

FOX FAX

Journal of the 199th Recon Airplane Company RVN 1967-70 Vol. 8, Issue 1 Jan 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.

This is the beginning of the eighth year and hopefully the best year for the Fox Fax. This year's reunion should be a hum dinger. Now would be a good time to mark your calendars. Texas has the highest population of Swamp Fox. No excuses, we moved it to San Antonio for you. A lot of people in the 199th and 221st are doing a lot of work to make this happen. Of course if you don't live in Texas, no excuses either. Nothing is better than Reunions for Veterans. We all served, some in different places and different times, together. Best wishes and a Happy New Year to all.

Doc

2011 Delta Bird Dog Reunion News

We continue to plug along with planning for the 2011 reunion in San Antonio, Texas. I am sure that by now you have all received information regarding the dates, **October 13 to October 16** and the location of the reunion headquarters at the San Antonio Doubletree Hotel (Downtown). Additionally, there will be some activities taking place at Cannon Field, home of the Alamo Liaison Squadron, just south of the city where our friends from the International Bird Dog Association have agreed to join with us for some Texas Bar-B-Q and a bit of flying activity.

A copy of the registration form is attached to the Fox Fax and you are encouraged to complete it and get it in the mail to Tim Brinkerhoff as soon as possible so that we can get our numbers together and complete some final organizational activities.

Just a note, if you have not yet joined the IBDA this would be a good time to consider signing up, they have been great supporters of our reunions and as an organization they are continually working to keep the memory of the greatest little war bird ever built

alive. The \$30.00 annual dues are a real bargain. For information you can contact them through the web site www.ibdawe.com .

SAN ANTONIO BOOTS ON THE GROUND CREW:

199th

Don Nicholson

Gary Simon (2011 Reunion coordinator 199th)

Jim Strye

Anyone else in the San Antonio area who wants to help. Drop me an e-mail.

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: Norm Wood

Medal of Honor recipient Col. Robert L. Howard dies at 70

By T. Rees Shapiro
Saturday, January 23, 2010
Washington Post

Robert L. Howard, 70, one of the Vietnam War's most highly decorated servicemen who received the Medal of Honor for leading fellow soldiers out of an ambush and fending off more than 250 troops during a two-day siege deep in enemy territory, died Dec. 23 of pancreatic cancer at a hospice in Waco, Tex. He had been living in the San Antonio area since retiring from the Army in 1992 at the rank of colonel.

In addition to the Medal of Honor -- the military's highest award for valor -- Col. Howard received two awards of the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, the Defense Superior Service Medal, four awards of the Legion of Merit, four Bronze Star Medals and eight Purple Hearts.

Col. Howard, an Army Green Beret, served five tours in Vietnam. During one 13-month period, he was nominated for the Medal of Honor for three separate acts of heroism.

In December 1968, then-Sgt. 1st Class Howard was part of a platoon tasked with going into North Vietnam in search of a fellow Green Beret whose rescue beacon reported him missing in action. While leading the patrol, Sgt. Howard and his lieutenant were blown back by an anti-personnel mine that

signaled a 250-man ambush on their platoon. The blast knocked Sgt. Howard unconscious, and the shrapnel wounded his hands and destroyed his rifle.

When he came to, Sgt. Howard smelled the stench of burning flesh as a North Vietnamese soldier was using a flamethrower to torch the bodies of the American and South Vietnamese casualties, as Peter Collier wrote in "Medal of Honor: Portraits of Valor Beyond the Call of Duty."

As Collier described it, Sgt. Howard lobbed a grenade in the direction of the North Vietnamese soldier and made his way toward his lieutenant, who had been badly injured in the melee.

While he was administering aid to the wounded officer, a bullet struck Sgt. Howard's ammunition pouch, detonating several magazines and knocking him back. After regaining his composure, the badly injured sergeant moved back to the lieutenant and began dragging him toward the remaining Special Forces soldiers, shooting several North Vietnamese troops along the way.

Sgt. Howard took charge of the battered platoon and helped organize the overpowered and outnumbered troops into defensive emplacements along a ravine. Sgt. Howard crawled from position to position, resupplying his men with ammunition and directing fire toward the encircling enemy while radioing in fire support from airborne gunships.

After two days of constant firefights with North Vietnamese troops, the stranded platoon was evacuated by U.S. helicopters. Ensuring that all of his men had made it on to the choppers, Sgt. Howard climbed aboard and was the last man to leave the battlefield, according to his Medal of Honor citation.

As a result of his actions, Sgt. Howard received a direct appointment to officer status as a first lieutenant. President Richard M. Nixon presented him with the Medal of Honor in 1971.

Robert Lewis Howard was born July 11, 1939, in Opelika, Ala. He enlisted in the Army in 1956 and joined the 101st Airborne Division.

In 1965, during his first tour of duty in Vietnam, he was wounded by a bullet that ricocheted and glanced his face. While recuperating in a hospital, he was recruited by a Special Forces soldier to join the Green Berets.

He received a bachelor's degree in police administration from Texas Christian University in 1973 and received two master's degrees from Central Michigan University, one in management in 1980 and the other in public administration in 1981.

After retiring from the military, he worked at the Department of Veterans Affairs as a liaison to other veterans. He frequently made trips around the country and abroad to battle zones such as Iraq and Afghanistan to speak with troops about his experiences. From 2007 to 2009, he was president of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

Col. Howard's marriages to Tina Dickinson and Rona Redfern ended in divorce.

Survivors include two daughters from his first marriage, Melissa Gentsch of Waco and Denicia Howard of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; two children from his second marriage, Army Sgt. Robert L. Howard Jr. of Fort Bragg, N.C., and Roslyn Howard of Hawaii; and four grandchildren.

[From Brian Kinderman](#)

December 16, 2010

Army News Service|by Staff Sgt. Amy Wieser Willson

FARGO, N.D. -- A Vietnam War pilot who has been missing in action for more than four decades will be coming home to Fargo this week. The remains of U.S. Air Force Maj. Thomas Beyer will arrive Wednesday evening, and his funeral will take place Saturday afternoon.

Beyer served with the 20th Tactical Air Support Squadron at Chu Lai Air Base in South Vietnam. From there, he flew the O-2A Skymaster, a military version of the Cessna 337, as a spotter plane. He went missing while on mission #5096, a visual reconnaissance and forward air control assignment, the afternoon of July 30, 1968. He was later declared dead on May 2, 1978, and his remains were identified Nov. 19 of this year.

Beyer's remains are scheduled to return on Delta Flight 2185 into Hector International Airport at 8:29 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15. The Air Force will provide a military funeral honors detail, including an 18-member color guard, bugler and firing squad. Vietnam Veterans of America will lead color guards from veterans' service organizations as well as the North Dakota Patriot Guard, which will form a flag line.

"This mission is so important because a brother of ours who has been listed as MIA for about 42 years is finally being reunited with his family and friends," said Russ Stabler, with North Dakota's Vietnam Veterans of America. "As veterans of the Vietnam War, each and every Vietnam and Vietnam-era veteran is eager to welcome home our brother, Maj. Thomas J. Beyer, who has been gone for such a long time. We want to show our love and respect we have for this man who paid the ultimate sacrifice for us and our country and to show he was not forgotten. We are saddened by the loss, but happy he is finally coming home to North Dakota soil. We will be at the Hector Airport to welcome Maj. Beyer home and at his funeral to pay our final respects and say goodbye and thank him for a job well done." On Saturday, Dec. 18, visitation will begin at 12:30 p.m. followed by the funeral at 1:30 p.m., both at St. Mary's Cathedral, 619 7th St. N., Fargo. Burial will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery, 1502 32nd Ave. N., Fargo. Gov. Jack Dalrymple and Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota National Guard adjutant general, are expected to speak during the funeral service. Veterans groups and honor guards as well as currently serving military men and women will again be present to show their support of their fallen brother, as well as his family.

Beyer is survived by his wife, Karen, whom he met when they attended North Dakota State University together. They were married Feb. 1, 1963, in Fargo and had two children: Sandra in 1964 and Steven in 1966. Their children are now married with children of their own, and Beyer's parents and brother, Merle, died without ever knowing his fate.

With military reports from that day 42 years ago, coupled with the identifications of Beyer's remains, that fate is now clearer.

Beyer, who was posthumously promoted to major, was 37 years old on July 30, 1968. The day began overcast, with a ceiling of 5,000 feet and visibility of 7 miles. By that afternoon, the weather shifted to scattered clouds and a 10,000 foot ceiling with visibility reduced to 4 miles. It was a hazy afternoon with ground fog and scattered showers.

It was Beyer's 12th day in combat after being commissioned as an Air Force officer through NDSU's ROTC program. He had received pilot training at Vance Air Force Base in Enid, Okla., and qualification training on the B-52 Stratofortress bomber at Loring Air Force Base in Maine before being deployed to South Vietnam as a forward air control, or FAC, pilot.

FAC pilots were intimately familiar with the geography, people and tactical situation of the areas they observed as they flew the Skymaster, which they referred to as "Oscar Deuce" or "The Duck." When they saw a target, the FAC pilots would order fighter jets or bombers, mark the target with white phosphorous rockets and then control the operation while the responding planes were on station. Once the fighter mission was complete, FAC pilots remained to conduct a bomb damage assessment. Their mission was one that was typically low to the ground and at a relatively slow speed.

That was the case that hazy July afternoon in 1968 when Beyer, who went by the call sign "Helix 15," was flying in Quang-Tri Province in South Vietnam, supporting the U.S. Army's Americal Division. He gave a mission report at 1:45 p.m. that day, indicating that his status was normal and that he was heading to Kham Duc to work with "Renegade Delta" and would report back in 30 to 45 minutes. That report never came, and he never returned to Chu Lai at 3 p.m., as scheduled. By 3:45 p.m., he was declared overdue.

A five-day search-and-rescue operation commenced with no sign of Beyer or his aircraft being discovered.

U.S. ground personnel whom Beyer was flying in support of were questioned. They reported that an aircraft had flown over them, heading west, and that they heard an explosion once the plane was out of sight. They assumed it was Beyer's aircraft. A U.S. command and control aircraft reported hearing an emergency beeper signal from an area with extremely rough terrain that was a Viet Cong stronghold. The aircraft couldn't establish voice communication with the downed pilot. The search-and-rescue personnel never heard the beeper signals nor located plane wreckage and declared Beyer MIA. Nearly a decade later, he was declared dead.

While listed as missing, Beyer was presented the Silver Star for gallantry. His name is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., along with the 58,266 others who gave their lives in that war. The name of this particular North Dakota hero is on panel 50W, row 34.

From: Alan Brubaker

Here's another model I need to find a place to hang. (Doc. You may recognize the tail number and insignia) It's almost finished. Just need fuel lines run and radio receiver and battery installed. The upper flight control surfaces get a zinc chromate yellow covering also. Rocket tubes and shackles are in production.

Alan Brubaker





From: Bill Poor



Delta Birddog Reunion 2009 DVDs are available from Bill Poor. These are very well done indeed. Well worth the five bucks for shipping and material.

Contact Bill Poor at wtpoor@comcast.net

MISC.

RAC members are happier



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

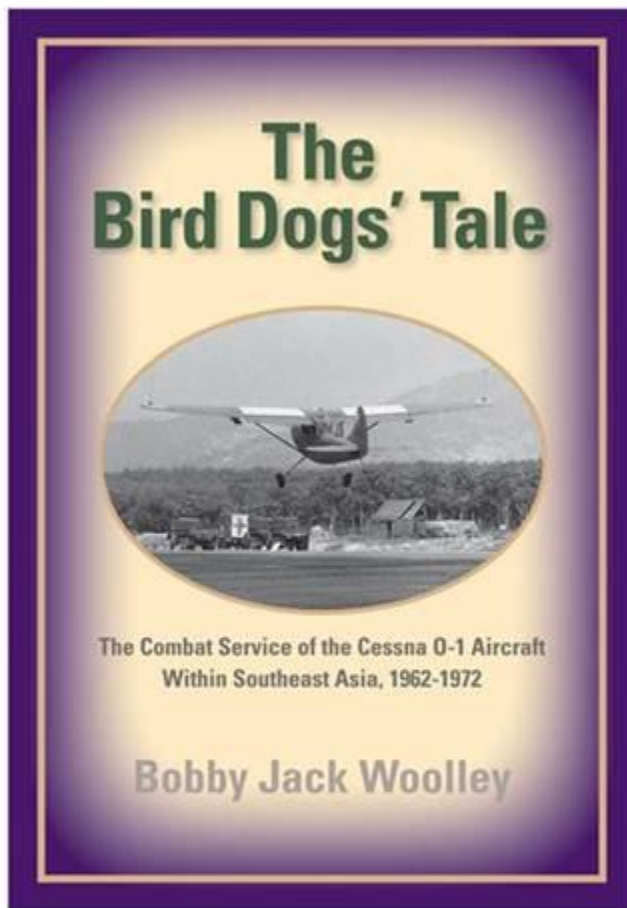
<http://www.catkillers.org/catcom4-quarter10.htm#reunion2012>

Norm MacPhee, Reunion Committee, catkiller2012@earthlink.net

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

13th CAB Reunion. 2012

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<http://feeder-feederpubs.com>

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

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Swamp Fox Bar and Grill

PUB GRUB, DINNER CHOW STYLE STUFF.



Doc's Brownies or Chocolate after burner or Chocolate mess.

You will need:

1 pkg best Brownie mix. Don't use cheap ingredients.
1 jar Hershey "Special Dark", dark hot fudge (ice cream) topping.
Nestle chocolate bits
Butter
Vanilla
Almond extract if you have it.
Milk
eggs
Best canned Chocolate icing or make your own from scratch.

8X8 cake pan, I prefer Pyrex.

You will prepare the Brownie mix according to the directions on the box except.
Substitute butter for the amount of oil and add 1 tsp. vanilla, 1 tsp almond extract.
Put ½ the mixture in the cake pan.
Now warm up the hot fudge topping so it will pour easy and drizzle on top.
Don't completely cover with topping, just little blobs and squirts.
Put the other half of the brownie mixture on top of that.
Sprinkle with chocolate bits.
Bake this mess according to the directions on the box.

When this is cool put the icing on.

Chocolate icing from scratch (no cook)

2 C. powdered sugar
½ - ¾ C. Cocoa powder
3 Tbl Butter
1 Tbl milk
1 tsp Vanilla
1 Tsp rum or rum flavoring. (optional)

Sift the powdered sugar and cocoa powder into you mixing bowls. Sifting helps with the lumps.
Fire up the ol' mixer and add butter, vanilla, rum. You can do a mag check now. Make sure it's firing on all 6!

Don't put the mixer full speed at first or you will have a powdered sugar explosion that you will be cleaning up for weeks.

Turn it up to medium a little at a time as you add milk.

Here is where it gets tricky. Add milk a LITTLE at a time till you get the consistency you want.

It's kind of like trying to make gravy with no lumps. If it is too thick add milk if it is too thin add more powdered sugar.

Keep in mind you may have to adjust this stuff to taste.

Once you master icing you won't buy canned icing ever again. Plain ol' white icing just leave out the cocoa powder and rum.

Then you can color or flavor it any way you want.

Serve with scoop of favorite chocolate ice cream and very small glass of Drambuie.

If you really wanted to get crazy you could put some wiped cream, shaved chocolate and a cherry on top.

I try to keep it interesting, hope this works.

Pub Grub, Dinner Chow should be cheap, fast and easy.

This aint no French cooking show.

Let me know what you think.

WEB SITES of INTEREST

The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) invites you to participate in the **fifth annual Camp Perry Open**. This year's match will include a three-position air rifle competition, an international air rifle (all standing) event, a pistol course of fire, and an optional clinic held at the CMP Marksmanship Center – North at Camp Perry, Ohio. The matches will be held 14 -16 January 2011. For more information, visit <http://clubs.odcmp.com/cgi-bin/matchInfo.cgi?matchID=6225>.

Worlds Fastest Helicopter Sikorsky X2

www.youtube.com/watch?v=37ZvRsF0Yc

www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0wmtOO-zPo&feature=related

[EAA calendar](#)

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

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

[IBDA](#)

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



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www.ibdawebsite.com/merchandise.htm

Swamp Fox IBDA members

Charley Baker
Woody Barnes
Rich Burns
Sam Givhan
Larry French
Curt Herrick
Ray Jennings
Jim McKee
Don Nicholson
Rick Shoup

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.ibdaweb.com/picture_gallery.htm

SWAMP FOX NETWORK

Welcome Home

Mike Agler – Crew Chief magler@msn.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

The Swamp Fox Web Site is still under reconstruction after computer problems.
Still a little to be done. Looks stable for now.

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 download from Adobe.

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

Established June 6, 2002 D-Day!

THE FOX FAX WELCOMES CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE MEMBERS.

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

Editor r.jennings@KTIS.net
O.K., so they both still work r.jennings14@verizon.net
And this one too. SwampFox@Druid-Consulting.com

Cheers Y'all

(EOM)