

FOX FAX

Journal of the 199th Recon Airplane Company RVN 1967-70 Vol. 8, Issue 11 Nov 2011

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Goals:

*To find as many of our old friends as possible **and get them talking to each other again.***

To build as complete a history of the unit as possible and make it available to all the members.

To perpetrate reunions.



bumper sticker from www.uswings.com/welcomehome.asp



**We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;
For he to-day that sheds his blood with me
Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,
This day shall gentle his condition;**

**And gentlemen now a-bed
Shall think themselves accursed they were not here,
And hold their manhoods cheap while any speaks
That fought with us upon St. Crispin's Day.**

*

Henry V is a [history play](#) by [William Shakespeare](#), believed to be written in approximately 1599.

The *St. Crispin's Day Speech* is a famous [motivational](#) speech from the play, delivered by Henry V before the battle ([act IV scene iii](#)). It is so called because 25 October is the feast day of [Saints Crispin and Crispinian](#). The speech itself names the day *Crispin Crispian*, in the passage



Bob Woolley and Tim Davenport. See all that fun you guys who didn't show up missed out on!

This kind of matches a pic I have of me and Bob at Ben Tre. - Tim

2011 Delta Bird Dog Reunion News

October 13 to October 16

Delta Birddog Reunion 2011

13 October 2011 – 16 October 2011

San Antonio, Texas

Photos from San Antonio are here:

http://www.druid-consulting.com/reunion_11.htm

Sorry they are not captioned. Too many pictures and not enough time. The Alamo, The River Walk, Cannon Field flights, Dinner at a private home and Saturday Night dinner and ceremonies. If you have questions about the pics drop me an e-mail.

From Norm Wood

Dear Brothers,

I have posted the pictures I took at the reunion to my website. Please navigate to <http://nmwood.zenfolio.com/p28336188> where you will find the photos. Click on any single picture and it will open full screen with thumbnails of the rest of the pictures shown on the right. You can click through these individually or use the arrow key on the upper right to navigate. Some of the photos are purposely out of focus and/or blurry. I was "experimenting" with some f-stops and shutter speeds. Also, I purposely did not attach any names to the photos that have some of you in them so as to protect your privacy. If anyone would like to have a photo with your name on the caption, let me know and I'll send it to you. And finally, if you want to look at the other photos on the website, just click on the "Home" link in the upper left of the opening page. That will open up all the other photo galleries.

Please -- All the photos on my web site are available for personal use and enjoyment only. Photos may not be reproduced for any commercial purpose without my express written

permission.

. If any of you have photos you would like to share with me I would be very happy to get them.

Enjoy,
Norm Wood
Swamp Fox 11

Norm Wood has volunteered to take on the job of Swamp Fox coordinator for 2012-13.
Thank You, Norm.

Our 2011 reunion was a huge success. Largest gathering of Swamp Fox yet. Much thanks to all who made it happen.
Now looking forward to 2013.

The Blast is attached. Rather than retype Don Smith's Reunion Information.

After this issue of the Fox Fax we will no longer do the attachment unless something big and important comes up, like the next reunion.

The IBDA Bark is also attached. Everybody gets the Bark. If you belong to IBDA you get an extra one for free.

SAN ANTONIO BOOTS ON THE GROUND CREW:

199th

Don Nicholson

Gary Simon (2011 Reunion coordinator 199th)

Jim Strye

221st

Don Smith

Amador Marcha

Roy Talley

Russ Duffin

*Jump in and hang on. We're goin' for a ride.
Anybody barfs in my airplane gets to clean it up.*

Crew Chief

Letters to the editor

From: Sam Givhan

Subject: We are Aviators



Once the wings go on, they never come off whether they can be seen or not.

It fuses to the soul through adversity, fear and adrenaline and no one who has ever worn them with pride, integrity and guts can ever sleep through the `call of the wild` that wafts through bedroom windows in the deep of the night.

When a good pilot leaves the `job` and retires, many are jealous, some are pleased and yet others, who may have already retired, wonder.

We wonder if he knows what he is leaving behind, because we already know.

We know, for example, that after a lifetime of camaraderie that few experience, it will remain as a longing for those past times.

We know in the world of flying, there is a fellowship which lasts long after the flight suits are hung up in the back of the closet.

We know even if he throws them away, they will be on him with every step and breath that remains in his life.

We also know how the very bearing of the man speaks of what he was and in his heart still is.

Because we fly, we envy no man on earth.

-Author Unknown

From Joe Swift:

Please Note The Current Information Regarding DD-214.

DD-214

Please pass on to other vets.

It's official; DD-214s are NOW Online.

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s

online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents.

Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records centers mailroom and processing time.

Please pass this information on to former military personnel you may know and

their dependents.

From: Gary Simon

Hi guys

Here are the instructions on how to get your very own personalized SF shirt like mine, Doc's, Bobby Jack's and Joe Swift's.

Pick out your own shirt, preferably a solid color. Send the shirt and \$19.00 to
All Star Embroidery
Attn: Lea McCoy
4122 34th Street
Lubbock, TX 79410

Tell her what Swamp Fox call sign you want over the patch as well as your preference for the color of the letters. Clearly this depends on the color of your shirt and the amount of contrast you want. You may also want to specify how bright you want the green map area to be. I believe Joe and Doc have a very bright green while mine is a bit more subdued. Once again, it depends somewhat on the color of the shirt.

We are going to standardize the writing under the patch as "199th RAC". (Lea - please note this request)

Include your phone number so Lea can contact you with any questions. Her phone number is 806-793-0038, fax 806-799-6041.
The \$19 dollars also covers return shipping. Don't forget to include your address.

Thanks

Gary
SF 16



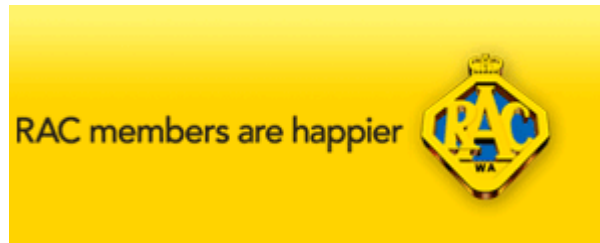
Curtis J. Herrick, Jr. is sending you this link from Benefits.gov. Benefits.gov is a website that helps you identify Benefits you may be eligible to receive. Visit us at <http://www.benefits.gov/home/>.

URL: <http://www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/2698>

Comments: Ray, Here is an entry in to the Combat Related Special Compensation program that I said I would send. I hope you can forward this to the shotguns? I receive this. Calling and asking what is needed helps to send the right records on the first try. Seeing you at the Deleta Birddog reunion was a pleasure. Best wishes Curt

MISC.

No misc. this time. Everything some place else!



Other RACs

21st RAC Web Site No Longer Available

73rd RAC see 74th RAC

74th RAC www.aloft74th.org

119th RAC www.219headhunters.com

The Oct 2011 Reunion will be held in BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA

183rd RAC www.183seahorse.org

184th RAC www.184rac.com

185th RAC www.angelfire.com/tx4/Pteradactyl185/index.html no info

199th RAC www.SwampFox199thRAC.com - San Antonio Oct 2011

203rd RAC no web site

220th RAC www.220raccatkiller.us.com new Home page www.catkillers.org - 2010

Mark your calendars!

You are all invited to the 220th Catkiller Reunion

July 11-15, 2012, Seattle, Washington

Registration information will be available in September, 2011

<http://www.catkillers.org/catcom4-quarter10.htm#reunion2012>

Norm MacPhee, Reunion Committee, catkiller2012@earthlink.net

221st RAC www.221st.org see above 199th

The 1st. Avn Brgd and 13th CAB are still active at Ft. Rucker.

13th CAB Reunion. 2012

18-20 MAY 2012 FT. RUCKER

NOTE :.....FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT ARE NOT A DELTA GROUP VIETNAM MEMBERS BUT ARE STILL ON THE ADDRESS LIST..... THIS IS YOUR WARNING ORDER, AND INVITE TO THE NEXT MEKONG DELTA REUNION AT FT RUCKER FROM THE 162ND AHC 13TH CAB VIETNAM... WE HOPE YOU ATTEND, VIET VET OR NOT YOU ARE OUR SPECIAL GUEST WE REQUEST AND WOULD BE HONORED BY YOUR ATTENDANCE.....

162ND VULTURES AND INVITES

17-20 may 2012 our 13th Cab sponsored Mekong Delta reunion again in on 18-20 May 2012 early sign in on the 17th lets have a strong showing we need to last time like this years VHPA the 162 was a disappointment compared to past years

we will have the free Hey rides again for all members and guest and their families and guest ...

.

Remember you did not have to be a member of the units while they served in the Delta just a Member of the unit anytime while THE UNIT was in RVN that means all you PHOC VIHNN and Dong TAM guys are included we have always had a good group of Phoc Vihn Vultures there form day one till the unit leftPHOC VIHNN.... so I don't want to hear the excuse.." I did not serve in the Delta " IT DON'T MATTER BE THERE

I am working on the WEB SITE as we Speak with all the info and registration procedures

Vultures It looks like the 162nd is going to be staying at the Dothan National hotel and golf resort I am in negotiations with them now(OUR SPECIAL GUEST) are invited to stay and attend

historically the fixed wing guy stayed and joined the 162 in the past we would like to see it again

Dothan National is a 91 room hotel with restaurant, lounge, dinning room , 104 degree mineral springs hot bath,, pool ,weight room and all it is located on and part of a 18 hole USGA golf course that has in the past been used on the Nike tour,.. Pro ams , and US collegiate amateurs championship . There will be two rates one with a round of Golf and one without (a round can be bought later if you do not sign in for a round) both will be at or less than \$60 a night . As in the past we will have our unit party there at the hotel They have a place for our Fri night unit party the hotel will supply the bar and can cater the finger food

I will be sending more info later

We may again may also be having our big Delta Reunion Saturday Dinner at a Dothan resort casino called "center stage" which in the past the dinner was held at the officers club or the museum The resort Casino is willing to provide us with the dining area free gratis and provide a band for entertainment later just for us bringing the people into the electronic Bingo casino and they will cater the dinner

What I need now is for some kind of head count as to who is attending to lock down rooms, and other support Because May Jun and Jul is the high season so please return mail me as soon as possible if your comingThis not registration just a pre head count survey for me to provide numbers

Travel arrangements for those who fly in might consider flying into Panama city fl. airport instead of Dothan it will cost half as much or more ,, southwest flies into there now ...also consider Ft Walton Fl it has discount airlines now flying into there at much lower rates than Flying into Dothan which takes you thru Atlanta with Delta and is one of the highest rates in the country

example 3 weeks ago I flew Southwest round trip to Corpus Christie Tx from panama city fl. for \$486 round trip vs \$1860 thru Dothan price , on 3 days prior notice or advance reservations,, all I had to do was put up with the hour and thirty min drive from dothan to panama city ... all interstate Ft walton is 1+50 min

other locations that are with in 2 to -2.5 hrs are Montgomery al , Columbus Ga.(Columbus 1+20 min) especially if you can fly US Air along th east coast , Tallahassee fl , and Birmingham al. which BHAM has direct flight from all over the country southwest and allcould save a ton of money just for a reasonably short drive in a rent a car

so please get the word out and respond if your coming lets get the enlisted crew members charged up and coming again it ain't right without them

Our quest speaker for theDelta reunion dinner is in negotiations right now and do do not wish to announce it as of yet, till schedule and confirmation is received but if it all works out it is BIG !!!!!!!!!!!!! I mean one of the Biggest for anyone, any where, any group and any event nationally, lets hope it comes thru.. will let you know as soon as I can.... keep your fingers crossed

**Copperhead 34
Reunion Chairman**

Please pass this information on any 13th CAB members -- Doc

[Birddog Store](http://www.druid-consulting.com/bird_dog_store.htm) – www.druid-consulting.com/bird_dog_store.htm

The Bird Dogs' Tale

by Bobby Jack Woolley (Swamp Fox 26 – editor)

The author has presented the combat service of the Bird Dog aircraft in a comprehensive manner that covers the ten-year period, 1962-1972. The intent is for *The Bird Dogs' Tale* to serve as a record of how O-1's service contributed to the overall combat effort that occurred in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam era.

Research concerning the disposition of each O-1 that served with Army, Air Force and Marine aviation units is presented. Brief histories of each O-1 aviation unit are also included. Of significance, an accounting of each service member who lost his life participating in its combat service is also recorded. The accounting of each aircraft and those who lost their lives to O-1 operations is an important and unusual content of a combat related book. *The Bird Dogs' Tale* is that story.

Distributor

Feeder-Feeder Publications

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(253) 874-3982

24.95 (US)

Order via <http://feeder-feederpubs.com>

from Corky's -

www.cafepress.com/corkysstudio/3000315

WEB SITE OF INTEREST

<http://www.texasescapes.com/WorldWarII/Avenger-Field-Sweetwater-Army-Airfield-Texas.htm>

AVENGER FIELD AKA Sweetwater Army Airfield

**Training facility for
the Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs)**

**Nolan County
Sweetwater, Texas**

I-20 West 6 miles from Sweetwater
to the Texas State Technical College campus

Photos courtesy Mike Price, December 2007

While many of Texas' current municipal airports were postwar gifts to the host communities, the case was reversed in Sweetwater where the existing municipal airport became a training facility in May of 1942.

The transfer was a tremendous help to the war effort since it only required expansion and improvement of the field, which had been in use since the late 1920s. The name was chosen from a contest sponsored by the local newspaper.

Expanded to a total of 920 acres by the city of Sweetwater, the War

Department leased it for a token payment of \$1.00 per year.



The Former Avenger Field location at Sweetwater's Airport

Training the necessary pilots and personnel for a two-theater war was a daunting task and during the first months of the war, instructors were often civilian contractors. This was the case with the first class to graduate from the facility – a single class of British RAF cadets. After that, ten classes of American aviation cadets graduated and then three classes of enlisted student pilots (most pilots were commissioned officers).

The lasting legacy of the field was formed from February 21, 1943 until December 20th, 1944 when the base became the training facility for the **Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs)**.

Licensed female civilian pilots were recruited and trained to fly military aircraft, ferrying them from factory to shipping point and on occasion flying damaged planes back for repair. This enabled more male pilots to be sent into combat.

Women Airforce Service Pilots

Jacqueline Cochran, one to the most famous women pilots of the Twentieth Century, persistently lobbied U.S. Army Airforce General Henry "Hap" Arnold to establish a flight training program for women during [World War II](#). Hard-pressed for pilots by mid-summer of 1942, General Arnold requested that

Cochran return from England and put her women airforce pilots (WASP) plan into action.

A WASP flight school, opened at [Houston's Municipal Airport](#) in late 1942, outgrew its facilities and was relocated to Avenger Field in [Sweetwater](#). The school operated here from February 20, 1943 to December 7, 1944, during which time it became the first and only all-women military flying school in the world.

The program successfully trained women to fly every kind of overseas duty. Of the 25,000 women who applied for WASP flight training, only 1,830 were accepted to the program. Of this number 1,074 went on to gain their silver wings and fly over 60 million miles on operational duty; 38 of them lost their lives serving their country. Considered civilian employees during the war, WASP pilots finally gained military benefits after special legislation passed in 1977.

Jacqueline Cochran

The unit was led by aviatrix Jacqueline Cochran, a natural-born pilot who held more speed, distance and altitude records than any other aviator, male or female.

A friend of the soon-to-be-missing Amelia Earhart, Cochran was part of "Wings for Britain" prior to the U.S. entry into [WWII](#). Delivering American aircraft to Britain, she became the first woman to fly a bomber across the Atlantic.

She first worked for the British, her job recruiting qualified U.S. women pilots to fly for the British Air Transport Auxiliary. After the U.S. became a combatant, it was Cochran who proposed a unit of female transport pilots in the U.S.

Howard Hughes Field

[Houston's](#) Howard Hughes Field (see the [1940 Houston Air Terminal Museum](#)) had been a WASP training facility, but heavy fogs and civilian air traffic necessitated the move to [Sweetwater](#). Avenger Field trained both men and women for a brief period, but beginning in April of 1943 it was designated the only all-female air base in history (excepting male instructors, maintenance and communication crews).

Avenger graduated 1,074 pilots during its tenure and the pilots learned to fly everything from trainers to the new B-29 Superfortress. In 1945 the field became a training base for P-47 Thunderbolt pilots, the pursuit planes that escorted B-17s over their bombing runs over Germany.

In November 1945 ownership reverted to the City of [Sweetwater](#). It was reopened briefly as an auxiliary field for [Big Spring's](#) Webb Air Force Base

during the Korean War.

Photographers' Notes:

Subject: Sweetwater WW II WASP Memorials

The Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) were a little known group of female pilots who performed many duties short of combat during [WW II](#). Their story makes pretty good reading for those interested in [WW II](#). All were trained at Avenger Field in [Sweetwater](#).

While the army was forming the 509th group (to deliver the atomic bombs) the men pilots did not want to fly the large and complicated B-29 which had a reputation for problems. The commanding officer brought in two WASP pilots and in a couple of days trained them to fly that plane and they proceeded to shame the men into flying.

The only flying B-29, owned by the CAF in [Midland](#), carries the nose art name of FIFI. - *Mike Price, December 08, 2007*



3-D Statue of "Fifi" (Finfinella) is in the [Nolan County Courthouse](#) lobby. The mascot design was supplied by the Walt Disney Co.

http://www.cafb29b24.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=13&Itemid=17



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLFKAWGSPCs>

B-29 "FiFi" Taxi, Take Off & Fly By

Turn up the volume!

And this . . .



[1911 .22 Conversion Kits](#)

If you've resigned yourself to the fact that there is no such thing as inexpensive shooting anymore but aren't willing to compromise your 1911 trigger and controls, then it's time to look at investing in a .22 Long Rifle conversion kit. **AmericanRifleman.org** discovered two such kits—the Kimber Rimfire Conversion and Marvel Precision Unit 2—that perform reliably and accurately. Learn how these affordable conversions will also expand the roles your 1911 can fill to include plinking, small-game hunting and training.

[EAA calendar](#)

<http://www.eaa.org/events>

<http://www.eaa.org/airventure/> OSHKOSH

IBDA

HOT FLASH! NEW IBDA WEBPAGE IS UP AND WORKING

Members:

The new IBDA website is operational and on-line for your use. It has been built using the latest technology available and will serve us for many years as a result. This site replaces the old one which used software that has become obsolete and no longer supported.

The new site is much more user friendly and offers almost unlimited expansion capability. It permits us to add details which were previously not available and will allow us to provide a much better website experience for all who use it.

For instance, the home page can be expanded to include articles or photos of interest that can be easily changed as needed to keep the site current and more interesting than the static home page we had on the old site. We can change the homepage content at any time to fit your needs, but it takes assistance from you to do so. Members are encouraged to submit information that will be of interest to all.

Specific areas of the new site can be selected using the tabs across the top of the homepage rather than down the left side as on the old page. Clicking on a tab will expose a drop-down menu listing separate pages that can be accessed.

The members' area is now protected with a username and password system that is simple to use and that can be individualized by each member. You must "Create an account" first and register a username and password that you select for entry into the members' area. (Please do so in all lower case) In the members' area you will find many items of interest such as Birddog maintenance information, safety manual, flight medical information, and more.

We recommend that when you first open the new site that you take time to just look around, click on the different areas, open the drop-down menus, and explore the entire site. Register your personal username and password to enter the members' area and just become familiar with the information available to you. If you encounter a problem that you can't resolve on your own or if you have a question about the site, contact the Website Coordinator, Larry Flinn, by clicking on the appropriate "button" on the right side of the homepage.

The site is operation, but not yet complete with all the previous content in the members' area. That couldn't be added until the site was working and will be done so over the next month. We hope you'll enjoy using the new website and be an active supporter by submitting items of interest for all our members.

Website Coordinator

Larry Flinn

C24712@aol.com

The IBDA magazine has been discontinued.
The Bark is now in pdf format see attached.



IBDA Olive Color Hat With Birddog Logo

Adjustable Size

\$17.95 ea

www.ibdaweb.com

Swamp Fox IBDA members

Charley Baker
Woody Barnes
Brian Bowling
Rich Burns
Sam Givhan
Larry French
Curt Herrick
Ray Jennings
Jim McKee
Don Nicholson
Dan Oats
Rick Shoup
Gary Simon

Let me know if you are a member and I will add you to the list.

www.ibdawebsite.com

IBDA has been very supportive of Birddog Unit Reunions and deserves our thanks. We can show it by joining up. It's only a few bucks (\$30). Well worth it

www.ibdawebsite.com/picture_gallery.htm

SWAMP FOX NETWORK

Welcome Home

Art Savard has been added as a guest. Art is a Navy OV-10 Bronco driver and served with VAL 4 in the Delta with Sea Wolf and PBRs.

Art lives in Atlanta. val4hawk@aol.com

call sign Fox ?? means I don't have your call sign.
Drop me an e-mail and I will fix that.

If you have a change of phone number, address or especially e-mail address.
Let me know so we don't lose touch with you,

Thanks, editor

Site News

Note that the Fox Fax can be viewed in pdf format on the Swamp Fox web site. Adobe reader is required.

http://www.druid-consulting.com/news_letter.htm

Adobe Reader is available as a free down load from Adobe.

<http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

Established June 6, 2002 D-Day!

THE FOX FAX WELCOMES CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE MEMBERS.

I try to keep it interesting. After going on ten years of the Fox Fax Bird Dog related articles are getting a little skinny.

If you have something to add to the Fox Fax, I need it before the fifth of the month. I try to publish the weekend following the fifth. Sometimes I am even on time.

**Editor r.jennings@KTIS.net , r.jennings14@verizon.net
And this one too. SwampFox@Druid-Consulting.com**

Cheers Y'all

(EOM)