

Vinh Long Outlaws Newsletter

-September, 2012 July

The VLOA is a 501(c)(19) nonprofit, tax exempt war veterans' organization.

Third Quarter 2012

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New Newsletter Editor

During our Reunion Business meeting, Bob Sharp stepped forward and accepted the responsibility for the Outlaw Newsletter beginning with the January 2013 issue. Please give your full support to Bob as he assumes this pivotal VLOA position.

National Director's Corner

Greetings all:

Long Outlaws was a great success. Over Outlaws' Award went to Jim Donnelly, one hundred attendees gathered in Savannah, Georgia, 6-10 September 2012. It Patty Theriot, Mary and the late Olen was a most memorable reunion.

activities, with time to ourselves. The tions of other awards. city tour was very informative. The bus tour took us through the city and through from post 1964/1965 that attended. Bob most of the twenty four squares. The river cruise was outstanding. We had the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas, which was entire river boat to ourselves. The food was great and the weather was good, even though we went through a small from Hawaii. We certainly welcome all shower.

The final banquet was superb. The dining room was on top floor of the honor of leading this great war veterhotel, with a panoramic view of the city.

reunion go to Bob Koonce (outgoing National Director) and his team of Outlaws/ Mavericks/Roadrunners, The Reunion Brat for planning and conducting the roundup, Tom and Pat Anderson who put Newsletter. Our **Outlaw Newsletter** is out a spectacular silent auction, our treasurer, Chester Voisin who was very busy collecting all the proceeds from the silent formed about upcoming activities. auction, Emmadell Voisin and Patty Theriot for working the 50/50 raffle, Rev. 2014 Roundup in Washington D.C. John Doyle for his Sunday sermon, and Ernie Isbell for being the master of ceremonies at our final banquet.

There were several awards pre- found on page 19. sented at the banquet. Tony Clemente received the Director's Award, Tom and

Pat Anderson received the Special Di-The 2012 roundup of the Vinh rector's Award and the Outstanding John Doyle, Larry Jackson, Nell Moist, Thornton, and Emmadell Voisin. Please We had just the right number of see page 6 for more details and descrip-

There were several Outlaws and Nikki Lakey are from my area, their first Roundup. We even had a couple from Denmark and one attendee of them.

In closing, I am humbled by the ans' organization. To help me in this Many thanks for the successful task, we have a strong Steering Committee as identified on page 16 herein. A special thanks goes to Bob Sharp for stepping up and taking on the duties as our Director of Communicationspivotal to getting information to all our VLOA members and keep them in-

> We are looking forward to our with Tom Anderson taking the reins on this important 50th Anniversary project. More information on this can be

> > Sincerely, Angelo Spelios

JULY—SEPTEMBER, 2012

The Back Pew By John Doyle

It had been a long day. We had been to Ruth's home in NC. We were both tired. On a long stretch of road without even a country store, the left front tire blew out. I pulled off on to the grassy side of the road. I got out and started to pull out the spare. Meanwhile, Ruth called AAA. Bad news: it would be some time before they could get anyone to assist us.

Things were not going well for me. I was very weak, the result of chemo and radiation treatments. I struggled just to get the tire out of the back of the wagon. Things continued to deteriorate. I found the jack and lug wrench but not the strength to use them. Things were not going well.

Then the Lord took charge. A pick- up truck went by, did a U- turn, and pulled in behind us. The driver a man about 35 years old got out and asked if he could help. I explained the situation. He removed the flat tire and replaced it with my small emergency spare. I offered to pay him. He said, "If my paw heard I took money for helping someone, he would throttle me."

We had to drive about 35 miles on the emergency-spare tire. Finally, we got to Ocala and right in front of us was a Firestone Tire store. I pulled into the parking lot, went into the store, and explained our problem. They closed in fifteen minutes and the man that changed flats had just gone home.

<u>For the second time that day</u>, the Lord took charge. The man that went home forgot something and came back to the store. He fixed the tire, and we made it home safely.

There is no way that you can convince us that the Lord had not helped us.

Outgoing National Director's Farewell Message

By Bob Koonce

Now that my term as your director has passed, I would like to thank all of you that came to the Outlaw Roundup in Savannah, GA. Because of you it was a successful reunion. We had 107 attendees and with guests we had over 120 people at some of our events. Laurie and I were excited to see so many members; it sure made us feel good that all the hours of planning were worthwhile.

Savannah was truly an exciting city to have a reunion, with so many things to see and do. Transportation was good and made our hotel location an ideal spot, with so many restaurants and shops within walking distance.

Our thanks goes to the staff of the Savannah Georgia Hilton Desoto for their helpfulness and hospitality, and thanks goes to The Reunion Brat for her efforts in securing all the venues and hotel that made our stay so memorable.

I'd like to congratulate Angelo Spelios on his election as the new National Director. We are fortunate to have him as our new director; he comes to us with much experience as a former officer in the VHPA. With Angelo in charge, I can leave office with confidence that the high standards that have been set by the past National Directors will continue.

In closing, I would like to thank Tom Anderson for taking over the job of ramrodding the next reunion in Washington DC. in 2014. I know with Tom's organizational skills that the 50th anniversary reunion will be a hit...So on to DC in 2014.

Sincerely, Bob

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Vinh Long Outlaws Asso- ciation (VLOA) Finances		Balance \$	50/50 DRAWING RESULTS One of the main sources of revenue for the VLOA comes through the reunion's 50/50 drawing. The following are following and the reunion of the termine are solved as a factor.
Cash Balance - 01/01/2012	2012 9 Months 9/30/2012	19,179.16	 lowing provides the results of that drawing. Total collected - \$1,240 VLOA Treasury received - \$620
Revenues: Dues - Annual Dues - Lifetime Dues - Associates Lifetime Sale of Inventory Items Silent Auction Proceeds Ticket Sales - 50/50 Raffle Miscellaneous Total Revenues:	\$ 400.00 400.00 700.00 2,577.50 2,729.00 1,240.00 305.00 8,351.50		 Paul Martin won \$50.00 Friday night; he donated \$30 back to the VLOA Treasury Dixie Williams won \$50 on Sat- urday night Lyle Perry won \$260 on Sunday night Robert Michalic won \$260 on Sunday night
Expenditures: Newsletter Costs Inventory purchases 2012 Reunion Costs Prizes - 50/50 Raffle Administration Total Expenditures:	1,459.19 53.32 5,475.68 620.00 533.83 8,142.02		 Total winnings distributed - \$620 Thanks to all who participated for putting funds into our treasury and congratulations to the winners. Our best VLOA supporters are those
Net Income (Loss) - 9 months 2012 Cash Balance - 09/30/2012	209.48	209.48 19,388.64	who attend our Roundups and par- ticipate in the Silent Auction and 50/50 drawing. <i>THANKS</i> ?????

Membership Card Numbers & Lost Outlaws

MEMBERSHIP CARD NUMBERS: Over the years, we have issued quite a number of VLOA Membership Cards to dues paying members. Along the way, we have lost accounting of some of our Membership Card numbers. I have been working for some time to capture as many VLOA Membership Card numbers as possible, and logging numbers of newly issued cards. If you were issued a membership card and your number is reflected here, please email me at <u>estesf@troycable.net</u> or phone me at 334-774-5571 and let me know your Membership Card number: 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 23, 25, 26, 28, 30, 32, 33, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 61, 62, 65, 66, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 80, 81, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 101, 102, 103, 104, 106, 107, 108, 109, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 121, 122, 124, 125, 127, 129, 132, 133, 134, 143, and 148.

<u>LOST OUTLAWS</u>: With each publication of the *Outlaws Newsletter*, we experience anywhere from three to six returned newsletters due to changes of addresses not being reported to the VLOA Secretary or Newsletter Editor. Therefore, we are constantly losing contact with some of our VLOA members. If you move or change your address, please let the Secretary and Newsletter Editor know of your new address/phone number/email address changes so we can keep the roster and mailing list up to date; AND, keep you informed of VLOA activities. Finally, you can do a lot to help us keep in contact with our membership. All you need to do is help stay in contact with members in your area of your state. Thanks for your support: Frank Estes

OUTLAW SAVANNAH ROUNDUP ATTENDEES

We had a great turnout at our *Outlaw Savannah Desoto Roundup* during September 6-10. Given that we have been doing these reunions for 12 years and this is our 7th one, we seem to be holding up fairly well mentally, physically, and financially. For those of you who were unable to attend, here are the names of those who came and had a fantastic time. We feel as though you really missed a great time, great place, great food, and great camaraderie.

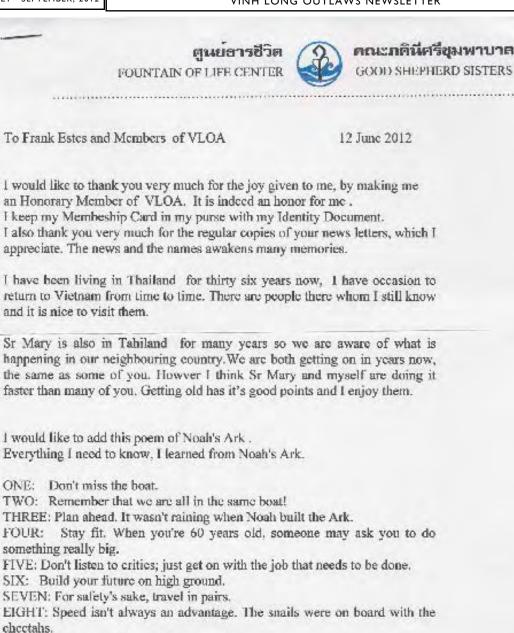
David Amason Andy & Rosemary Anderman Tom & Pat Anderson John Berguist Tim & Mitzi Bisch Gary & Veletta Blackman Charles & Colleen Bouton Malcolm Campbell Joe & Erline Clelan Tony & Rose Ann Clemente Scott, Sherry, & Dahlia Davis Dick & Donna Donahue Jim & Vickie Donnelly John & Ruth Dovle Frank & Ann Estes Bob & Wanda Fleming Milton & Beverly Frontera Jim & Pat Grandstaff Gary & Linda Halase Cullis Holub Phil & Lynn Horne Tim Hostetler Ernie & Linda Isbell Larry & Polly Jackson Irwin & Eileen Katz James & Becky Kelly Tom Kennedy Jimmy King & Sharon Zoe Phillip Kirk & Suzanne Schoonover Jim & Linda Kirkley George Kokendoffer Jack & Fran Konopka Bob & Laurie Koonce Gloria Kramer

George & Susan Kyle Bob & Nicky Lakey Jack Lane Mike Madigan Paul & Carolyn Martin Eddie McGuire Bob & Krista Michalic Carl Milko Al & Nell Moist Hallye Ray Moodt & Michelle Spears Leon & Virginia Osterland Lyle & Christina Perry Harold Quattlebaum Bob & Gloria Sharp David & Lilly Smith Jeannette Sanford Smith Angelo Spelios & Ellyn Ponton Anders Strand-Holm & Jette Bauer (from Denmark) Pat & Pat Theriot Mary Thornton Jan Truman Phillip Van Alst (from Hawaii) Chester & Emmadell Voisin Jerry & Charmaine Wade Ronald Walsh Bob & Dixie Williams Chuck Wren

Who Came the Farthest?



Associate Life Member Anders Strand-Holm from Denmark (left) or Life Member Phil Van Alst from Hawaii (right)?



NINE: When you're stressed, float awhile.

TEN: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

ELEVEN: No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

I wish you and your families many blessings of good health, peace and happiness

Joan Jonuley

Sr Joan Gormley 12 June 2012

Outstanding Outlaws 2012

By Ernie Isbell

This year's reunion at Savannah was a tremendous success judged by all who attended. One of the highlights of each reunion has always been the award of the **Director's Award**. This year's winner was Tony Clemente for his tremendous support to the VLOA over the years with such things as editor of the VLOA Newsletter, past Treasurer, and his actions in obtaining 501(c) (19) war veterans' tax exempt status for the Vinh Long Outlaws Association. Congratulations to Tony and Rose Ann for all their support and help over the years.

An added award given this year is the **Outstanding Outlaws' Award**. This award is a statuette of a helicopter crewman and will be given to those members of the VLOA who have, over the years, provided support to the organization in meeting the organizations goals and objectives. Given that this was the 48th Anniversary of the 62nd Aviation Company's assignment to the Viet Nam Theater of operations the awards committee elected to recognize members and associates who have made significant contributions to the goals and objectives of the VLOA over the years since the organizations inception and the first reunion held in 2000. They are:

Nell Moist for her support and publication of the VLOA Newsletter for several years.

- *Jim Donnelly* for his imaginative work and diligent efforts as the unit's historian. Jim's gathering of photographic memories was enjoyed by all who attended this year's reunion.
- *John Doyle* for his service as the VLOA Chaplain and his help with the initial efforts to gather names and addresses of former members of the unit and its successor organizations in Viet Nam.
- *Mary and the late Olen Thornton* for their support and assistance with the Silent Auction over several reunions and to recognize Olen's support with music and entertainment.
- *Patty Theriot* and *Emmadell Voisin* for their assistance with fundraising efforts by providing sales of chances to win the "50-50" drawing at several reunions.

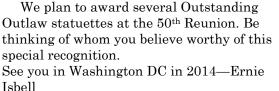
Larry Jackson for his service over several years as the VLOA Secretary.

This award will be continued at the next reunion to be held at Washington, DC in 2014.

That reunion will mark the 50th anniversary of the unit's deployment to Viet Nam, and will be very special thanks to the current and continuing efforts of *Tom and Pat Anderson*. Tom and Pat were recognized at this year's reunion with a **Special Director's Award** for their many years of support to the organization.

(Left to right) Larry Jackson, Jim Donnelly, John Doyle, Nell Moist, Mary Thornton, Patty Theriot, and Emmadell Voisin receiving their awards.

Tom & Pat Anderson receiving a special Director's Award.







Tony & Rose Ann Clemente receiving the Director's Award.

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Danish Couple Adds Sparkle to Savannah Reunion!

By Tom Anderson

Attendees at the Savannah reunion were delighted to have among us, a charming and affable couple from Denmark as part of the group. Anders Strand-Holm and his wife Jette Bauer were a real hit among the old Outlaws and their ladies as they mixed in easily with every group.

Anders, in his mid-fifties, became aware of the Outlaws in Viet Nam as he pursued his hobby of purchasing U.S military memorabilia from the Viet Nam years on eBay and other sources over the past two years. We made initial contact when he emailed me regarding a hoped-for purchase of an originally-worn 62d Aviation Company "Outlaw" patch. I had only one "original" patch, worn on my Vinh Long fatigues, and wasn't about to part with it. So I offered him a "new" patch, identical to those we wore in 1964. Thus began a series of back-and-forth email dialogues



over the next few months.

Through our emails, the Outlaw's VLOA organization became more intriguing, and personal, to Anders. It wasn't long before he inquired about becoming an Asso-



ciate member of the VLOA. Nothing in our Bylaws prohibited an "outsider", or more particularly a "foreigner", from joining our group, so we said "yes". Well, Associate membership wasn't enough for Anders, so he soon sent in another full payment to become "Associate Life" members.

Then he inquired if it would be inappropriate for he and his wife to also join us at the Savannah reunion. Again, nothing in our documents prevented his attendance, so he sent in full registration payments for the

two of them.

Pat and I met the two of them at the Savannah airport, brought them to the hotel, introduced them to some of the Outlaws already checked in, and from there on, Anders and Jette were a welcome, and fascinating addition to our group. Anders told me it was difficult for him to select one part of the reunion as the most memorable. However, he was overwhelmed when he accompanied a number of Outlaws to visit Army Aviation at Hunter Army Airfield. Arranged by Al Moist, two members of an air Cavalry troop took us into a huge hanger housing dozens of OH-58 Kiowa helicopters. Troop Captain Fuscellaro and CW4 Hobbs gave us a thorough brief-

ing on the mission capabilities, armament, tactics, maintenance and flying characteristics of the OH-58. Captain Fuscellaro also arranged to provide Anders with a photo-op wearing full present-day aviation body armament and helmet gear, as worn by the Cavalry personnel.

The Outlaws attending the reunion were most gracious to, and complementary about, our guests from Denmark. The two fit in well with every group during events and dinners at the Reunion. They were a delight to have with us and they both indicated they look forward to returning for the next reunion in Washington D.C. in 2014. Oh, by the way, while at the Reunion, Anders also purchased an Associate Life membership for Jette.



Reunion Silent Auction Again a Success!

By Tom Anderson

The Silent Auction, conducted every two years during our National reunion, has not only become a much anticipated feature of the reunion but, more importantly, an absolutely <u>primary source</u> <u>of revenue income</u> for the VLOA. So, before I reveal the revenue from the very successful Savannah Silent Auction, let me first talk a little bit about why we absolutely need to have the Silent Auction.

Each reunion, dozens of VLOA members donate a multitude of items to put on the auction tables. There is never a predictable pattern to the type of items that show up at the auction. In Savannah, there were again several fascinating knives, which got snatched up quickly by the collectors in the group. There were a variety of interesting books, bottles of local wines, signature baskets, hand-made items, miniature remote controlled helicopters, military coffee mugs and aviation-themed picture prints. George Kokendoffer again brought one of his superbly restored hand axes. Vietnamese and U.S. stamps vied for attention with Bob Koonce's pottery pieces. All in all, we had



a wide variety of traditional, different, and eclectic items. (The Dammit Doll comes to mind!)

This year 76 different items were donated to the auction! Gratifyingly, without exception, every one of the items was purchased and taken home by one of the reunion attendees.

Treasurer Chester Voisin reported that the Savannah Silent Auction brought in \$2,729! That's enough to run the VLOA for one to two years.

The VLOA could not continue to support the variety of demands placed on our treasury without the auction. Registration fees, web-

site management fees, our great Newsletter, payments for QM sales items all come out of the treasury.

Plus, it costs money to have a reunion! The treasury underwrites a good portion of the reunion expenses which supplement the registration fees paid by each attendee. The VLOA treasury

purchases hospitality room refreshments, name badges, welcome bags, favors for the ladies, caps for the men, banners to announce our presence in the hotel, various other forms of signage and a host of other behind-the-scenes items that makes each reunion so successful.

The individual reunion cost, per-person, would be substantially higher without the support of your treasury. Therefore, the Silent Auction is an imperative, unless another form of revenue stream income can be identified. That is not likely to happen.



To all of you who supported the Silent Auction in Savannah, a great big THANK YOU!



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Arrival, Registration, and Banners



JULY—SEPTEMBER, 2012

Welcome Dinner Welcome Out VINH LONG OUTLAWS 7







PAGE I I	VINH LONG OUTLAWS NEWSLETTER	JULY—SEPTEMBER, 2012
Silent Auction		
	<image/>	

Bus tour & Lunch



















Hospitality Room











Cruise & Dinner



















Left to right: Jim Kelley (At-Large Director), Chester Voisin (Treasurer), Tony Clemente (Deputy Director), Pat Theriot (At-Large Director), Larry Jackson (Secretary), Angelo Spelios (National Director), & Bob Sharp (Director of Communications—Newsletter)

Farewell Dinner

















After the Fallen Comrades Ceremony, (above, left to right) Gloria Kramer, Mary Thornton, Jeannette Sanford Smith, Jan Truman, and Hallye Rae Moodt were presented the Department of Defense 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemoration Certificate in honor and recognition of the patriotism, service, and sacrifice of husbands and families of Vietnam Veterans.

Washington D.C. to be Site of <u>50th Anniversary Reunion</u> By Tom Anderson

In past years, the VLOA Steering Committee has been deliberate and thoughtful regarding the selection of the site for the next Reunion. However, with 2014 being **the 50th Anniversary of the Outlaws arrival in Vinh Long**, it seemed important that the general membership, in Savannah, help in the selection of a location that would be enjoyable, convenient and affordable, but most of all MEMORABLE!

The Outlaws were one of the very first units to arrive in Viet Nam as part of the massive American forces buildup which came on the heels of our arrival in Vinh Long. We were the point unit! Now, it is nearly 50 years since our little helicopter company arrived in Vinh Long. We owe it to ourselves to make our 2014 reunion one that not only WE will remember, but we have a unique opportunity to have others recognize, and remember, our unique little company, the Outlaws!

- ⇒ What could be more memorable, or appropriate, than to have our group lay a wreath at the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial?
- ⇒ How poignant would a visit to Arlington National Cemetery be, where a number of our Outlaw group are at their eternal rest?
- ⇒ What could be more breath-taking than a visit to the huge Air & Space museum at Dulles International Airport?
- ⇒ How scenic would be a stroll along the newly-refurbished, stunning reflecting pool between the Lincoln and WW II memorials?
- ⇒ A reunion in the Washington DC area could also bring visits to the Nation's Capitol, to the National Cathedral and the Smithsonian.

Tom Anderson made a presentation to the VLOA General Membership meeting in Savannah laying out his recommendations for having the next reunion in the Washington area. A consensus vote was asked for and received what appeared to be near-unanimous approval from the membership.

Prior to making the WDC proposal, Tom made contact with a firm known as Visit Fairfax, a business development group from Fairfax County, in Northern Virginia. Visit Fairfax requested proposals, in our name, from 13 hotels in the Northern Virginia area. Tom personally visited 6 of the hotels, received firm proposals from each, and was astounded that the hotels would submit such great price proposals for an event over two years away! One hotel in particular is a front-runner in the selection process.

Preliminary contact has also been made with a local Reunion Planner in the Northern Virginia area who immediately began providing valuable assistance, with no contract yet in place. Discussions have begun regarding buses, venues, dinners, etc.

While nothing more than dates have been selected, a great amount of planning has already begun. Time constraints may limit the amount of venues which can be visited in Washington. More details will be announced as further developments and firm commitments are made.

However, projected dates for the 2014, 50th Anniversary Outlaw Roundup, are now tentatively set for <u>September 18 – 22, 2014</u>. If you have a calendar for that far into the future, MARK THE DATES NOW! This reunion will be memorable! Plan to **BE THERE**!

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<u>Vinh Long Outlaws Association (VLOA)</u> <u>Membership Application/Renewal Form</u>

Memberships in the VLOA is open to <u>any person of any rank</u> who served with any lineage unit known as the "Outlaws" (and "Mavericks" armed platoon) or any affiliated unit at any time between August 1964 and the present. These units include the 62nd Aviation Company, A Company 502nd Aviation Battalion, 175th Aviation Company, B Troop 1-158th Aviation Regiment (Iraq), 150th Transportation Detachment ("Roadrunners"), 28th Signal Detachment, and 25th Infantry Division's "doorguments."

Active (with vote) or Associate (without vote) Membership is \$25.00 annually, payable each January. A Lifetime Membership (with vote) is a \$100.00 one-time fee. An Associate Lifetime Membership (without vote) for spouses is available for a \$100 one-time fee. Higher levels of Lifetime Memberships are available; contact the National Director at: angelo_spelios@yahoo.com. To pay initial or renewal membership dues for this calendar year, please complete and forward this form, with dues payment prior to January 31, to:

VLOA; c/o Chester Voisin, 1657 Dr. Beatrous Road, Theriot, LA 70397.

First Name	MINickn	ame	_ Last Name		
Telephone # (home)	(work)	Sp	ouse's Name		
Address:	C	ity	State	ZIP	
Rank (while assigned to unit)	E-N	/Iail address			
Dates assigned in Outlaws/attachments (Mo/Yr to Mo/Yr) to					
Unit/plt/sect/position		Radio C	all sign		

Please initiate ____ or renew ___ my Active ___ Associate ___ VLOA membership. Make \$25.00 check payable to VLOA.
Please initiate my Lifetime ____ Associate Lifetime ____ VLOA membership. Make \$100.00 check 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 unless I am a current dues paying VLOA member.

_____I know a former Outlaw/Maverick/Roadrunner or other affiliated unit member and have indicated his/her name, address, and phone number on this form.