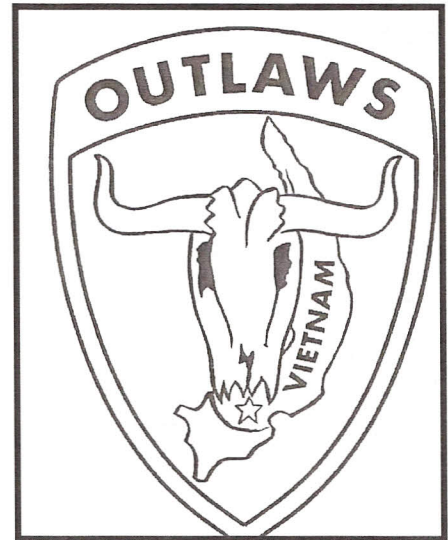


VINH LONG OUTLAWS NEWSLETTER

VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION



July— September 3rd Quarter 2008

Hershey Sweet!

Wow! What a great VLOA Roundup Joe and Erline Clelan planned, coordinated, and conducted. Our five days and four nights were packed with things to do and see, with visits to many venues and eating establishments representative of the geographical area. The following will summarize our great time at the R2K+8 VLOA Roundup in Harrisburg/Hershey, Pennsylvania

Roundup attendees arrived on Thursday afternoon, checked-in to the Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey hotel, and were promptly greeted by our Roundup Greeters dispensing goodie bags and selling 50-50 tickets for cash prizes to be drawn for at our farewell dinner on Sunday night. After a bunch of socializing and cocktails, attendees moved to the hotel's outdoor dining room for a Welcome-Back Buffet with all the food you could eat. This was followed by a lot more meeting and greeting in the hospitality room, including opening the Silent Auction room for bidders.

Friday was a very busy day, beginning with a wonderful and substantial buffet breakfast. Afterwards, we boarded the busses for a quick ride to Gettysburg for the Battle Theatre Show about the Battle of Gettysburg. Then, we moved downstairs to the General Pickett's All-You-Can-Eat Buffet Restaurant, where we gorged ourselves. From this venue, we again boarded the busses for an actual riding tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield, with each bus using a battlefield guide to explain the significance of the various areas we were driving through. This kind of tour really shed more light on our understanding of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Then, we boarded the busses again for a trip to the Jennie Wade House and Soldiers National Museum, where we had the choice of which venue to visit. Subsequently, we had free time to visit local shops and business, and walk around Gettysburg. Afterwards, we met at the Dobbins House for a sit-down dinner, once again gorging ourselves beyond reason. Finally, we boarded the busses for a quiet trip back to the hotel, followed by further socializing and bidding on Silent Auction items.

Saturday morning started with another substantial breakfast, followed by our normal business meeting where we discussed a number of substantive issues: (1) approval of the R2K+6 minutes, (2) Treasurer's report, (3) changes to our Constitution and By-Laws, (4) opening our organization to other year groups of Outlaws/Mavericks/Roadrunners/28th Signal members from the 175th Aviation Company, (5) adopting a policy of

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the Steering Committee hiring a reunion planning organization for future Roundups, (6) posting pages on our website to deal with issues related to copyrighting our logos and changes to our constitution, and (7) evaluating the possibility of permitting sons and daughters of VLOA members to become members of the organization. Afterwards, we boarded busses for a trip to Lancaster for lunch at the Good-and-Plenty Restaurant. The name was right on target; the food was good and there was plenty of it. This was a country home-style sit-down lunch with all food served on platters for each person to take what they wanted of the local cuisine. Again, we gorged ourselves. Then, back on the busses for the trip to the American Music Theatre, where a great musical caste entertained us with a presentation of the British Invasion Show, with songs from many of the British singers and other well known artists. After the show, we boarded the busses, returned to the Sheraton hotel, and had dinner on our own, followed by more socializing in the hospitality suite and bidding on the Silent Auction.

Sunday morning was sleep in, unless you wanted breakfast, and that was on your own. At 9:00 AM, lay preacher Isbell rendered a great, nondenominational sermon. Afterwards, we conducted another but brief business meeting in the hospitality room, mainly to discuss the next Roundup venue (more on this in later newsletters). Then, most of us socialized while a few tried out the Dauphin Highlands Golf Club for a round-on-the-links. Lunch was on our own, followed by shuttle busses to Bass Pro Shops, Hershey Chocolate World, or Antique Auto for those who desired. The day concluded with a cocktail hour before dinner, and a great sit-down dinner in one of the Sheraton's dining rooms. At dinner, Tom Anderson served as the Master of Ceremonies, provided some administrative announcements, and conducted the Missing Comrade Ceremony. After dinner, winning tickets were drawn for the 50-50 money raised (50% to the treasury; 50% to the winners), Ernie Isbell livened up the evening with some great humor, "thank-you" gifts were presented to Joe and Erlene Clelan, Tom and Frank presented the Director's Award to Ernie and Linda Isbell, Joe Clelan (Outgoing National Director) and Frank Estes (Incoming National Director) provided brief remarks, the Union Station Barber Shop Quartet provided entertainment, and Tom concluded the farewell dinner with a reading of "The Reunion." Later, all returned to the hospitality room to learn of the winning bids on each Silent Auction item, and most importantly, to settle up with the Treasurer for bids on the items. Some of the attendees continued celebrating well into the evening, with a few of the more mature folks returning to their rooms to crash from a jam-packed, thoroughly enjoyable Roundup. We all departed on Monday morning for our own hometowns, with many of us feeling somewhat sad that the Roundup was coming to an end for this year.

In closing, many individuals deserve recognition for their part in this year's Roundup: Joe and Erlene for their planning, coordinating, and conducting the R2K+8 Roundup; Tracy Connors from Travel by Design for coordinating the Roundup events and venues; Bill and Grace Ann Hensinger and their daughter for preparing the goodie bags and running the welcome center; Chester and Emmadell Voisin and Pat and Patty Theriot for their constant efforts on the 50-50 drawing; Ernie Isbell for providing the nondenominational religious services; Olen Thornton for planning/coordinating for and Tom Anderson for running the Silent Auction; all those who donated items for the Silent Auction (see separate article on Silent Auction); all those who bid on the Silent Auction items; and finally, all of those who attended this year's Roundup. To those of you who were unable to attend, we really missed you and hope you can make it to the R2K+10 Roundup.

Submitted by Frank Estes

Silent Auction a Winner!

A few Roundups ago, the Steering Committee implemented a Silent Auction to bring items from VLOA members' which either represented their own personal interests or the part of the U.S. in which they lived. This auction also aided in raising funds to help defray costs of future Roundups and make it more beneficial to Roundup attendees.

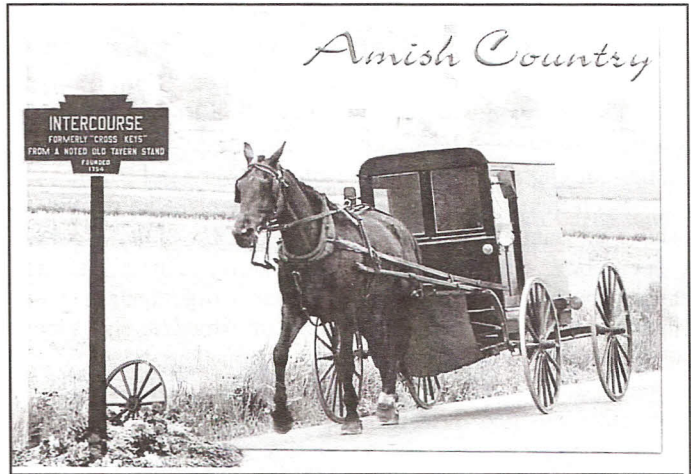
This year's Silent Auction was again a great success, and raised more than \$1200 with 38 items on the tables for bidding. The items included things all the way from a muzzle loader rifle, to WWII and Viet Nam War memorabilia, leather flight jacket, wine baskets, knives, model helicopters, home-made quilt, hand-made pottery, and many, many more equally important items. Thanks goes to Tom Anderson who assumed the duties of coordinating and running the Silent Auction, and to the many donors who either brought or shipped items to the Roundup location for use in the Silent Auction. Thanks also go to the winning bidders for their participation and willingness to give up some of their hard earned cash for a good cause.

The following VLOA members deserve a big "THANKS" for donating one or more items for the Silent Auction: Bob & Krista Michalic, Jim Burroughs, Jim & Pat Granstaff, Ernie & Linda Isbell, Duane & Jim Truman, Gloria Kramer, Al & Marguerite Iller, Lois Hampton, Joe & Erlene Clelan, Anonymous, Ole & Mary Thornton, James & Becky Kelly, Charles & Colleen Bouton, Larry & Polly Jackson, Frank & Ann Estes, Pat & Patty Theriot, Tom & Pat Anderson, Don Palmer, Bert & Deanna Rice, Bev & Skip Frontera, Bob & Laurie Koonce, and Jim Donnelly.

Submitted by Frank Estes



Chester Voisin "All Tuckered Out"



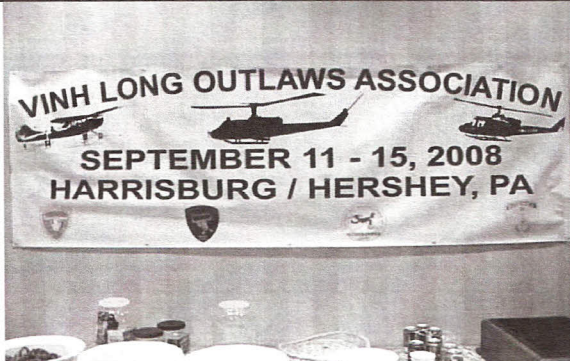
Amish Country



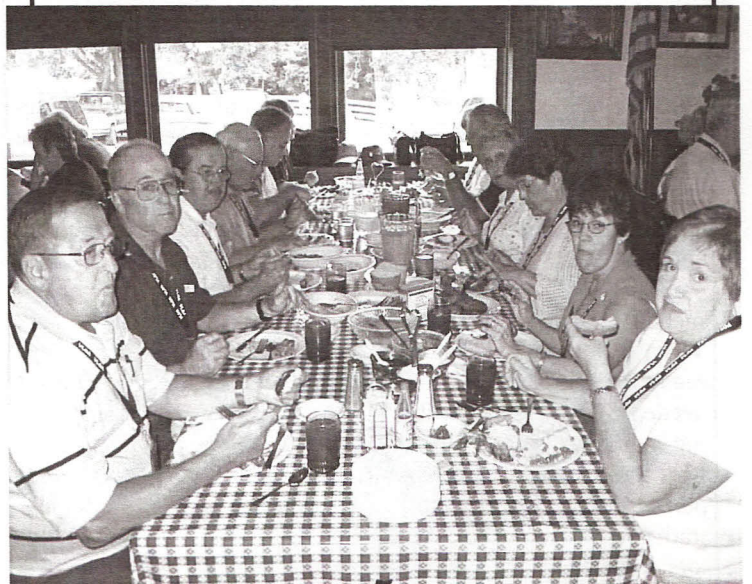
Lunch at General Pickett's All-U-Can-Eat Buffet



Al Iller presenting information at the Business Meeting



Welcome sign in the Hospitality Room



Home Style at Good -N-Plenty Restaurant

Director's Award Winners

Those of you who attended the R2K+8 Roundup know who won this award, so bear with me as this article will inform the rest of our Outlaw herd on who won the award and why.

Each biennial Outlaw Roundup recognizes an individual whose substantial contributions to the success of the VLOA have been above and beyond the call of duty. This award is unmatched by any other Viet Nam veteran's organization, including the Army Aviation Association of America, the Viet Nam Helicopter Crewmembers' Association, The Viet Nam Helicopter Pilots' Association, and all other prestigious veterans' organizations that have evolved since the Viet Nam conflict. The Director's Award is the consummate award that can be given in recognition of service to an organization whose membership includes such stalwart characters as those composing the VLOA.

Our awardee was there even before there was an "Outlaw" name applied to the illustrious organization. That beginning was back there at what was often called the Benning School for Boys. Our awardee was there when the name "Outlaws" was selected by a member of the Mavericks, and was also there at another beginning - - - even before there was a name applied to what we now know as the VLOA.

After the "First Branson," our awardee was instrumental in cobbling together the concept for an Outlaw Roundup with as many of the old Vinh Long group as could be found. That reunion was planned to be the one and only reunion of that tired bunch of old soldiers. But, when the old vets came together at Branson and all the follow-on reunions, our awardee was right in the middle of anything that needed to be done.

At Branson, our awardee was instrumental in setting up the registration, welcoming attendees, scheduling the agenda, preparing the gift bags, and a hundred other necessary actions to "just make it work." It may be coming clear now to the reader that it wasn't just one person doing all these things by himself. It took two people to make these things happen, and one of them was a woman. This year, it became clear that the selection committee would have to consider two people for the prestigious Director's Award.

As the VLOA became organized, structured, and viable, we needed a leader; someone who could guide this fledgling group through its formative years. One of these two people became our first VLOA Director. The other was a wizard with finances, served as the first VLOA Treasurer and was a master with compute agendas, photos, and a myriad of other technical support needs. So, over the next 10 years, these two individuals continued to be in the forefront of planning, creating, recommending, and involvement in every Roundup we have had. They have been a wellspring of great technical advice, always ready, willing, and able to fill any role wherever and whenever needed. They have contributed their time and talents to providing numerous VLOA Newsletter articles. They are always behind the scenes but out front when needed. He, as an integral part of the Steering Committee; she, for her technical, administrative, and personal skills in working with the various Directors, the Steering Committees, and the Reunion Coordinators.

Congratulations to *Ernie and Linda Isbell* for their selection this year to receive the Director's Award. (See the photos section for a picture of them receiving their award.)

Submitted by Frank Estes

Treasurer's Report

"Well, it was quite a reunion. I think I've finally recovered from all the math and exotic calculations involved balancing the books for our Reunion!!!!!!

This year, we are winding up with a good bit less than at the end of R2K+6, when we had approx. \$19K to start 2007 with. This short fall is due to the large amount paid by the general fund in order to keep member cost at a reasonable level. This added up to approx \$12K (for the 2 bus, cancellation refunds and miscellaneous expenses).

Unless there are objections, I plan to deposit approx. 75% of our current funds in an interest bearing CD, as we did after the last reunion.

The \$1,000.00 donation to Fisher House has been subtracted from our check book, but the funds have not yet been sent, as I've run in to a lack of co-operation in identifying the proper party to send the funds to at the national organization. I will keep you posted on progress. I would also like to mention a very generous action on Al Iller's part. Al is one of the \$300.00 winners in the 50/50 drawing. He returned his check to me, with instructions to include the amount as part of the group's donation. It gives me great pride to be part of a group that includes people like Al.

Special thanks also to Bill and Gracie Hensinger for their non-stop efforts during the reunion. Quartermaster sales, under their supervision, brought in \$561.00.

Finally, it would not be a successful and fun reunion without Emmadel and Pat -et al - waving handful of 50/50 tickets at all of us. In addition to the 50/50 dollars brought in as part of the reunion fee, they added another \$580.00 to our coffers."

Submitted by Charles Bouton

Preventing the Loss of your Airman Certificate Privileges
Angelo Spelios
Your friendly FAA inspector (until January 3, 2009)

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued new regulations regarding the duration of pilot certificates, flight engineer certificates, mechanic certificates, and aircraft dispatcher certificates. FAR 61.19 states that the holder of a paper pilot certificate issued under this part may not exercise the privileges of that paper certificate after March 31, 2010. FAR 63.15 states that the holder of a paper flight engineer certificate may not exercise the privileges of that paper certificate after March 31, 2013. FAR 65.15 states that the holder of a paper mechanic or a paper aircraft dispatcher certificate may not exercise the privilege of that paper certificate after March 31, 2013.

You can replace your airmen paper certificate's with a new plastic credit card size airmen certificate by logging on to <http://www.faa.gov> and clicking on "Replace a License Certificate" under "Pilots" on the right side of the page. Then click on "Login to" and select "Request an Account" at the bottom of the page that comes up. Follow the instructions to obtain a new plastic certificate. Each certificate will cost \$2.00, which you will pay with a credit card online. You may also, at the same time, if your certificate number is the same as your social security number, request that your social security number be removed as your certificate number.

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), of which the United States is a member, issued a requirement that as of March 5, 2008, all private, commercial or ATPs, as well as flight engineers, operating internationally as required crewmembers of an airplane or helicopter have an airman certificate with an endorsement of language proficiency. In the case of persons holding a U.S. airman certificate, the language proficiency endorsement will state "English Proficient." U. S. airmen certificate holders have until March 5, 2009, to comply with the ICAO Language Proficiency airman certificate endorsement requirements. After March 5, 2009, U. S. airmen certificate holders may not operate internationally without this endorsement.

If you replace your airmen certificate as described above, the "English Proficient" endorsement will be added to your certificate automatically because the ability to read, speak, write, and understand English is already a U.S. regulatory requirement. The FAA Registry began issuing all new certificates with this endorsement on February 11, 2008.

If you do not have access to a computer, you may mail your request to:

Federal Aviation Administration
Airmen Certification Branch, AFS-760
P.O. Box 25082
Oklahoma City, OK 73125-0082

Include a signed, written request stating your name, date and place of birth, social security number, and/or certificate number, your current address, and the reason you need a replacement. You must include a check or money order for \$2.00 (U.S. funds), made payable to FAA for each certificate you are requesting

Even if you are not currently exercising your airman privileges, you worked very hard to obtain them. Please take a little time to retain those privileges by requesting replacement certificates.

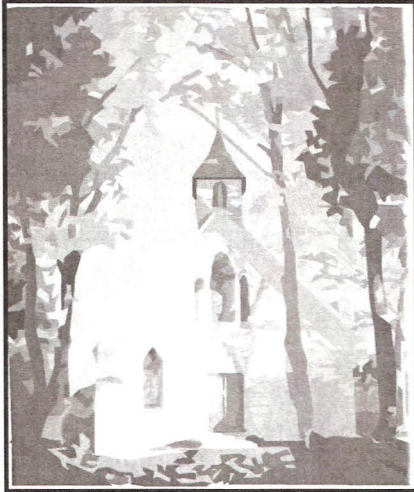
(Submitted by Angelo Spelios)

JUST A LITTLE TRIVIA

If my count is correct, this newsletter will be number 34!! How about that over all the years from Tony's very first in May, 1999!!
(From Al Iller)

Mavericks: Bert Rice, Ernie Isbell, Frank Estes, Larry Jackson, & Dave Logan





CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"The Back Pew"

From our VLOA Chaplain: John Doyle

It is only human nature to, every now and then, step back and take a look at how things are going in life. What we are doing is taking an honest, if somewhat biased, inventory of things that make or break how we view our brief existence on this planet. Are we doing OK financially? Is our health up to par? Marriage or relationship sound? And on and on.

If we are lucky, things are just where we want them to be. If not, we may or may not take corrective action to get to the point we desire to be.

May I, be so bold as to recommend we also do a spiritual evaluation of our life? Don't know how? I just happen to have some ideas:

1. Ask yourself, "What blessings do I take for granted?"

If you can name a blessing, or more than one, that you take for granted, step back and realize that blessings are God's gifts to you. One should never take a gift for granted, thinking, "I deserve this," or, "why shouldn't God give this me? I'm a nice guy."

I'll tell you why. Because God does not go around giving out blessings because you are "a nice guy". None of us is that nice. God gives blessings out of His unfathomable love for us. Don't ever take a blessing for granted

2. Ask yourself, "If I have failed to be all that God wants me to be, whom can I blame?"

This is a no brainer! If you are not all God wants you to be, it is not God's fault. It's yours. Admit it, then correct the problem.

3. Ask yourself, "Has my tree of life produced wild fruit?"

To replace the wild fruit with choice fruit. Let God prune the wild fruit from your life.

4. Ask yourself, "Have I been guilty of allowing injustice and/or oppression to occur around Me?"

Jesus never turned his back on people that were being treated unjustly or those oppressed. Can you do any less?

5. Ask yourself, "How will I respond to God's love and blessing in the future?"

Only you can answer this question. Why not talk it over with God?

Chaplain John Doyle

Search for the Rest of Our Gang

During our Business Meeting, we discussed and approved changes to our Constitution and By-Laws that will permit Outlaws, Mavericks, Roadrunners, and 28th Signal members from year-groups subsequent to September 1965 to be VLOA General Members. Current General Members (those in the units from August 1964 through September 1965) will be re-designated as Charter Members.

With these changes, we must begin the process of locating rosters from the various year-groups of the 175th and U.S. aviation units in Iraq, identifying individuals and groups who can assist in locating former members, and corresponding with these former members in an attempt to get them to join the VLOA. As you can well imagine, this will be a long and laborious process, but we must do this now or we will soon reach the point where age and health results in future Roundups where only a few of us are able to attend. We must establish a process now that ensures the Outlaws' legacy continues well into the future.

There are a number of processes we can use in this effort: find a point-of-contact in each year-group and seek their assistance; appoint current VLOA members to assist in the effort; and, use a professional search service to find potential members. Right now, it appears that we will need to use a combination of all these efforts if we expect to make progress prior to our next Roundup. If the Outlaw units following 8/65 turned over at approximately the same rate as our time group did and assuming the unit remained about the same size, we are conservatively talking about looking for 4,000+ from 8/65 through the end of the Viet Nam War.

Additionally, Director-At-Large Dave Logan has agreed to undertake the task of locating the remaining 250 original Outlaws, Mavericks, and Road runners whom we have not been able to locate from our original list of some 500 that fall within the August 1984 – September 1965 time frame.

So, the process has started. Your new officers have accepted this strategic mission so as to arrive at a R2K+10 Roundup with other year-groups represented. We are walking on new ground, and will need all the support we can get in this effort. If you have ideas, don't be bashful about sending them to me at estesf@charter.net. Thanks in advance for anything you can do in this regard.

Submitted by Frank Estes

New Officers

First, let me thank the outgoing officers for the great work they did during their two-year tenure, with a special thanks to Joe not only for the work he did as the National Director, but also for the work he and Erline did to plan, coordinate, and conduct our R2K+8 VLOA Roundup.

Joe Clelan – National Director
Tom Anderson – Permanent Advisor
Frank Estes – Deputy Director
Larry Jackson – Secretary
Charles Bouton – Treasurer
Bill Hensinger – Quartermaster
Al & Nell Moist – Comm. Director
Bud Allie (deceased) – Web Master
Chuck Wren – Web Master
John Doyle – Chaplain
Chester Voisin – Member-at-Large
Phil Horne – Member-at-Large
Byron Miksch – Official Photographer

During our Business Meeting, the VLOA members in attendance elected the following officers for the 2008-2010 timeframe:

Frank Estes – National Director
Tom Anderson – Permanent Advisor
Bob Koonce – Deputy Director
Larry Jackson – Secretary
Charles Bouton – Treasurer
Dave Logan – Member-at-Large
Jim Granstaff – Member-at-Large
Bill Hensinger – Quartermaster
Al & Nell Moist – Commo Director

Appointed by the National Director:

Chuck Wren – Web Master
John Doyle – Chaplain
Byron Miksch – Official Photographer
Ernie Isbell – Ex Officio
Al Iller – Ex Officio
Tim Bisch – Ex Officio
Joe Clelan – Ex Officio

Submitted by Frank Estes

WHERE DOES THE VLOA TREASURY GET IT'S MONEY?

The primary purpose of our Vinh Long Outlaws Association is to have a reunion every two years for all of us who served together in 1964-65. Our Constitution even states that the first objective of the organization is *"to renew and preserve the camaraderie and esprit de corps among members of the VLOA"*.

Each of our reunions has been WONDERFUL! The camaraderie among the attendees is unbelievable.

Those who have attended will confirm that each reunion has been "first-class". To do this, every reunion coordinator has had to balance the costs of providing all the necessary amenities against the reality of keeping the cost-per-person within feasible limits. This is not easy!

Back in 2000, we did not have a VLOA treasury. Several individuals among the "Charter Members" each contributed money to initialize a small treasury to fund the costs of the Newsletter. The first membership meeting approved an annual "membership fee", however that income barely covered the Newsletter costs. And, annual membership fee income is now decreasing because many members have opted for a Life Membership.

But, reunions cost money! In order to provide money for such items as refreshments, banners, signs, gratuities, recognition and thank-you gifts, etc., the first reunion coordinators resorted to assessing a small fee on top of each attendees costs. Several reunions ago, we began our spirited 50-50 program to provide a better funding source for the treasury. We also initiated our "Silent Auction" program to augment the treasury.

Those two programs, (50-50 and Silent Auction) are the principle means the VLOA has to put significant money into the treasury. Therefore it's obvious that the treasury has been built, and sustained, primarily by those who attend the reunions. And, it should be used to continue to make the reunions as first-class as possible. At this writing, a location for R2K10 has not been selected. However, wherever it is held, prices will be higher two years from now than those in the past. The treasury will be used to underwrite certain amenities for that reunion.

The two revenue program sources cited above brought in far less money at Hershey than in previous years. The primary reason was that there were fewer attendees to bid on auction items or purchase 50-50 tickets. The treasury is still sound but will continue to need the support of those who attend the reunions. Thanks to everyone who supported the 50-50 and Silent Auction at Hershey. The Steering Committee is working on ways to increase both the membership in the VLOA as well as attendance at the next reunion. Stay tuned for further developments.

Submitted by Tom Anderson



Abraham Isbell at the Battle Theatre Show



Happy Folks at the Welcome Dinner

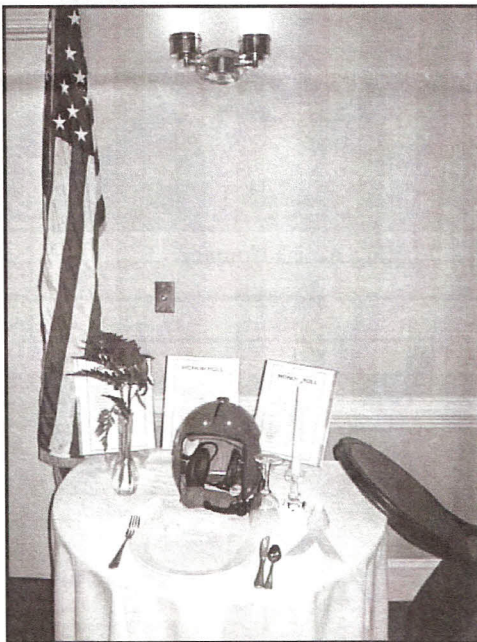
VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION

COPYRIGHTS REVISITED

The lead article (page 1) of the VLOA Newsletter, January - March First Issue 2007 provided background, decision process and final approval by the U.S. Copyright Office for the copyrights to the original artwork of the Outlaws patch, 150th CHFM patch, 28th Sig Det patch and the Maverick and Roadrunner logos. In that article, it was stated that the purpose and intent of the copyright effort was to preserve and protect historically the artwork and designs of the patches and logos as originally created by members assigned and/or attached to the 62nd Aviation Company (later re-designated Company A, 502nd Aviation Battalion), 150th Cargo Helicopter Field Maintenance Detachment and 28th Signal Detachment when first deployed from CONUS to VN in late 1964. These five patches/logos were approved by the U.S. Copyright Office in August 2006 as of September 2005 submission.

Since the approval of the VLOA copyrights, there have been comments and concerns from various sources as to the intent of VLOA's copyright action. As set forth in the above earlier referenced article, and reiterated above, the purpose was to historically preserve and protect the original artwork and designs through the copyright action. And as quoted in that same article, "The wearing, display, reproduction, use, etc. by any former members of the 62nd Aviation Company; Company A, 502nd Aviation Battalion of the 1964-1965 era, the follow-on 175th Assault Helicopter Company and all their attached units/detachments, throughout their service in RVN, of these original designs and derivatives thereof would not be infringed upon nor inhibited in any way by reason of VLOA holding the copyrights to the original designs." However, the VLOA would discourage the use of designs for commercial purposes and profit, except by organized groups of former members of the referenced units and detachments for the benefit of their group or membership and for other philanthropic purposes.

Contributed by: Al Iller



Missing Comrade Table

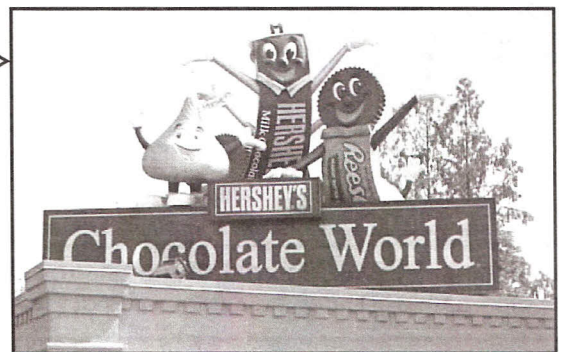


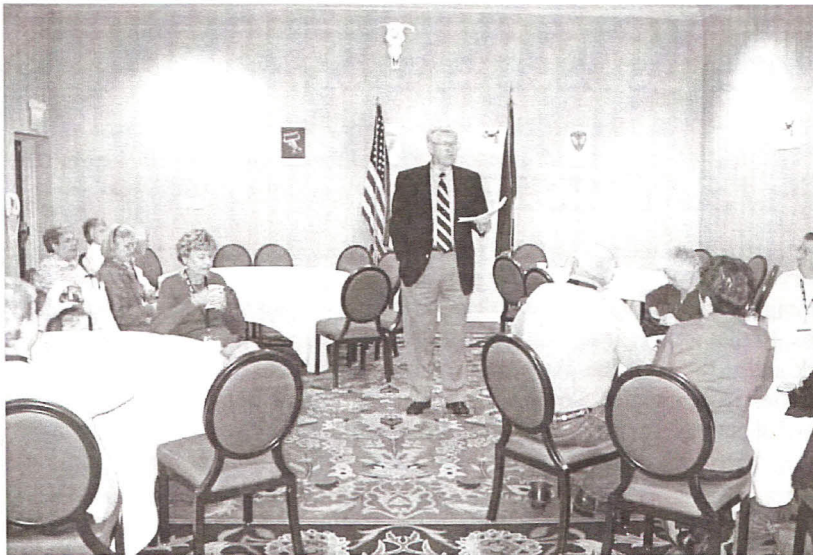
Linda & Ernie Isbell receiving their "flying eagle" Director's Award



Welcome to
Hershey's
Chocolate World

Joe Clelan receiving
his ram's head
bookends for
services rendered.

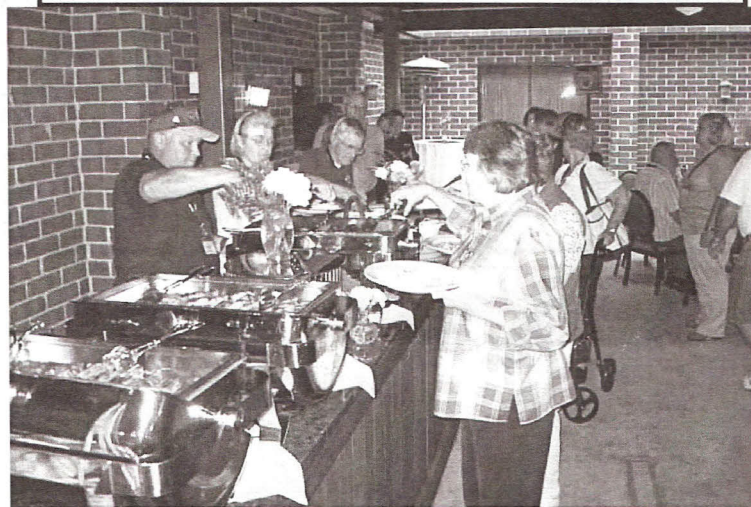




Preacher Isbell rendering the non-denominational sermon



Getting ready for the Battle Theatre Show



All you can eat at the Sheraton welcome dinner



Visiting Amish Country



Lois Hampton, Dale Sherrod, Diane Sherrod and Mary Gatipon at the Farewell Dinner the last evening of the Reunion.



Enjoying the farewell banquet dinner



The 150th Roadrunners

Laughter, The Best Medicine

“Excuse me, what are those women dressed in white doing?” a tourist asked his guide.

“Oh, well it’s custom for brides in Jerusalem to pray at the Wailing Wall on the day of their wedding,” he replied.

“Why?”

“So they can get used to talking to a wall.”

(From Readers Digest)

CHANGES MADE IN VLOA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Go back in your mind to October 2000. The place: Branson, MO. The first full reunion of the bunch of guys who were stationed in Vinh Long, Vietnam in 1964-65. We cleverly called it R2K for "Reunion 2000". Everyone in attendance (men and women) met in a room and unanimously decided they wanted to do this again . . . and again. No one was quite sure how it would happen, but it was clear that some leadership was necessary to start pulling everything together. So, at that first meeting, three items were approved:

- 1) We came up with a very clever name - the Vinh Long Outlaws Association!
- 2) We decided, if we were going to have an "Association", we would need a "Constitution" and some "Bylaws" to operate by.
- 3) Ernie Isbell was named the first VLOA Director. Planning for the future begins!

Two years pass. Now it's October 2002. We're in San Antonio for R2K2. . . (still a clever title!) The VLOA Constitution (4 pages) and Bylaws (3 pages) have been written. The sparkling new documents are presented at the membership meeting and are approved, without change, by the attendees. The VLOA is now a real organization, with a Director, Deputy Director, Secretary, Treasurer and other officers cobbled together in what we termed our "Steering Committee".

The Constitution and ByLaws seem to work. R2K4 in Fort Rucker and R2K6 in Pigeon Forge come and go with no apparent reason to change any of the provisions.

Then, prior to R2K8 in Hershey, events begin to change. At the membership meeting, (still with the men and their ladies participating) some changes to the VLOA documents are proposed. First, a nuanced word "bi-annual" needs to be changed to "biennial". Done!

Then several members pointed out that, although we say our membership ranks are open to all Outlaws, regardless of when they served in Vietnam, our membership categories only provide for "Associate" membership for these Outlaws. Several individuals who fall into that category, and who have indicated a desire for VLOA membership, indicated that being an "Associate" member carries a connotation of being less than a full member. Our Constitution does not provide a logical category of membership for these Outlaws.

Therefore, a proposal is put before the membership that would define all "original" Outlaws (Aug '64 – Sep '65) as Charter Members, a new category.

A second, new, category – General Member - is proposed for all other Outlaws (and those in attached units), who wish to join the VLOA. Such members would be full members of the VLOA and, if in an "Active" status, may vote and hold office in the Association.

The proposal goes on to state that either Charter or General memberships are eligible for Life Member status upon payment of a one-time fee, already in place.

The restructuring of the membership categories in the Constitution is approved by the members by voice vote.

Then, attention turned to a couple recommended, minor changes for the ByLaws. The first was a wording change to conform to the new "Charter" and "General" membership status. The second removed the words "for-profit" from our ByLaws since our organization is registered as a "non-profit" entity. Both changes were again approved.

The changes described above will be made to both VLOA documents and will be posted accordingly on the VLOA website. Our Association documents are, indeed, living documents that change to conform to the best interests of the organization as a whole.

Prior to R2K10, the Steering Committee, headed by Frank Estes, will address several issues related to attempting to bring into the VLOA, other Outlaws from later year-groups. Frank has more on that issue elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Submitted by Tom Anderson

VINH LONG OUTLAW ASSOCIATION (VLOA)

13 September 2008

The VLOA Business Meeting was held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in conjunction with the VLOA Roundup (R2K + 8) on September 13, 2008.

The meeting was opened by Joe Clelan, the National Director, who again welcomed all participants to the Roundup. Copies of the 23 October 2006 minutes were made available to the participants and the minutes were read to the membership.

There was no old business.

Angelo Spelios made a motion to approve the 2006 Minutes and it was seconded by Ernie Isbell and approved by unanimous vote.

Charles Bouton, Treasurer, presented the financial report which contained an overview of the financial condition of the VLOA with a balance of approximately \$13,000 not including proceeds from the silent auction, the lottery, QM sales and the book sales. The biennial financial audit has not been scheduled at this time. Pat Theriot made a motion to approve the treasurers' report, and it was seconded by Tim Bisch and approved by unanimous vote.

A number of new business topics were discussed and voted on by attendees:

Frank Estes made a motion to make the following changes to the Constitution and it was seconded by Ernie Isbell and approved by unanimous vote of the membership present:

Article III. "Operation" Para: C. States that a bi-annual audit will be conducted. Bi-annual will be changed to read **biennial**.

Article V – Membership

A. All personnel who were affiliated in any way with the U.S. Army Air Mobile Light helicopter company designated as the 62d Aviation Company, and later redesignated as Company A, 502d Aviation Battalion, and its affiliated support units, and who served at any time between August 1964 (the date of initial activation) through September 1965 (end date of the units' first year in Vietnam) are eligible for Charter Membership in the VLOA.

B. All personnel who served in the Outlaws or any affiliated unit after the unit was redesignated as the 175th Aviation Company, or any follow on unit participating in combat operations, are eligible for General Membership in the VLOA.

D. Membership classifications are: Charter, General, Active, Honorary, Associate and Life. VLOA memberships are described as follows:

1. "Charter Member: Any individual assigned or attached to the Outlaws or any of its attached units during the time frame August 1964 through September 1965. Such members are full members of the VLOA and, if in an 'Active' status may vote and hold office in the Association."
2. "General Member: Any individual assigned or attached to the Outlaw unit(s) after the period defined as Charter Members. Such members are full members of the VLOA and if in an "Active" status may vote and hold office in the Association."
3. "Active Membership: no change in this definition.
4. "Honorary Member: no change in this definition
5. "Associate Member: no change in this definition
6. "Life Member: Life membership will be made available to an individual eligible for Charter or General membership, and who pays a one-time Life Membership fee as established by the Steering Committee."

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Pat Theriot made a motion to make the following changes to the By Laws and it was seconded by Charles Bouton and approved by unanimous vote of the membership present:

Chapter 3-Termination of Membership. Delete the words “and the member will revert to the General membership status”.
Chapter 11-Quartermaster. The last sentence will be amended to read as follows: “Any revenues derived from the sale of items made available to members will be used for the benefit of the membership and for VLOA operational expenses as approved by the Steering Committee”.

Joe Clelan announced that Chuck Wren is maintaining the Outlaw web site.

A discussion was held regarding the planning for future Round-Ups and a motion was made by Ernie Isbell to hire a reunion coordinator to do the planning and that the Steering Committee would select the reunion coordinator. The motion was seconded by Pat Theriot and unanimously approved by the membership present.

Joe Clelan explained the purpose of the book sale and exchange and that the proceeds would be donated to support the Fisher Houses, which are analogous to the Ronald McDonald Houses. The Fisher Houses are affiliated with DOD and Military hospitals and provide a place for families to stay while service members or dependents are hospitalized.

Al Iller made a motion to make a donation to the Fisher Houses of \$1,000.00 which would include the money made on the book sale. It was seconded by Skip Frontera and unanimously approved by the membership present.

Joe Clelan opened the discussion concerning a new director. Ernie Isbell made a motion to nominate Frank Estes as National Director and it was seconded by Tom Anderson and unanimously approved by the membership present.

Al Iller made a motion to nominate Bob Koonce as Deputy Director. It was seconded by Jim Kelly and was unanimously approved by the membership present.

Frank Estes appointed Charles Bouton to another term as Treasurer and Larry Jackson to another term as Secretary. They both accepted the appointment.

Al Iller made a motion to nominate Dave Logan as a Member-at-Large. It was seconded by Paul Martin and unanimously approved by the membership present.

Al Iller made another motion to nominate Jim Grandstaff as a Member-at-Large. It was seconded by Pat Theriot and unanimously approved by the membership present.

Frank Estes appointed Bill Hensinger to the position of Quartermaster and Bill accepted the appointment.

Although not present at the reunion or membership meeting, the following individuals agreed to continue in their positions:

Al and Nell Moist as Communication Director

John Doyle as Chaplain

Chuck Wren as Web Master

In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws, the following were made officers of the VLOA:

National Director-Frank Estes

Permanent Advisor-Tom Anderson

Deputy Director-Bob Koonce

Secretary-Larry Jackson

Treasurer-Charles Bouton

Members at Large-Dave Logan

-Jim Grandstaff

Communications Director-Al & Nell Moist

Quartermaster-Bill Hensinger

There being no further business, Angelo Spelios made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Al Iller and unanimously approved by the membership present. The membership will meet again at the call of the National Director in 2010 during the R2K + 10 VLOA Roundup at a place to be announced.

Larry L. Jackson

Secretary

Vinh Long Outlaw Association (VLOA)

ADDENDUM TO MINUTES:

An audit of the financial records of the Vinh Long Outlaws Association was conducted by Chester Voisin (who also performed the '06 audit). He was provided with all quarterly reports, bank deposit slips, bank statements, bills paid and check registers. The results of the biennial audit of the treasurer's reports found no discrepancies.