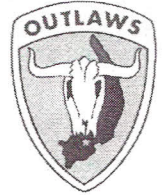


# VINH LONG OUTLAWS NEWS



November 2002

Final Issue for 2002

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## OH, SAN ANTONIO! WHAT A GREAT CELEBRATION & REUNION WE HAD!

And a wonderful time was had by all! That seems to sum up the reaction of everyone who attended the San Antonio Reunion hosted by Dale and Dian Sherrod. The accommodations, food, events, and fellowship were truly in keeping with this states reputation for "Texas Hospitality".

For those of you who could not attend, this newsletter is designed to bring you up to date about the organization and our future. Those present in San Antonio voted to continue the Vinh Long Outlaws Organization, a Constitution and a set of Bylaws were approved and a National Board of Directors were elected. Several subcommittees were set up as well, to include a Reunion Committee that will shepherd our next reunion. It will be held in 2004 in the Qzark/Ft Rucker, Alabama area. Frank Estes is the chair of this committee and he and his committee will be getting out the details for all of us to consider and plan on over the next several months. Make your plans now to attend. If you haven't been to the Rucker area in the past few years you'll be amazed at the changes. I'm sure you will be equally amazed at the changes in Army Aviation that have occurred since our time in Viet Nam. If you didn't know, one of the streets on Ft Rucker is named Outlaw Street after our organization.

We can look forward to the establishment of a Web Site, which will provide information concerning the organization and our future activities. Travis Wilson is taking on this task. I'm sure that he would appreciate any assis-



**The Alamo: We came, we saw, we conquered, and had a helluva fun time doing it!**

tance that those of you who have expertise in the development of a Web Site may have.

As you receive this newsletter and think about how you can help, high on the list should be contacting those who served with us during that first year in Viet Nam. We want to have everyone attend the next reunion that possibly can. If you have friends who weren't with the first year group, you can have them join us as Associate members and they and their families are always welcome to attend.

I am honored to have been asked to serve as the National Director for the next two years. In this capacity I pledge to you my support and assistance in preserving the memories and honoring the efforts of all whom served our country in Viet Nam. In this regard less us keep in mind these words "All gave some, Some gave all". Let us never forget those who can no longer join us.

*Submitted by Ernie & Linda Isbell*

# THE OUTLAW REUNION

Every two years, as autumn-time nears  
An announcement arrives in the mail,  
"A reunion is planned; it'll be really grand:  
Make plans to attend without fail."

I'll never forget the first time we met;  
We tried so hard to impress.  
We drove fancy cars, smoked big cigars,  
And wore our most elegant dress.

It was quite an affair; the whole Outlaw group was  
there.

It was held at a fancy hotel.  
We wined, and dined, and we acted refined,  
And everyone thought it was swell.

The men all told war stories, and who had been  
first  
To achieve great fortune and fame.  
Meanwhile, the spouses described their fine houses  
And how beautiful their children became.

Some of the ladies, who once had been lean,  
Now weighed in at one-ninety-six.  
The pilots who were there, most had lost their hair,  
And the roadrunners could no longer do their  
tricks.

The maverick we'd decreed to be so rough and  
tumble.  
Was now a minister and very humble, So just  
shows.  
That all of us can change, So be light of heart and  
never grumble.

A prize should have been awarded to the one's  
Who seemed to have aged the least.  
And another one to the one's who had driven  
The farthest to attend the feast.

They all took pictures, a curious mixture  
Of crew cuts, bald heads and beards  
Tall, short, or skinny. the style was the pits;

You never saw so many thighs, pots and oversized  
hips.

At our next get-together, no one cared whether  
They impressed their group or not.  
The mood was informal, a whole lot more normal;  
By this time we'd all gone to pot.

One function was held out-of-doors, at the ranch;  
We ate Bar-B-Que, potato salad, and beans.  
Then most of us took a ride on the hay,  
In our boots, cowboy hats and jeans.

By the thirty- seventh year it was abundantly clear,  
We were definitely over the hill.  
Those who weren't half dead had to crawl back to  
the bus.  
And be back at the hotel in time for their pill.

And now I can't wait; they've set the date;  
Our third reunion is coming, I'm told.  
It should be a ball, they've rented a hotel and a  
hall.  
At the Ozark Alabama rest home for the old.

Repairs have been made on my hearing aid;  
My pacemaker's been tuned up on high.  
My wheel chair is oiled, and my false teeth have  
been boiled;  
And I've bought a new rope, and new knots I have  
learned to tie.

I'm feeling quite hearty, and I'm ready to party;  
I'm gonna dance 'til dawn's early light.  
It'll be lots of fun; I just hope there's other  
Outlaws, Mavericks, and Roadrunners  
Who can make it on that glorious night.

Modified By--Jim Kirkley



## 150th Transportation Detachment: Roadrunners at R2K+2

Had a great time at R2K in Branson, MO seeing Roadrunners, Outlaws, and Mavericks I hadn't seen in years, meeting their wives and loved ones and being brought up to date on their past history since Vinh Long days of 1964-65. Many of the same group were also at R2K+2 in San Antonio. Mitzi and I had fun greeting everyone again and enjoying the comfortable arrangements and varieties of entertainment planned and coordinated so well by Dale and Dian Sherrod.

We are fortunate a core group provided financial, administrative, and program support to Dale and Dian. There are others but I have in mind Chuck Wren, Al Iller, Ernie and Linda Isbell, Frank Estes, and Tom Anderson. It was just a class operation from room accommodations, social times in our Ready Room, historical tours, River Boat tour followed by a "best ever" Mexican dinner w/entertainment, Texas ranch BBQ dinner, hayride, trick roping, and dancing, and especially our Sunday night Farewell Dinner. It was a fun time with good people.

Roadrunners were well represented by George and Sue Prescott, Jim and Pat Grandstaff, Chester and Emmadell Voisin, Charles and Colleen Bouton, Bob and Laurie Koonce, Leon and Virginia Osterland together with daughter and son-in-law Sherry and Scott, Pat and Patty Theriot, Jack and Shirley Lane, Tim and Mitzi Bisch, Fred Jacobs and new bride Barbara, Virgil Hoff, Clayton Stolte, Jack and Fran Konopka. Skip and Beverly Frontera, Pete and Carolyn Fredriksson, Tex and Maxie Fair had other commitments but being from Texas were able to join the group briefly to say "Hey". Thanks for coming by, it was good to see and/or meet you.

It was satisfying to witness attendee's enthusiasm and good spirit demonstrated at our General Meeting Saturday morning, 5 October. Continuation of VLOA reunions was strongly endorsed, VLOA Constitution and Bylaws were approved, Frank Estes volunteered to coordinate arrangements for R2K+4 at Ft. Rucker, AL, annual dues increased from \$10 to \$20 to ensure the VLOA Newsletter is distributed to everyone we know of, regardless of whether they are dues paying members or not. Best of all, outstanding officers were chosen to lead our organization. They included Roadrunner Virgil Hoff to serve as Quartermaster and Jack Lane to serve on the Roadrunners Roster Committee.

Following the General Meeting, Al Iller led a special meeting to discuss arrangements he had made with the National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO regarding receipt of the Valorous Unit Award for deserving VLOA members. Approximately one half dozen Roadrunners were present to take advantage of the opportunity to submit, or have Al submit for them, prescribed documentation to the National Personnel Records Center. Thank you Al!

Thanks to Tom Anderson's association and coordination with a former fellow employee of his post retirement job, he has been in contact with a company known as Roadrunner, Inc. (computer software company), whose major of-

fice is located in San Antonio. When notified of R2K+2, they were eager to pay tribute to our VLOA group, in particular the Roadrunners. Sure enough, at our Farewell Dinner, Debbie Alvarez and another attractive associate from Roadrunners, Inc. Marketing Division, presented Roadrunner members with gifts of a Roadrunner inscribed wrist watch, Roadrunner inscribed t-shirt and cap, together with small binoculars that were presented to all VLOA members. They were all valuable "tokens". Thank you Roadrunners, Inc. and especially Tom Anderson for making these presentations possible.

The program for our Farewell Dinner was outstanding. Ernie Isbell was an excellent Master of Ceremonies. One of his contests was the "Newlywed Game." The contestants Tony and Rose Ann Clemente, Al and Nell Moist, Ray and Shirley Hall, and Pat and Patty Theriot were entertaining. Pictures of these folks playing the Game are shown elsewhere in this newsletter.

Having enjoyed the fun and comradery of our two VLOA reunions, I am reminded of an article entitled "Duty, Honor, Country" from the September 2002 issue, "The American Legion" by retired U.S. Navy Admiral Bill Owens who, before his retirement, served as vice-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Generalizing a few of his comments, he said "we come from all racial and ethnic backgrounds; we learn leadership at its best, along with the fairness and unfairness of life; we know the pain of losing a comrade who stood by our side. It is a military where we enter as equals, where some are designated as officers and some as sergeants or seamen. All have the same degree of dedication to country. And when our service is over, we celebrate together in reunions of all those who participated". I am proud and humbled to have served with this group and look forward to seeing them, and others, again at Ft. Rucker in 2004.

God Bless America!

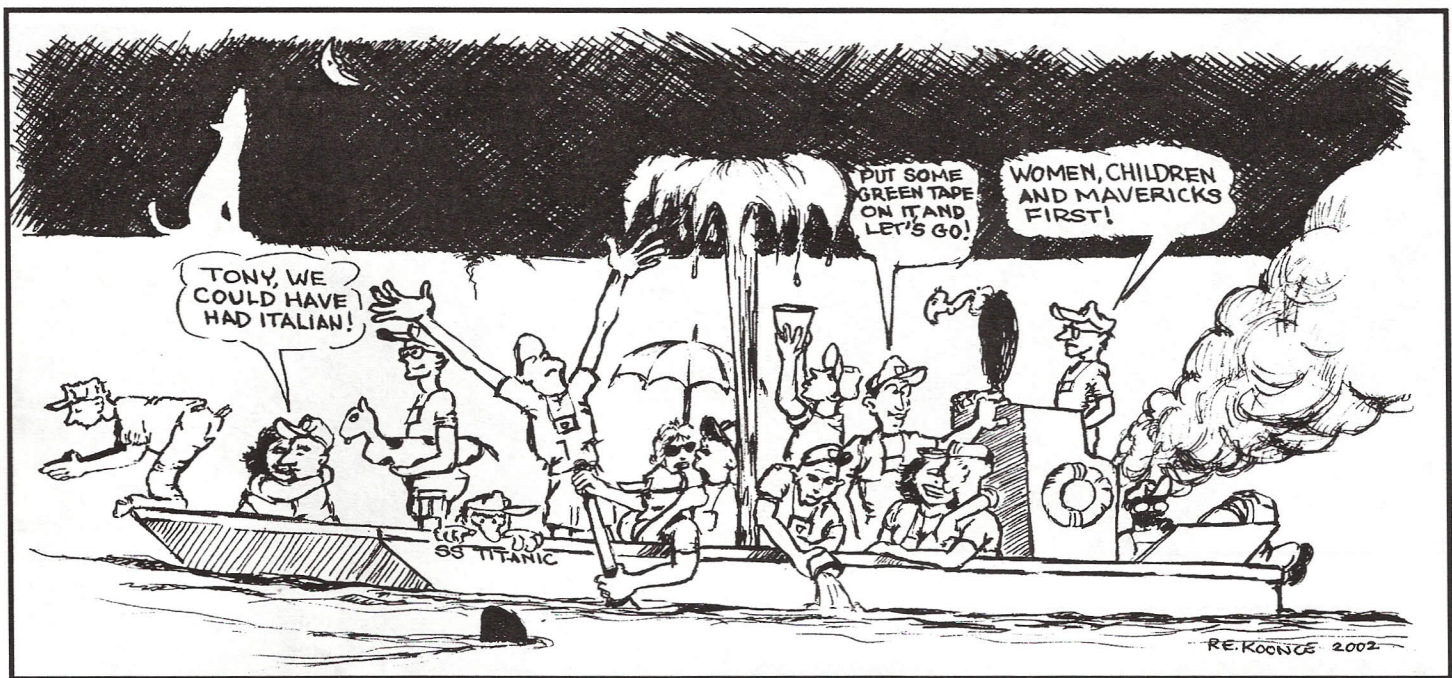
*Submitted by Tim Bisch*

### TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

Leon and I would like to thank you all for such a wonderful time in San Antonio, Texas. Sherry and Scott also had a wonderful time hanging out with you all. I would like to especially thank the people responsible for setting up the empty table for the lost loved ones who weren't as fortunate as our guys to make it back home. It really hit home. We are all so fortunate to live in a free and wonderful USA and to see our children and grandchildren with food, freedom, and the right to live as they choose.

Thank you all so much for fighting and protecting our freedom, our country, and loved ones.

Sincerely, Virginia & Leon Osterland



*ANDERSON'S ARMADA DURING RIVERINE OPERATIONS IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS.*



**WELCOME TO SAN ANTONIO!**



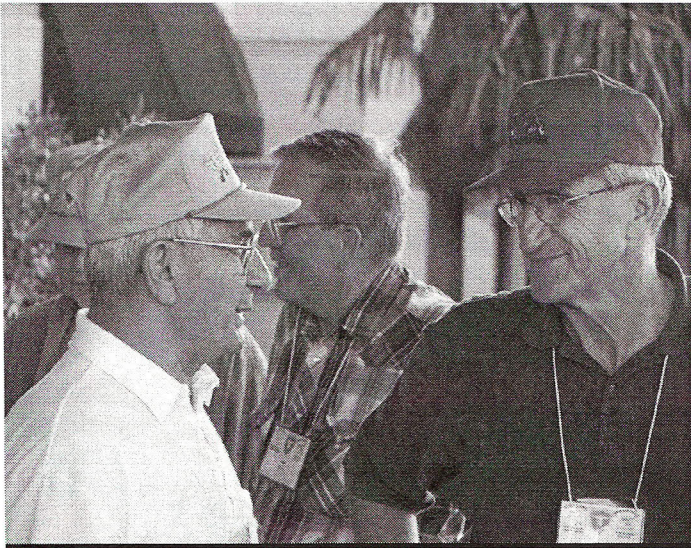
**FRED & BARBARA JACOBS VISITING WITH A FRIEND**



**BIG ERNIE WELCOMING A BUNCH OF ROADRUNNERS**



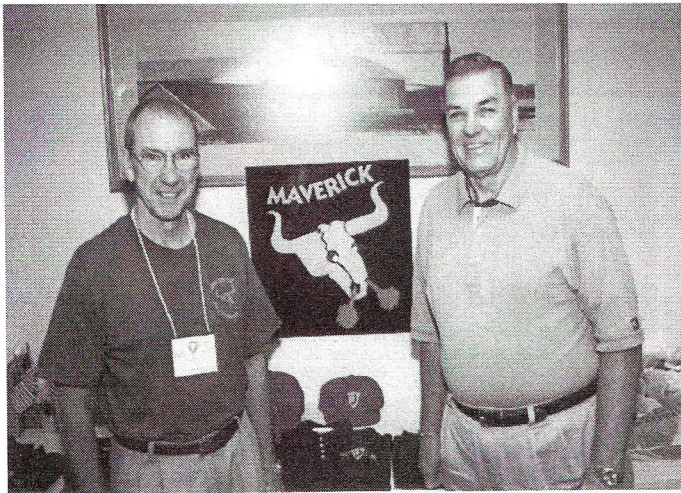
**CHARLES & COLLEEN BOUTEN, ROSE ANN & TONY CLEMENTE, AND MITZI BISCH**



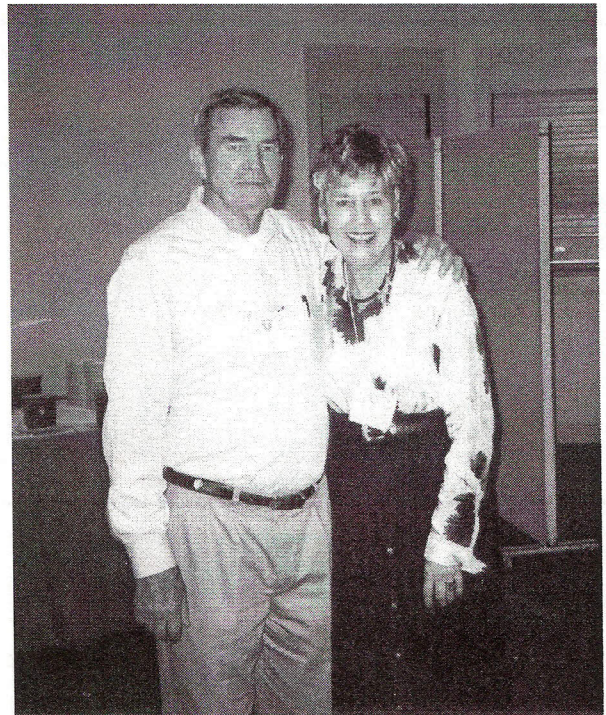
TONY & TIM



**ROADRUNNERS:** Sitting (L to R): Tim Bisch, Pat Theriot. Standing (L to R): Jack Konopka, Fred Jacobs, Jim Grandstaff, Chester Voisin, Jack Lane, Pete Fredriksson, George Prescott. Missing: Virgin Hoff, Charles Bouton, Bob Koonce, Clayton Stolte, Leon Osterland.



TWO MAVERICKS: FRANK & JOE

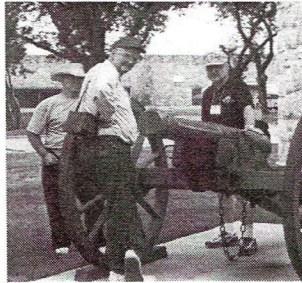


OUR R2K+2 SAN ANTONIO HOSTS AND REUNION CHAIRS: DALE & DIAN SHERROD



**<< Awright! Everybody off the bus!!**  
(If you look real closely, you will notice, as usual, Tony Clemente's nose sticking out in the center of the picture & Ernie's right there behind him.)

WE DID A LOT OF GREAT THINGS, INCLUDING A TOUR OF SAN ANTONIO, THE ALAMO, AND FORT SAM HOUSTON



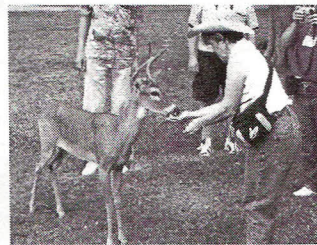
Roadrunners repaired a cannon at Fort Sam Houston.



Roadrunners waiting for the bus: (L to R) Jack Konopka, Leon Osterland, Jack Lane, Tim Bisch, Pat Theriot, Clayton Stolte, Chester Voisin.



Anderson's Armada sailed the Rio Grande and we listened to a Mexican band.



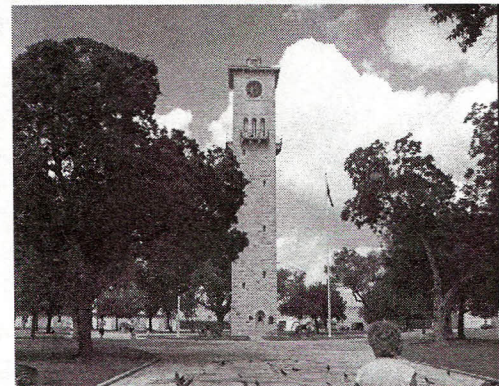
while others fed the deer.



Charles & Colleen Bouton (with Jim Kirkley in the background) touring the Alamo.



~~~~~  
We visited Mission San Jose, last stop on our Sunday historical tour.



~~~~~  
Saw the Bell Tower in the quadrangle at Fort Sam Houston.



Larry Jackson, Tom Anderson, and Bob Koonce discuss the broken down bus. No, they didn't miss a thing.

And we visited the 7A Ranch for music, dancing, food, fun, and a hay-ride!



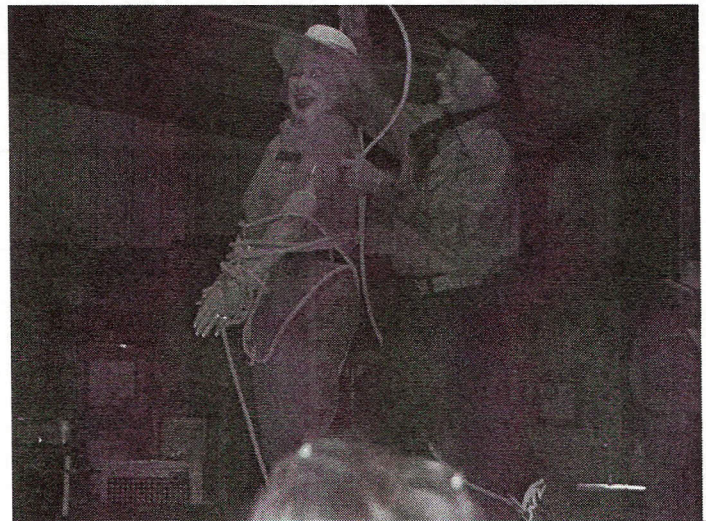
Poster boy Tony pushing to get to the chow line. And, the food was great!



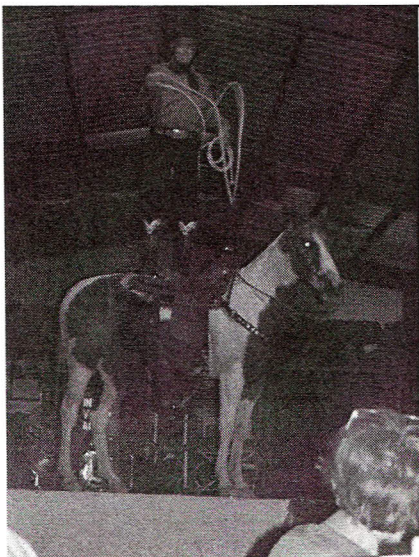
The Country Swing Band provided superb country music.



Dave and Rosemary Logan showed us all how to dance.

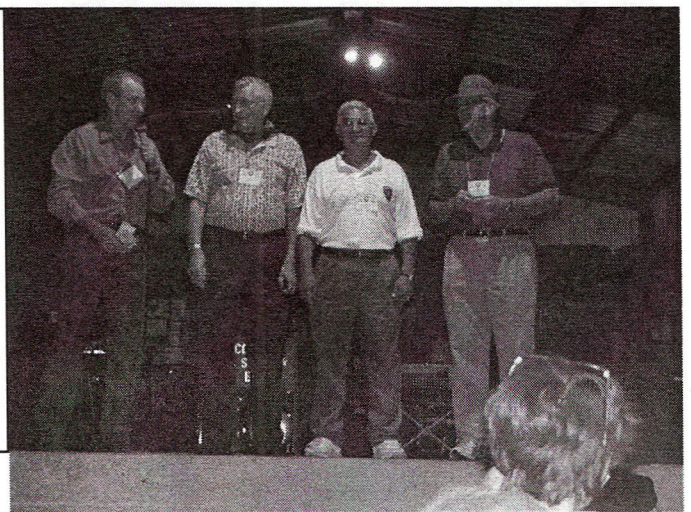


Linda Kirkley gets all tied up over the trick rope cowboy!



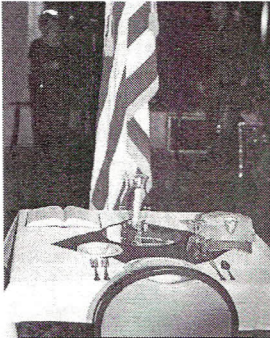
7A Ranch trick rope cowboy kept us amazed at the rope tricks he so easily performed.

Sheriff Frank tells the boys (Tom Anderson, Tony Clemente, Tim Bisch) to "Show me your VLOA membership card or pay a fine."





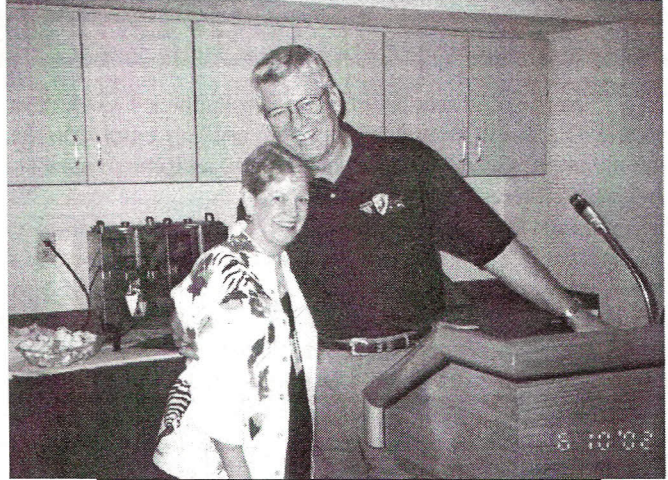
**And finally, we partied again and said farewell.**



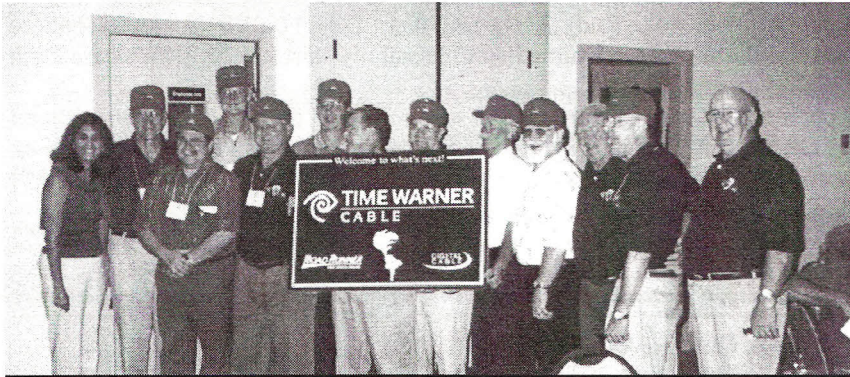
We reserved a center seat for our fallen comrades. "We honor you, we respect your sacrifice, we miss you."



Marguerite, Stephanie, and Al Iller had a grand time.



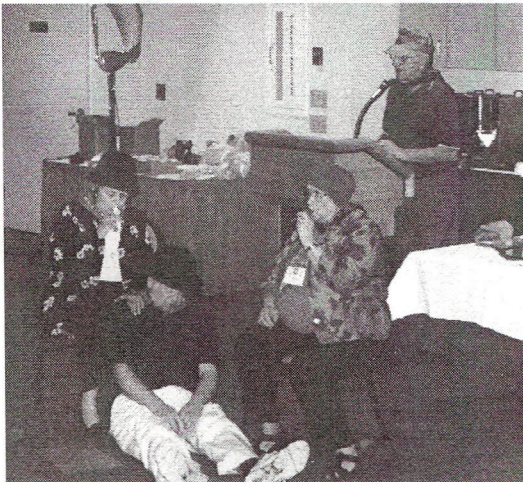
Ernie, our masterful Master of Ceremonies, and Linda Isbell.



Roadrunners, a division of Time Warner Cable, presented watches and other goodies to VLOA Roadrunner members. (See 150th article for details.)



The Prescotts: NEWLYWEDS!



Our leaders, the Andersons and Thorntons, "on the kazoos."



The Newlywed Game: (L to R) Tony & Rose Ann Clemente; Al & Nell Moist; Ray & Shirley Hall; and Pat & Pat Theriot, all checking out their Speedos and Bikinis, not knowing what to do or think!

## OUTLAW 14 AT AN KHE

Here is my recollection of what happened to Outlaw 14 at An Khe. I don't recall the dates or the crews names but as I recall it, Outlaw 14 was resupplying an artillery outpost in the area of operation. It delivered water to the men at the outpost and took on empty Gerry cans. I wasn't there, so I can't vouch for the truth of the matter. I was told that as the pilot pulled off, the empty cans banged together and the pilot thought he took a hit and slammed the chopper down flattening the skids. The test pilot for the 150th (Paul Lassiter) was flown to the Artillery sight and flew the damaged bird back.

Now this part I witnessed as did several members of the 150th. Outlaw 14 was flown back to An Khe and Paul held it at a hover while members of the 150th piled sand bags up for the chopper to sit on. It was pouring rain and the only area immediately available was full of unexploded mortar round from a previous war involving the Japanese. As we piled up bags, Paul would ease her down and we would signal as to whether there were enough bags. After several tries, we got enough bags down and Paul eased her down, but the pile needed to be adjusted so the chopper wouldn't tip over. After a couple of more attempts, we were all successful and the chopper was set down. New skids were obtained and Paul wound her up and held a hover while we removed the damaged skids and replaced them with the new ones. I was in awe at the flying ability of Paul, he was sweating profusely while performing this feat in a heavy downpour. Some (but not all) taking part were Pete "Gator" Fredriksson, Curtis "Tex" Fair, Spec. 5 Rudy and myself. As I indicated, there were others but I just don't recall who they were 36 years ago.

To add to this, I removed my soaked shirt and hung it on the front pole of our tent where some of us slept (in an old bomb crater). During the night, Puff would keep us lit up with flares which created an eerie orange pall over the area. I awoke to see what appeared to be a man standing in our tent doorway and woke Rudy whispering that I thought a Vietcong was about to frag us. Instantly, about ten M-14 bolts slammed shut and flashlights were turned on to reveal my shirt still hanging where I had left it. Needless to say there were some disgruntled expletives uttered.

The following day, my shirt had dried, so I put it on and went to chow. I was standing about half way up the line when I felt a tickle on my left arm. I looked to see what was causing this discomfort and to my horror, a greenish-black scorpion was on my arm, apparently having taken up residency in the rolled up sleeve of my shirt. I yelled SCORPION!! and people scattered. I flicked the thing off of my arm and went to the head of the line.

Respectfully;

George S. Prescott

Former crewleader of the crescent wrench crew, 150th Trans. Det.

Submitted by George Prescott to Tom Anderson at his request for historical information

VINH LONG OUTLAW ASSOCIATION  
INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT  
3rd Quarter (7/1/02 to 9/30/02)

	Beginning Balance	\$23,401.99
<b>Income</b>		
Dues Collected		\$210.00
Reunion Deposits		\$15,000.00
Outlaw Patch Sale		\$24.50
Outlaw Caps		\$211.50
Outlaw Shirts & Caps		\$1,168.00
	Total Income	\$16,614.00
<b>Expenses</b>		
Outlaw Newsletter Publication (6/19)		\$242.10
Embroidered Images (7/8)		\$139.50
Arty Tees (8/21) Cups		\$360.00
	Total Expenses	\$741.60
	Ending Balance	\$39,274.39

NOTE: Next quarter's financial report will reflect balance after reunion expenses.

# 2003 VLOA Membership Application Form

Beginning January 1, 2003 an initial VLOA membership is \$20.00, and all annual dues will be \$20.00 and due each January. Please use this form to forward initial and annual dues to: Charles C. Wren, 20 Roxbern Drive, Eatontown, NJ 07724.

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street/PO Box \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Number (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dates Assigned to Outlaws/attachments (Mo/Yr to Mo/Yr) \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
 Unit/plt/sect/posn \_\_\_\_\_ Radio Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if the above address is a change from the one previously provided.

Please initiate  renew  my VLOA membership. Make checks payable to VLOA.

Please do not renew my VLOA membership, but keep my name on the VLOA roster. I understand I may not receive any future issues of the VLOA Newsletter.

I know of a former Outlaw/Maverick/Roadrunner/attachments member and have attached his name, address, and phone number to this form.

## *And more from the farewell party!*

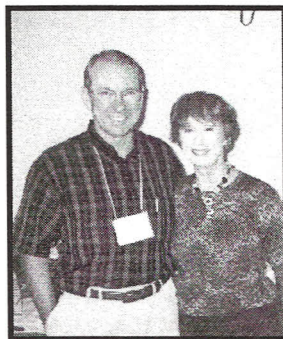


«««««  
 Shirley & Jack Lane at the Farewell Dinner.

»»»»»»»»  
 Chuck & Judy Wren. Special thanks to you, Chuck, for the magic you worked on our finances.



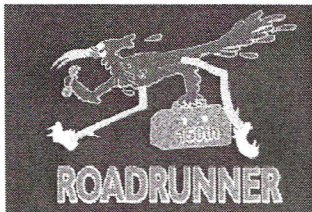
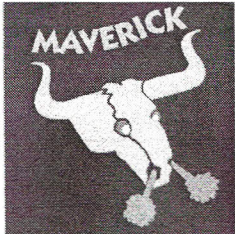
««««««««  
 Roadrunners can do kazoos. Can you do a kazoo, too?



««««« Ann and I want you to know how much we have enjoyed publishing the VLOA Newsletter for the past two years. We have come to know more about all of you because of the information you provided. To the entire crew who put together the San Antonio R2K+2, we salute you for all the detailed planning, hard work, and personal sacrifice each of you made to make this reunion great fun and full of great memories.  
 Frank & Ann Estes

VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION (VLOA)

C/O Charles C. Wren  
20 Roxbern Drive  
Eatontown, NJ 07724



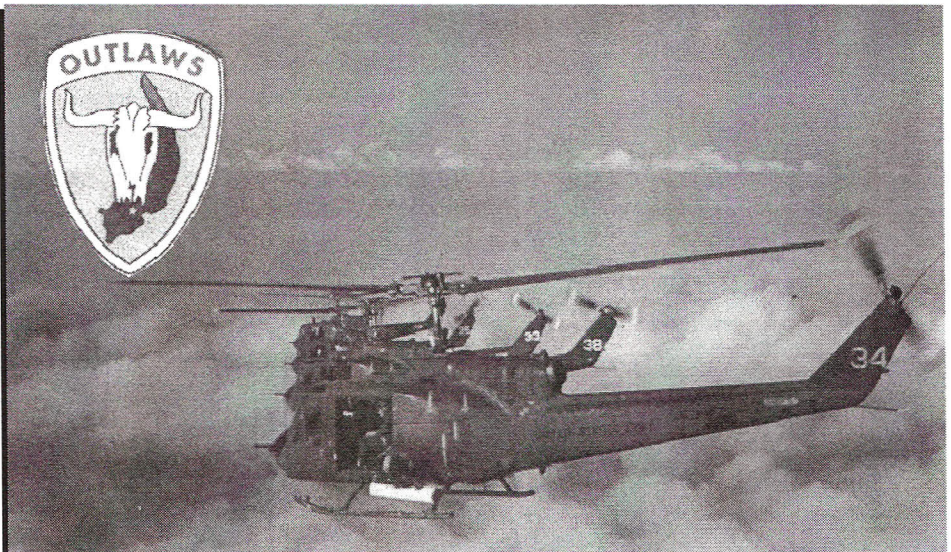
NEW EDITOR FOR  
VLOA NEWSLETTER

Soon, 2003 will arrive and the newsletter will be published by "The Old Sarge." Articles, pictures, reports, cartoons, etc. can be sent to rhaltopsg@aol.com at any time. Materials can also be sent to Ray Hall, 11814 Majella Drive, Bridgeton, MO 63044. Make sure that your latest personal information is on the roster so your copy of the newsletter can be mailed properly.

Ladies, we had quite a number of requests for items of special interest to the women of the group. Give us your input on such a column or page. We consider ourselves a family, and families share the good things that happen with others.

It will take us a while to get familiar with setting up the newsletter but be assured, we will do our best so we can keep up to the standards set by Frank Estes and Tony Clemente.

Ray & Shirley Hall



One day, the pilot of a Cherokee 180 was told by the tower to hold short of the runway while a DC-8 landed. The DC-8 landed, rolled out, turned around, and taxied back past the Cherokee. Some quick-witted comedian in the DC-8 crew got on the radio and said, "What a cute little plane. Did you make it all by yourself?" Our hero the Cherokee pilot, not about to let the insult go by, came back with a real zinger: "I made it out of DC-8 parts. Another landing like that and I'll have enough parts for another one." *From the internet via Linda Isbell*