a big box with the winning **"Dinner For Four"** inside. My victorious smirk quickly turned to red-faced embarrassment as I opened the box to discover a nice tablecloth laying on top of four U.S. Army-issue Meals Ready to Eat (MRE's)! Talk about taking the bait with a big hook! But, it was great fun! And the whole charade was beautifully masterminded by the four cagey Cajuns, the Voisins and the Theriots.

The purpose of the Silent Auction, of course, is to replenish the VLOA treasury with cash from the items donated by VLOA members. Basically, the Silent Auction and our 50/50 drawing are the only two significant methods we have of bringing cash into our treasury. At one reunion these two methods brought over \$3500 into the VLOA treasury. That has not been the case in recent reunions however.

The VLOA must have a healthy treasury. We pay to maintain our website. It costs money to print and mail our quarterly Newsletter. We have various filing and registration fees. But, most importantly, the VLOA Reunion Coordinator must rely heavily on the treasury to underwrite many of the "extras" required to make each reunion a success. To keep costs down for the attendees, such things as signage, refreshments, printing, recognition awards, welcome bags, cups, caps, to name only a few are normally paid for from the treasury. These "extras" are a vital part of every successful reunion.

Annual dues now barely pay for the postage for the Newsletter. And, with many members having now opted for "Lifetime" membership status, dues receipts from annual members is down significantly.

So, now I come to the purpose of this article. **To make the Silent Auction both fun as well as a financial success, I need to hear from you – all of you – as to what kind of items you feel we should have on the auction tables at the Nashville reunion.**

We need to have items that are both relevant to our attendees (things you would like to take home with you) plus items that have a quality that will spur attendees to create bidding wars between each other for the right to win the bidding.

Most years we have asked members to donate the type of items that they would bid on themselves if they didn't already have that item. In some past reunions we tried to set a "theme" for the auction items, with varying degrees of success. One reunion we urged members to donate something that they, themselves, had personally made. We got lots of fabulous pieces which told us that we have lots of talent and skills among our members. So, give my request some thought, then go to your computer and send me your suggestions

I'd like to be flooded with email suggestions as to what type items you think we should promote for our Silent Auction for Reunion 2010. My email address is teander@cox.net

The second quarter VLOA Newsletter will have the results of your input and announcements of where and when to send items for the auction.

Each reunion we have had 50-70 donated items to put up for auction. The Steering Committee would like to have at least that many for Nashville, even MORE. But, we need your help in both suggestions of what type of items to have, as well as, ultimately, sending in your donations of items to help replenish your VLOA treasury. (Submitted by Tom Anderson)

Lookout, Nashville; the Outlaws are Coming to Town!

Well, the major decisions have been made and the plans are complete. We will hold our Outlaws Roundup 2010 at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee; a great place with great venues inside and outside the hotel. As usual, our Outlaws Roundup will be for five days and four nights, beginning with arrival Thursday afternoon September 30th and ending on Monday morning October 4th. Nashville has many great tours and venues for those with varied interests to partake of during the free time provided on our schedule.

The schedule includes an arrival dinner in the Opryland Hotel on Thursday, bus tour of downtown Nashville on Friday, tour of the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum with lunch on Friday, business meeting Saturday morning, attend the Grande Ole Opry Saturday night, nondenominational services Sunday morning, and farewell dinner in the Opryland Hotel Sunday night. There will be plenty of free time for touring and sightseeing on-your-own Friday night and on Saturday and Sunday during the daytime, just visiting with friends, resting, or renewing old friendships with Outlaw comrades.

Check our website www.vinhlongoutlaws.com for more information contained under the Reunion tab.

Now, we need your help. We have generally had 100 to 120 attendees at our Roundups. We need your help in convincing your Outlaw, Maverick, Roadrunner, 28th Signal Detachment, and 25th Infantry Division doorgunners who have not attended one of our VLOA Roundups to join us in Nashville.

How about making the 2010 VLOA Roundup in Nashville your big vacation next year? This is a great time to start saving up for that big vacation. If you have concerns about cost, consider doubling up with close friends to stay in the same room. Staying four to the room will significantly reduce the per-person cost. Please put these dates on your calendar now, and make plans to attend the 2010 VLOA Roundup at a special, world-class, award-winning Five-Star hotel. I'm hoping you'll give strong consideration to attending our 2010 VLOA Roundup at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel and enjoy the sights and sounds Nashville has to offer. If you have always wanted to go to Nashville and never really had the chance, now is the time to save up and join us in Nashville. We look forward to seeing you and your friends on Thursday afternoon September 30, 2010. *Let's make this Roundup the best attend one ever. I know those who come will enjoy it!*

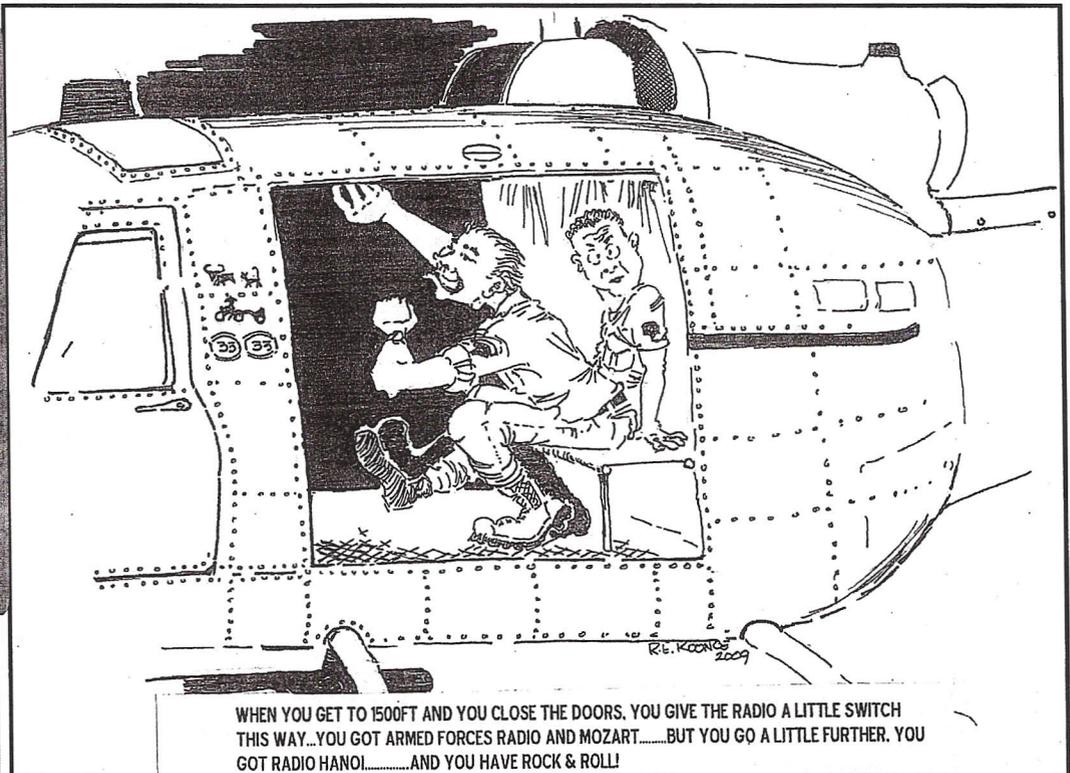
Submitted by Our National Director. Frank Estes

Kartoons

By

Koonce

To your right is this edition of Bob Koonce's art ability.



If It Were 1964 Again

What if today were 1964 and they were forming an Assault Helicopter Company to go to Vietnam, wherever that is? What if you happened to be privy to this information before it was released, would you try to find a way to be part of it?

At that time, the answer was simple. Would I do today, if it were 1964, the same thing I did in the real 1964?

In the real 1964, as soon as I had this information confirmed, I started to look for a way to insure my name was included on the orders.

Getting this accomplished was simpler than I thought it would be. A bottle of Jack Daniels placed under the front seat of a certain Personnel Sergeant, whom shall remain nameless, was all it took. My name was on the orders activating the unit, in INK!

Did I ever regret going to the beautiful Mekong Delta? Get real! Tell me a GI that has never cussed where he had just been, where he was going, or where he was. Of course I cussed Vietnam, the Delta, the company, and my stupidity in coming to this place, on a daily basis.

In all, I did three tours in "Beautiful Vietnam" and, without a doubt, the Outlaws and Mavericks were head and shoulders above the units I cussed on my subsequent tours,

So, if today was 1964 again, what would I do? I would probably put two bottles under that seat.

Submitted by John Doyle

13th Combat Aviation Battalion, "The Delta Battalion" Schedules Its Reunion

Information provided by CW5 Castagneto
Delta Battalion Reunion Coordinator

It's time again for the 13th Combat Aviation Battalion Vietnam to have its "Delta Reunion." As in the past the current 1-13th Aviation Regiment 1st Aviation Brigade, Fort Rucker, Alabama is the host sponsor for the event. The reunion will be held at Fort Rucker, AL during Veterans Day weekend May 14-16th 2010.

Early registration and information can be seen at the following web site

www.shieldofthemekong.com.

Event Fee will be \$50 per person early registration and \$55 per person at the door. Individual unit get togethers will be the responsibility of the respective units to schedule and reserve locations.

In order to drive through the Fort Rucker Main Post Gate with a POV, you must have proof of insurance, car registration, and valid driver's license.

Early sign-in will be allowed and available the afternoon of Thursday 13 May in the front lobby of the U.S. Army Aviation Museum, Ft. Rucker, AL.

Family friends are welcome and expected to attend.

SCHEDULE:

Fri. 14 May

9:00-17:00 sign in at Aviation Museum
12:00-1700 Post Training Facilities tours.
18:00- Respective unit Parties

Sat. 15 May

07:00-12:00 Golf Silver Wings Golf Course
12:00-15:00- Picnic Yano Hall
(Huey rides available)
18:30-23:00 Cocktail Reception and Dinner, Location TBA
(Coat and Tie required)

Sun. 16 May

10:00-10:30 Memorial Service at Veterans' Memorial Park

This reunion is also for all 164th Aviation Group units, all Mekong Delta veterans, including Aviation, Infantry, Signal, Artillery, Navy, and Air Force. All that matters is that you once served in the Mekong Delta region. If you served in the Delta, this is your reunion.

Submitted by Frank Estes

VLOA Member Collecting Outlaw History for Future Generations

A good many VLOA members have had correspondence from a relatively new VLOA member named Jim Donnelly. If you haven't heard from him yet, you probably will, because he wants to hear from YOU. Jim, who served as a gunner and Crew Chief on OL 18 in 1971-72, found the VLOA while pursuing his post-retirement avocation, which has become a full-time job documenting the history of the Outlaws from activation in 1964 through the present day.

Jim picked up a couple Bronze Stars and eleven Air Medals while serving with the Outlaws, completed his active duty enlistment and followed that with a stint in a reserve Special Forces unit. He worked a career as a firefighter, ultimately retiring as a Captain with the Virginia Beach Fire Department in 2006. Jim's courage and selflessness, undoubtedly a characteristic honed by his military service, resulted in his receiving numerous awards and recognitions during his firefighting career. He was awarded both the Fire Department's Life Saver Award for saving a drowning couple in rough seas as well as later receiving the Department's coveted Medal of Honor for again single-handedly saving three drowning persons from heavy storm surf in the Atlantic.

After his retirement from the Department, Jim's interest in history prompted him to try to find out what happened to his old Vietnam combat unit, the Outlaws! Although Jim served with the 175th Outlaws, his interest in the entire lineage of the unit impelled him to begin searching the internet for items relating to the Outlaws. He soon found the VLOA web site, contacted several members of the original Vinh Long Outlaws, and quickly realized there was a world of historical information, just sitting in personal files, drawers, scrap books and old boxes, that needed to be collected, preserved and made available to official historians as well as to those who participated in the creation of that history.

Jim sent out dozens of letters, emails, guest-page contacts and phone calls to VLOA members asking them if they would forward any photos, diaries, movie clips, records, etc. from their experience with the Outlaws. Initial responses were slow coming in. Many Outlaws had never heard of Jim, didn't know what his purpose was in wanting to obtain their records and were reluctant to respond. But, slowly the Outlaw History DVD series was born and, after three years, it is still growing, thanks to increasingly greater responses from VLOA members as well as Outlaws from later years.

Jim expanded his historical approach to incorporate all years in which the Outlaws served in Vietnam. Because his service with the Outlaws was in 1971-72, he can easily bridge the years of Outlaw operations in Vietnam and credibly contact numerous Outlaws from all years.

Jim now spends an average of 30 hours a week working on the Outlaw History project: writing emails asking for materials, answering questions, scanning, editing and organizing files, duplicating discs, researching online for hard history as well as reading every Outlaw and Vinh Long-related guest book and bulletin board he can find trying to get new contacts and information for the Project.

To date, over 54 individuals have provided materials for his Project. The materials collected so far total some 24 gigabytes or over 10,000 files, consisting primarily of pictures, but with several hundred files of documents and orders and a few audio recordings, including some actual recordings of missions. Over 5000 of these files are from the 1964 to 1966 time period which is by far the most represented period so far. The largest single collection came from Bob Bergquist's widow, Becky, who provided Jim with nearly 1600 of Bob's slides. (Bob, as you know, designed both the Outlaw and Maverick insignias).

All files are on two separate hard drives, backed up on DVDs with every new addition to the Project. Jim also works closely with VLOA member, and fellow-historian, Doug Wilson who has been a great help over the years to the Project. Jim estimates he will continue collecting materials for several more years and will then focus on creating a massive, comprehensive history of the Outlaws in Vietnam. He has set no completion date for the project as yet.

Jim will distribute his current DVD materials to any Outlaw just for the asking - no charge! The long term goal is to create a series of interactive DVD's that will ultimately be sent to every Aviation Museum and Vietnam Archival organization that can be located. He also hopes to place a set in the National Archives along with hard copies of any materials collected.

Jim is a multi-talented individual. He crafted several beautiful Outlaw insignias from Corian and donated them to the Hershey reunion Silent Auction. He is a wood-worker and a wood carver and has plans to build a free-standing cabinet decorated with painted Outlaw, Maverick, Roadrunner and Bushwhacker crests along with the units' locations and dates of Vietnam service. The cabinet will house a computer and monitor and display a slide show of pictures he has gathered up to now. At this point, such a show would last over 8 hours before repeating! He estimates it will require over 400 hours just to put this project into place. When completed, it will be presented to the Army Aviation Museum at Fort Rucker.

(cont'd on Page 9)

(cont'd from Page 8)

Jim has, by default, and by desire, become the unofficial Outlaw Unit Historian. At the Nashville reunion, a motion will be made to make his status as Unit Historian an official position and incorporate that position as part of the VLOA Steering Committee. Jim's pursuit of the Outlaw history is a labor of love, not a for-profit venture. It is an attempt to capture the Outlaw history before it is lost forever.

If you have any materials, photos, records, movies, awards, etc. from your days with the Outlaws, Jim would be very pleased to have you loan them to him. Jim will return everything he receives as soon as he has digitized it or otherwise permanently documented it as part of the Outlaw historical record. Contact Jim at: James Donnelly OL18, 2413 General Longstreet Dr, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-2611 or by phone at 757-481-6196 or by email at jcdonnelly1@cox.net.

Submitted by Tom Anderson)

Treasurer's Quarterly Report – 4Q 2009

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Account value at start of 4Q (checking account) | \$ 9,867.73 |
| Income from dues (annual & lifetime) | \$ 280.00 |
| Reunion Deposits (1) | \$ 697.00 |
| <u>Total prior to expenses</u> | \$ 10,844.73 |
| Quarterly Newsletter | \$ 427.00 |
| <u>Checking account value as of 12/31/09</u> | \$ 10,417.73 |
| Total VLOA funds | \$ 10,417.73 |

The following entries are a recap of our 2009 revenues/expenditures as of 2009 year-end.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Total 2009 revenues from dues | \$ 1040.00 |
| Reunion deposits paid in 2009 | \$ 697.00 |
| Cost of 2009 newsletters (4 issues) | \$ 1,748.06 |
| Web site development & support | \$ 1,358.34 |

Charles F. Bouton
Treasurer, VLOA

Directors Award

By Ernie Isbell

The Directors Award for the Vinh Long Outlaws Association has been awarded during each reunion to various VLOA members as a means of recognizing individuals for their special contributions to the organization. The first award was presented to Al Iller for his significant role in creation of VLOA and for his having organized the first VLOA Reunion in Branson, MO. Chuck Wren received recognition for his great service as the VLOA treasurer. The most recent presentation was made to Ernie and Linda Isbell at the Pennsylvania reunion to recognize their joint efforts for helping organize and serve the organization during all the reunions to date as well as service as Treasurer, Deputy National Director, and National Director.

Frank Estes, current National Director, has asked that a committee be formed to establish the process and procedure for selection of individuals to receive this award. He asked that Ernie and Linda Isbell, Al Iller and Chuck Wren serve as the initial committee with Tom Anderson serving as principal advisor and Ernie Isbell serving as the committee chair. The charge to this committee is to draft procedures and criteria to allow for nominations of VLOA members to receive the Directors Award as appropriate during the future reunions of the VLOA.

It has been suggested that the Soaring Eagle statuette like the one presented to Ernie and Linda Isbell at the Pennsylvania reunion be designated as the permanent award. The committee has agreed to this suggestion and based on availability, one of these statuettes will be presented as the Directors Award at future reunions.

The criteria that has been developed to use for selection of nominees is: 1) Active VLOA member; 2) Reunion attendee; 3) Active participant as volunteer in the VLOA and must have demonstrated service such as an elected official or a volunteer position; 4) Contribution such as having submitted articles or photos for publication; 5) Active contribution to the growth of VLOA through recruitment of new members to VLOA; 6) Significant service with other veterans organizations e.g. VA, DAV, VFW, Vietnam Veterans of America, etc, etc. It must be noted that selection for the award does not require qualification in all these areas.

The nomination process will be announced in the newsletter and forms will be included in the application packets for the reunion. Submittals must be received at least ninety days in advance of the reunion and the committee will make the selection with ties being broken by Tom Anderson. The selected nominee will be announced at the final dinner for each reunion and will remain secret until the announcement. This process will take place for Reunion 2010 and the general membership will be allowed to discuss the process during the business meeting.

Anyone interested in input on this process or who would like to suggest a nominee may contact Ernie Isbell, committee chairman, at colernie@gmail.com or at ernieandlinda2@yahoo.com or by phone at 1-877-747-4729 (toll free).

Nominating Committee Gearing Up For Annual Meeting in Nashville

Reunion 2010 in Nashville is still several months away but the back-room activities to make it another success have been underway for months. Frank and Ann Estes have laid out a fantastic program in a world-class venue for all those who attend.

One of the features of every Outlaw Roundup is the General Membership meeting at which the business of the Association is conducted. Normally held on Saturday morning, all registered attendees (men and women) sit in on the meeting and participate in the discussions and activities. Although the meeting does actually conduct a good bit of serious business, a high quotient of humor, wittiness, joking and hilarity regularly pervades the room.

One of the key functions of the Annual Meeting is the election of new Steering Committee members to guide the Association during the coming two years. Only members who are current with their annual dues, including Life Members, are eligible to hold office.

To develop a slate of names to be considered by the membership for the election, National Director Frank Estes has asked Tim Bisch, John Doyle and Tom Anderson to serve as a Nominating Committee. Among the key positions to be filled are the National Director, the Deputy Director and two Members-at-Large.

The Committee is still working on names for those positions. In this regard, however, if you have a recommendation, or if YOU would be willing to serve, please, as soon as possible, contact either Tim (fmbsch@gmail.com) John (Maverick36@tampabay.rr.com) or Tom (teander@cox.net) with your suggestion! Your input will be welcomed by the committee and will be given serious consideration. Your suggestions must be received no later than February 15th.

The Reunion will be fantastic! Please, make your decision to attend, **NOW** and send in the Registration Form found elsewhere in this Newsletter.

(Submitted by Tom Anderson)

**VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION (VLOA) 2010
ROUNDUP**

**Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee
September 30 – October 4, 2010**

S C H E D U L E

| <i>THURSDAY</i> | <i>FRIDAY</i> | <i>SATURDAY</i> | <i>SUNDAY</i> | <i>MONDAY</i> |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| September 30 | October 1 | October 2 | October 3 | October 4 |
| <p><u>3:00-5:00PM:</u> Arrival & check-in (hotel Cascades lobby); registration in hospitality room (Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Ryman Rooms A & D)</p> <p><u>5:00-7:00PM:</u> Refreshments in hospitality room</p> <p><u>7:00-9:00PM:</u> Welcome Dinner in hospitality room</p> <p><u>9:00PM-until:</u> Silent Auction & Socialize in hospitality room</p> | <p><u>6:00-9:00AM:</u> Breakfast - Waters Edge (Gaylord Opryland Hotel)</p> <p><u>9:00-9:15AM:</u> Board buses for downtown Nashville tour (loading area to be-announced)</p> <p><u>9:15AM-3:00PM:</u> Bus Tour of downtown Nashville, Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum tour, & Lunch</p> <p><u>3:00-3:15PM:</u> Board buses for return to hotel</p> <p><u>3:15-6:00PM:</u> Hospitality room open</p> <p><u>6:00-9:00PM:</u> Dinner "on-your-own"</p> <p><u>8:00PM-until:</u> Silent Auction & Socialize in hospitality room</p> | <p><u>6:00-9:00AM:</u> Breakfast - Waters Edge (Gaylord Opryland Hotel)</p> <p><u>8:00-9:00AM:</u> Steering Committee Members' meeting (hospitality room)</p> <p><u>9:00-11:00AM:</u> General Membership business meeting (hospitality room)</p> <p><u>11:00AM-6:00PM:</u> Lunch, tour, & supper "on-your-own"</p> <p><u>3:00-5:45PM:</u> Hospitality room open</p> <p><u>6:00-6:30PM:</u> <u>Board hotel shuttle bus to Grande Ole Opry (loading area to-be-announced)</u></p> <p><u>7:00-9:15PM:</u> Grande Ole Opry show</p> <p><u>9:15-9:30PM:</u> Board buses back to hotel (point of drop-off)</p> <p><u>9:30PM-until:</u> Silent Auction & Socialize in hospitality room</p> | <p><u>6:00-9:00AM:</u> Breakfast - Waters Edge (Gaylord Opryland Hotel)</p> <p><u>9:00-9:30AM:</u> Follow-up General Membership business meeting (hospitality room)</p> <p><u>9:30-10:30AM:</u> Non-denominational services (hospitality room)</p> <p><u>10:30AM-5:00PM:</u> Free time: lunch & tours "on-your-own"</p> <p><u>3:00-6:00PM:</u> Hospitality room open</p> <p><u>6:00-7:00PM:</u> Socialize in hospitality room</p> <p><u>7:00-9:00PM:</u> Farewell dinner in hospitality room</p> <p><u>9:00PM-until:</u> Silent Auction & Socialize in hospitality room</p> <p align="center">11</p> | <p><u>6:00-9:00AM:</u> Breakfast "on-your-own"</p> <p><u>9:00-11:00AM:</u> Farewells and departures (hotel Cascades lobby)</p> |

VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION (VLOA)
ROUNDUP 2010 - - - Nashville, Tennessee
September 30 – October 4, 2010

*****REGISTRATION FORM*****

All reservations must be made through the VLOA. The Gaylord Opryland Hotel will not accept reservations or cancellations for the VLOA Roundup 2010 except from the Steering Group's National Director. Please complete this Registration Form and mail it and a minimum of 50% deposit to: **Charles F. Bouton; 2013 SW Providence Place; Port St. Lucie, FL 34593; 772-345-3553; cbouton@hotmail.com.** Make checks payable to: **Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA).** Registration must be postmarked by June 1, 2010. Credit card charges for registration payment will not be accepted.

REGISTRATION FEES: Includes: Four nights hotel accommodations (Sep 30, Oct 1, 2, & 3) (room, self-parking fee*, hotel/room amenities** fee); Roundup welcome dinner; three breakfasts (Friday – Sunday); bus tour of downtown Nashville & tour of Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum including lunch; Grande Ole Opry tickets; transportation to Hall of Fame/Museum tour & Grande Ole Opry show; Farewell Dinner; taxes (are exempt), gratuities and amenities. The Gaylord Opryland Hotel is a "smoke free" facility; convenient areas outside the building are available to those who desire to smoke. *Upgrade to Valet Parking can be accomplished after check-in; tell check-in agent and \$7 per day will be added to your room credit card charges. **Hotel/Room Amenities include: 2 bottles water each day; iron; ironing board; refrigerator; coffee maker & coffee; hair dryer; safe; wifi; & shuttle buses to selected venues.

| Number of Persons in Room (Circle one) | Price (Price per person) | Upgrade to Atrium View Room – <i>Add \$30 per day</i> | 1 King or 2 Queen beds (Select 1K or 2Q); Handicap Room (Put "H" by bed selection) | Extra Days Prior to or after Roundup (max of 3 before & 3 after)– <i>Add \$152 per day</i> | TOTAL |
|---|-----------------------------|--|---|---|-------|
| 1 | \$941 (\$941) | | | | |
| 2 | \$1274 (\$636) | | | | |
| 3 | \$1617 (\$539) | | | | |
| 4 | \$1960 (\$490) | | | | |

Arrival/Departure Dates: Arrival date: _____ / _____ / 2010 Departure Date: _____ / _____ / 2010

Special accommodations: Indicate here if you require any special accommodations such as room, dietary, or transportation needs _____.

Nashville Roundup Add-ons: You have three ways to obtain tickets to additional venues/tours/shows/dinners available during "on-your own" time reflected on the schedule.

Go on the Internet, locate the venue/tour/show you want tickets to or locate a ticketing agent, and purchase them on-line prior to your arrival in Nashville.

Contact *Destination Nashville* (ticketing agent for the Gaylord Opryland Hotel) at their website www.destinationnashville.com, select venues/tours/shows you want tickets to, and purchase them directly from *Destination Nashville*.

Wait until you arrive at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel. The Hotel has a ticketing agent at the Hotel's Cascades Lobby entrance. Discuss your needs with the ticketing agent and purchase your tickets after you arrive at the Opryland Hotel.

Payment: Minimum of 50% deposit is due to Charles Bouton not later than June 1, 2010. **Balance/final payment is due not later than August 1, 2010.** Send payments to Charles Bouton at his address reflected above.

Cancellation/Refund Policy: Individual cancellations must be made by 9/15/2010 and include appropriate justification. No refunds will be made prior to the Roundup. Full refunds for cancellations prior to 9/15/2010 and partial refunds for cancellations after 9/15/2010 will be at the discretion of the Steering Committee.

NAME: _____ Name on Nametag: _____

Name of spouse/guest(s): _____ Name(s) on Nametag(s): _____

Your Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Driving Directions

**To Gaylord Opryland Hotel
2802 Opryland Drive
Nashville, Tennessee 37214**

Northbound on I-65 North from Huntsville, AL:

Continue on I-65 North toward Nashville
Merge onto I-440 East via Exit 80 toward Knoxville/Chattanooga
Merge onto I-24 West via the exit on the Left toward I-40 East/Nashville/Knoxville
Merge onto I-40 East via Exit 52B toward Airport/Knoxville
Merge onto Briley Parkway/TN-155 North via Exit 215B
Take the West McGavock Pike exit, Exit 12, toward Music Valley Drive/Opryland Hotel/Convention Center
Turn Slight Left onto McGavock Pike
Turn Left onto Opryland Drive, and follow signs to hotel lobby

Northwest bound from I-75 North & I-24 West from Chattanooga, TN:

Continue on I-24 West toward Nashville
Merge onto I-40 East via Exit 52B toward Airport/Knoxville
Merge onto Briley Parkway/TN-155 North via Exit 215B
Take the West McGavock Pike exit, Exit 12, toward Music Valley Drive/Opryland Hotel/Convention Center
Turn Slight Left onto McGavock Pike
Turn Left onto Opryland Drive, and follow signs to hotel lobby

Westbound from I-40 West from Knoxville:

Continue on I-40 West toward Nashville
Merge onto Briley Parkway/TN-155 North via Exit 215B
Take the West McGavock Pike exit, Exit 12, toward Music Valley Drive/Opryland Hotel/Convention Center
Turn Slight Left onto McGavock Pike
Turn Left onto Opryland Drive, and follow signs to hotel lobby

Southbound on I-65 South from Bowling Green, KY:

Continue on I-65 South toward Nashville
Merge on Briley Parkway/TN-155 East via Exit 90B toward Airport
Take the West McGavock Pike Exit, Exit 12 toward Opryland Hotel/Convention Center/Music Valley Drive
Turn Slight Right onto McGavock Pike
Turn Left onto Opryland Drive, and follow signs to hotel lobby

Southeast bound on I-24 East from Clarksville, TN:

Continue on I-24 East toward Nashville
Merge on Briley Parkway/TN-155 East via Exit 90B toward Airport
Take the West McGavock Pike Exit, Exit 12 toward Opryland Hotel/Convention Center/Music Valley Drive
Turn Slight Right onto McGavock Pike
Turn Left onto Opryland Drive, and follow signs to hotel lobby

Eastbound on I-40 East from Jackson, TN:

Continue on I-40 East toward Nashville
Merge onto I-65 North via Exit 208B on the Left toward Louisville
Merge onto I-65 North via Exit 86A on the Left toward Clarksville/Louisville
Merge on Briley Parkway/TN-155 East via Exit 90B toward Airport
Take the West McGavock Pike Exit, Exit 12 toward Opryland Hotel/Convention Center/Music Valley Drive
Turn Slight Right onto McGavock Pike
Turn Left onto Opryland Drive, and follow signs to hotel lobby