

FOX FAX

Journal of the 199th Recon Airplane Company RVN 1967-70 Vol. 6, Issue 7 Jul 09

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WEB SITE www.SwampFox199thRAC.com

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. The perps this year are Don Nicholson, Sam Givhan, Woody Barnes, Hank Collins (221st)



Reunion Announcement



Delta Birddog Reunion 2009
199th RAC "Swamp Fox" and 221st RAC "Shotgun"

Oct. 14-19, 2009 Fort Walton Beach, FL

Contact: Woody Barnes, swampfox35@bellsouth.net
or Hank Collins, collinsrh@mindspring.com or check the

Web sites at

www.swampfox199thrac.com and www.221st.org

Dear Fellow Swamp Foxes,

Your planning committee just finished its second planning meeting for the 2009 Reunion. We want to make some changes from the 2007 reunion, but to do that we need your help. We need to know how many of you plan to attend. So, this e-mail is

sent to each of you to encourage you to register now for 2009. Don't put it off! This will help us in determining the logistical support needed, what the cost of the mementos will be, and what the final schedule will be. Also, we have extended the deadline for short stories and anecdotes for this year's reunion to 1 Aug 2009. E-mail your stories to Don at Longtrips0@aol.com .

The committee is excited about the plans for this year's reunion and I know you will be too when you see them. Please Register Now and send us your stories.

Looking forward to seeing you in October,

**Woody Barnes
SF 35 1968**

PS. Col. "Bud" Day has been asked to speak at this year's reunion. This is not final as he has some conflicts to work out. He is a well known advocate for veterans and a former POW. He is an impressive speaker - I can't say enough about Col. Day, and it will be our blessing if he can join us. Also, the 219th Headhunters will be joining us for the Birddog Day (and UH-1, OH-58) at Sky Ranch with Sam Dawson and the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation. Sam Givhan has arranged for a great "Southern Catfish Cookout" for our lunch that Saturday. Now if all this doesn't get you registered, I don't know what will. Hope to see you in October.

Letters to the editor

Hi "Doc",

Congratulations on a superlative issue of FOX FACTS.

I don't know if it was my mistake or yours; But, the task force that Bob McDaniel organized to rush to the aid of the Vinh Long forces during TET '68 was composed of cooks and mechanics transported to Vinh Long by Major McNair's 121st Assault Helicopter Company, "TIGERS" of the 13th CAB ; Not the 221st Airplane Company, as noted in the 6 June 09 issue tribute to Delta 6 on the occasion of his 85th birthday.

Hutch, Phantom 6

- My mistake, brains on IFR that day. (ed)

Doc,

Got a question for you, When the 1st Avn Brigade received the Meritorious Unit Commendation are we authorized to wear it? As our Unit was attached to them at that time.

That's a definite I don't know. Anybody out there know the answer to that one? (ed)

In the last e-mail you sent out you had included a write up about the 307th Avn Bn (CBT) with a write up about the attack at Vinh Long Airfield during Tet-68. I would like this to be known At about 2:30 AM S/Sgt. Johnson and myself were taking the NCO Club workers home, when we dropped the last girl off her father warned us that the VC were in the area in force and to get back to base as fast as we could, we did at the front gate we warned the MP's and then parked the truck at the NCO Club and while we had all of our gear on we started for the flight line the time was 0300 AM. At about 0310 AM the Attack started with moarter and R/Rifle fire. As we got to the runway we team up with a cook in whites (told him he stood out like a light bulb), we then started down the runway to the hanger where SP/5 Erickson was working the night shift. We got as far as the Gas Tanker that was parked in one of the revetments and we were fired on by the VC the Cook who was 1 step in front of me was hit he said its not bad to go on, Sgt Johnson and myself continued on to the hanger when we got we found SP/5 Erickson and took him across the runway and checked him out he was hit in the arm and leg all bleeding had stopped he said that he was cold and he had no shirt on, so I gave him mine and then we waited for more personnel to come to the hanger, SP/5 Erickson stated that he was cold and feeling light headed I then gave him my Field Jacket to help keep him warm hopefully he would not go into shock. Back at the gas tanker there were people throwing hand grenades over the tanker at the VC that were in back of the revetment shooting at them, then the VC started to come out of the revetments next to the hanger and we fired on them and they went back into the revetment. At about 0430 AM a pick up truck came down the runway the driver was asking if there were any wounded men we put SP/5 Erickson on the truck and they took him to Medical for treatment of his wounds. But there was a problem in treating him as the Medical Personnel thought that it was me. Took time to correct that (never did get my shirt and field jacket back). At no time did any one enter into the hanger our go on to the end of the runway as that was the direction some of the VC entered the area, only when it became light about 0530 AM did anyone go further down the runway our out on the sand pile to reinforce the two M/Guns post we had set up.

Charles R Robertson chuck1882@aol.com

To: All my Swampfox and Shotgun Friends and Bird Doggers
From: Sam Givhan
SF31

I have just finished reading this book by John Hooper about the 220th Catkillers out of Phu Bai. I would highly recommend it as it has a lot of first hand recollections . You guys will probably know some of the people in book. It was special to me in that one of their pilots that was lost was a close friend ,college roommate and in my wedding First Lt. Mac Byrd. To date his remains have not been found that I know about.

It is available at Amazon.com.

Doc,

Here is a Website that my wife ran into. Thought you might want to look it over and place a link to the Swamp Fox site.

Here is the website I told you about.

www.geckocountry.com/military.htm

You might want to look at it sometime.
Joe Swift

Hello Doc.

I just wanted to share a strange experience with you.

My wife and I were visiting the beaches at Wildwood NJ. a couple weeks ago. We were reclining on the beach and soaking up the sun that we carefully sprayed each other to protect each other from soaking up. (What?)

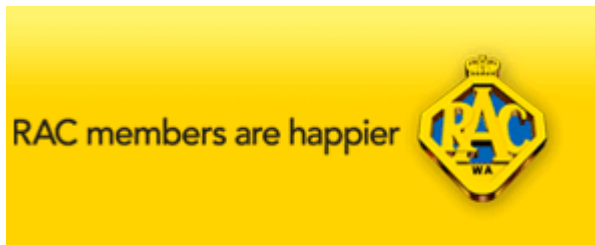
Anyway I was lying there and heard an old familiar sound of an old stripped down Aeronca they haul banners up and down the beach with. However there was something different. Mixed with that sound was an old familiar sound from the long ago past. Sure sounded like a bird dog to me. I looked up and exclaimed. Look dear. There's a Bird dog flying in formation with that old Aeronca. She said " Yea, that's nice dear. (mostly not looking). I told her that's the kind of airplane I worked on in Viet Nan. (Another snide comment) It was in Air Force paint. Contrary to my wife's level of excitement, I was impressed. It was flying as slow as the Aeronca using what looked like about 20deg of flaps. I asked my wife if she brought the camera. She / I didn't.

I watched till they were almost out of sight in the ever present shore line haze.

More later, Gotta go

Alan Brubaker.

Never know where a Bird Dog is going to pop up - ed



Other Reunions

21st RAC www.geocities.com/davidwchandler/ - no information
73rd RAC see 74th RAC
74th RAC www.aloft74th.org - no info

119th RAC www.219headhunters.com
The 2009 Reunion will be held at FT RUCKER, ALABAMA
Dates - Oct 14 - 15 (Early Bird) Oct 16-18

183rd RAC www.183seahorse.org

Upcoming Mini reunion: All the 183rd is invited along with the 219th and any other Birddog Company.

Al Cherin and Charles Justice are having a mini Reunion in Pineville, West Virginia (Located about 20 miles North of Welch, West Virginia.)

Thursday July 16th to Sunday July 19th.

184th RAC www.184rac.com - not scheduled

Great Time at the Summer 2008 Gathering... Really good turnout for the 184th gathering at Fort Rucker 26 - 29 June.

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

199th RAC www.SwampFox199thRAC.com - OCT 09'

203rd RAC no web site

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

Bud Bruton states that we need representation from our enlisted members and Artillery (Forward) Observers (those we fondly call "backseaters") to serve on the 2010 reunion committee. From those two groups, we specifically seek interested volunteers to serve on the committee, currently scheduled to meet in Philadelphia, arriving June 25 and departing June 28, 2009. If you want to contribute your time and energy and can meet in Philadelphia in June, contact Bud Bruton (bbruton@brutonfinancial.com) for further information and instructions. If you want to contribute your skills and talents in other areas, contact Bud Bruton. The sooner, the better.

221st RAC www.221st.org - OCT 09'

*Reunion site opportunity, 2010 - OK, ITS A BIT EARLY

but this is really good news. As y'all probably know part of the upcoming 2010 IBDA National Roundup in Fredericksburg, Texas is flying into to the beautiful LBJ Ranch, visiting the former Western White House and enjoying a lunch on the lawn. As things go, the Ranch has now received a grant to resurface its 6000' airstrip. So the next time we land there will be a new layer of asphalt just waiting for that gentle touch of Birddog wheels greasing it on.

DELTA REUNION

13Th CAB (combat aviation battalion) Vietnam reunion date for 2010

is **ARMED FORCES DAY WEEKEND May 14, 15, 16** early sign in on the 13th. As in the past Ft. Rucker Al. sponsored **by the current 1-13th Avn Regt. 1st Avn Bde. ft Rucker Al.**

This reunion is open to all viet vets and there families

who served in 4 Corp (delta) Vietnam regardless of MOS Rank or Service ground or air

So lets get the word out start calling your friends viet brothers getting in contact with Delta unit organizations and web sites , etc etc would like to see a good turn out

has always been a great time and event in the past would like to continue the tradition

Larry Castagneto
Copperhead 34 162AHC
70-71

The Mekong Mauler in Italy



I'm just came back form Rome were I signed the contract for my "Bird Dog"!

As you can see on the picture I was so happy! (attached)

Now I have to organize the transport from Rome to my town were I found a free space to work on.

I'm already studying the operating and maintenance manual to enter "mentally" on the plane....

I'm so excited to start the project and to represent a plane that flew in VN.

Rick what does it means the words on the door ? P. WO1 Shoup CE. SP/5

Probably it's a stupid question....I'm sorry.

I also have to look for some technical drawings of the rockets launcher and rocket itself.

I'm reading the book "Cessna Warbirds" and with my surprise they speak about you Rick!?

Thanks for everything, ciao ciao from Italy

ANDREA

PS: another challenging task will be to search for all the original antenna and radios, some are already "booked"

Signor ANDREA ROSSETTO
via G.Falcone 21
35038 Torreglia
PADOVA
ITALY

aandrea.rossetto@tele2.it

www.hag-italy.it



• Bill Stratton — Editor • 16518 Ledgestone, San Antonio, TX 78232 •

www.centercomp.com/ILPA/

L5-G for sale www.vintageaircraftgroup.org
<http://www.vintageaircraftgroup.org/For%20Sale/L5%20photos%20For%20Sale.htm>

19th Annual World Wide L-Bird Convention
July 21-25 Keokuk

Sponsored by: Keokuk Airport

Description of event:

July 23-25, Keokuk, Iowa - ILPA - IBDA. L-Birds Fly-In. Formation school, many activities including Bomb Drop and Spot Landings.
All Warbirds are welcome. Contact Irv Lindner @ 319-524-6378 or Donna @ 319-524-6203.

Dates and times: July 23, 2009 07:00 AM - July 25, 2009 07:00 PM

To be held at: Keokuk Airport EOK - Keokuk, IA

From: "The Bark"

AND SPEAKING OF LEST WE FORGET.....

another Birddog pilot from the Greatest Generation has flown West. **Ed McMahan, Johnny Carson's sidekick**, died on June 23 at the age of 86. In February 1953 Ed, as a Marine Corps Aviator, was sent to Korea. There he flew 85 Artillery Spotting Missions in an OE-1 Birddog. It is said Ed flew the

last combat mission in Birddog in Korea before the Armistice was signed. A slow hand salute.....may he rest in peace.

TOP Ten Combat Rifles

These are not in sequence. You will have to figure out which one is number one.

May not be the one you expect. Be sure and watch the video clips.

<http://military.discovery.com/technology/weapons/rifles.html>

<http://military.discovery.com/technology/weapons/rifles-intro.html>

FN-FAL

www.fnmfg.com

www.gunsamerica.com/Search/Category/263/2/Guns/Rifles/Fabrique-Nationale/Semi-auto/FAL-Type.htm

M16/M4/AR10/AR15

www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?T=AR15

www.gunsamerica.com/Search/Category/30/Guns/Rifles/Armalite-Rifles/Complete-Rifles.htm

M1A1 / M-14

www.springfield-armory.com

Mauser 98K

Mitchell's Mausers

www.mauser.org

Garand and 03' Springfield
CMP (DCM) Rifles

North Store - Camp Perry, Ohio
Port Clinton, Ohio at Camp Perry, Bldg 2500

South Store - Anniston, Alabama
3016 Red Morris Parkway, Anniston, AL 36207
The phone for the Store in Anniston is (256) 835-8455 ext 1138

- [M1 Garand](#)
- [M1 Carbine](#)

- [M1903 M1903A3](#)
- [M1917 Enfield](#)
- [.22 Target, Surplus](#)
- [.22 Target, Commercial](#)
- [CMP Air Rifles](#)
- [Miscellaneous Rifles](#)

Enfield SMLE

www.gunsamerica.com/Search/Category/255/Guns/Rifles/Enfield-Rifle.htm

AK47/74 etc.

www.gunsamerica.com/Search/Category/8/Guns/Rifles/AK-47-Rifles.htm

steyr aug

<http://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?T=steyr%20aug>

MP44

www.gunsamerica.com/972292794/Guns/Rifles/Class-3-Rifles/Class-3-Subguns/MP44.htm

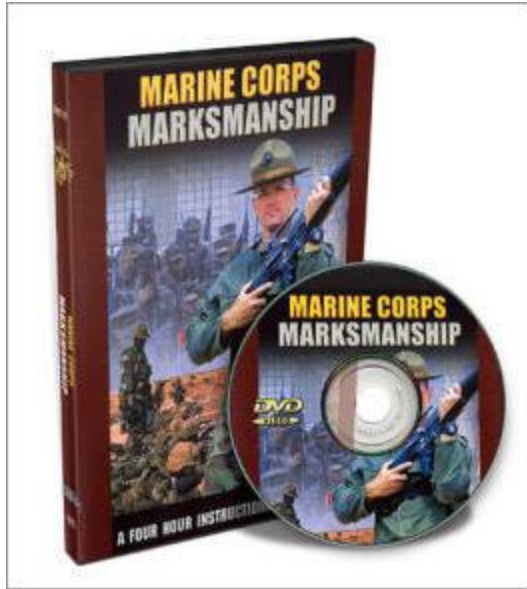
Note: GunsAmerca.com is a classified add web site. When you buy guns over the internet you are buying a pig in a poke. It works like this:

- 1. Make the arrangement with the seller.**
- 2. Pay them.**
- 3. Unless it is an antique or non-operable they will have to ship to an FFL holder.**
- 4. The FFL holder will have to fax his FFL to the seller.**
- 5. When it arrives at the FFL holder you get to pay them a fee for the transfer and fill out a bunch of paper work. No big deal in Missouri. Big pain in the butt in California.**

My favorite combat rifle is the FAL. (ed)

How to work em'.

http://gunvideo.com/pgroup_descrip/98/5997/?return=%3fcategory_id%3D98%26page%3D5%26nothumbs%3D%26filter_1%3D%26filter_2%3D%26filter_3%3D%26filter_4%3D



The Marine Corp way, 4 hours.

[Birdog Store](http://www.druid-consulting.com/bird_dog_model.htm) - www.druid-consulting.com/bird_dog_model.htm



from Corky's - see the Bird Dog Store page

www.cafepress.com/corkysstudio/3000315

Patch and shirts

If you want to have a shirt or two monogrammed with the SF logo Gary has a few Swamp Fox patches left as well. Contact Gary Simon @ GaryLBB@aol.com for details. Remember, you have to provide the shirt(s). Turnaround time is about 3 weeks.

WEB SITES of INTEREST

THE VIETNAM CENTER AND ARCHIVE

Texas Tech University | PO Box 41041 | Lubbock, Texas | 79409-1045 | P. 806-742-9010 | F. 806-742-0496

www.vietnam.ttu.edu

The Vietnam Center

In May 1989, a group of Vietnam veterans from West Texas gathered at Texas Tech University to discuss what they might do, in a positive way, about their experiences in Vietnam. That group's immediate decision was to form a Vietnam Archive and begin collecting and preserving materials relating to the American Vietnam experience.

In November 1989, the Board of Regents of Texas Tech University established the Vietnam Center, with the dual missions of funding and guiding the development of the Vietnam Archive and encouraging continuing study of all aspects of the American Vietnam experience.

The group of veterans who first met in May 1989 were invited to form a board to provide guidance and support for the Vietnam Center. Since then, the Vietnam Center Advisory Board has met regularly to provide advice as the Vietnam Center & Archive at Texas Tech has evolved. Many of the veterans who attended the first meeting in May 1989 continue to advise the Vietnam Center today. In this way, the Vietnam Center remains very closely connected to America's Vietnam Veteran community.

VET info

<http://vets.yuku.com/>

NRA-ILA What's going on with your second amendment?

<http://www.nraila.org/>

Find a fly in?

www.flyins.com

EAA calendar

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

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

IBDA



www.ibdaweb.com

July 10, 11 & 12. The Waco Military Experience, Troy, Oh. Contact is Karen Purke, karenpurke@who.rr.com, 937-335-9226.

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. Well worth it for the magazine alone. - editor (RJ)

SWAMP FOX NETWORK

Welcome Home to: Dusty Rhodes – crew 199th RAC and 220th RAC

**Note: 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

13, 307th CAB page added to unit history
www.druid-consulting.com/13, 307th_cab.htm

I note that some may be having trouble accessing the Swamp Fox Web site from MS Internet explorer .

I have not found the cause of this problem, but working on it.
www.Druid-Consulting.com goes to the same place.

FireFox seems to work OK.



<http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/>

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.

NOTE: NEW e-mail address below

Cheers Y'all - Editor r.jennings@KTIS.net

(EOM)

