

THE SOUTH FLORIDA TROOPER



JULY/AUGUST 2009

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS: Since our last newsletter we have taken part in several events with our color guard plus the normal meetings. We take part in a lot of events that you may not know about if you do not attend the meetings and you don't read the newsletter and Paraglide articles. Some of these events are parades and color presentations for different organizations. You do not have to be a member of the color guard or be in 'uniform' to attend. Wear an Airborne cap or shirt and come join us. When the chips are down we need to show our pride, stand up, hook up, and count to four, remember that? At our monthly meetings, out of a 160 members only 7 - 10 show up. I have asked advice from the members to see how we can better the amount of members coming to the meetings, and no one has said or chosen another date/time. We had a meeting in Miami, and only the regulars from the Ft. Lauderdale and surroundings showed up. Ok, we can try this again, but only if the members that live in the Miami area and below agree. Contact me or Bob with your ideas, and let's work on them.

I was recently at the VA in Miami and I was approached more than once by former Paratroopers that didn't know we had a chapter here in South Florida???? Maybe they saw my cap, my 82nd pin, 173rd pin and my Special Forces pin. Do you show your "colors" when you go anywhere? You will be surprised the look you get. If you meet them get their name, address and let Bob or myself know so we can send them a nice invitation to join us. I am going to put a challenge to all, and for our upcoming Installation Dinner, whoever brings in the most members to the chapter will be awarded a nice deserving prize. I will discuss this further with the board to elaborate more on this; I will go as far back to the beginning of the year 2009. How about it?

We have a lot of Airborne activities going on. The 173rd AIB will have their convention Jul 29 - Aug 2nd at Daytona. So if you see parachutes in the sky that's the "HERD" coming in to enjoy sunny Daytona. In August we have the 82nd Assn convention in Indianapolis IN. starting August 19th. Did you know we are sponsoring 2 ½ Wounded Warriors from the Division (ask Bob about the ½) I will be there to honor them and let them know South Florida honors them. From the bottom of my heart I wish to thank all of you who answered the call by saying "hook me up" and contributed towards allowing these wounded paratroopers the "blast" of attending a National Convention. We, from the South Florida Chapter are letting them know that they are not forgotten. As a Viet Nam Veteran I did not get what our current Troopers are getting, but to Me it is a joy to honor them for their service, so they will always know WE CARE, and to my brothers and sisters, welcome home, and this country is a better place each day for all the sacrifices you have done yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Well September's picnic is coming so lets make this one better than the last, elections will be held during the picnic. And don't forget the Installation dinner in November. Tony has picked a Great place. You guys are going to be treated to one top place, please no Limos, we need space, but it will be worth it. (Donations are being accepted for...) anyway brothers and sisters let's see more of you and if you see another trooper have him or her join, we need 42 more to beat Tampa and I know we can do it.

Always thinking of that 34 ft tower, your Chairman
JPO (Jose Perez Ortiz)

"The best luck of all is the luck you make for yourself." General Douglas McArthur (1880-1945)

2009 MEETINGS:
August 18th September 13th Picnic TY Park October 20th
Elections will be held Sept picnic
Installation Banquet November 14th

2009 OFFICERS:

Chairman - Jose Perez-Ortiz (JPO) 305-205-1948 Vice Chairman - Anthony Altobell (Tony) 954-583=8081
Secretary/Treasurer - Robert Buffington (Buff) 954-435-9174 Sgt-at-Arms - Roger Cupo (Rog) 954-993-1705
Judge Advocate Irving Weinsoff (Irv) 305-573-1666
Directors: James Campillo (Jimmy) (PP) 954-963-1454 James Bono (Jim) 954-462-2658
Alfred Gilliam (Al) 954-739-7082 Donald Moffett (Don) 305-453-9991 Ronald Stirlacci (Ron) 954-730-0773
Robert Wirt (Bob) 954-565=8123

FROM the EDITOR:

Having read the Chairman's Comments I will not repeat what he said, but I would like to point out that there are many former and CURRENT paratroopers in our area who do not know we exist. As JPO said, you will see them at the VA and other places around town. There are CURRENT Paratroopers stationed at Homestead Reserve Base and at Southern Command along with the Recruiting Battalion who either don't know we are here or just want to ignore us. But truthfully, how can a person, male or female who has airborne in their blood ever ignore fellow paratroopers?

We have several members at each site and we need those members to be active and help us recruit new members.

Our Color Guard takes part in parades, with four members only. You know as a member you can take part in these parades and flag presentations by just coming and wearing your Airborne Cap and shirt or as JPO says, your "Colors". I see American Legion Post's with a color guard and twenty or more members marching along behind them and I use the word marching very loosely.

It can be very discouraging to watch the number of chapter members attending meetings falling lower and lower. I and JPO have asked several times for guidance in what you as members want from the chapter. Let us know we are big boys and can take it.

The ½ Wounded Warrior refers to we sent National an additional \$400.00 so they can apply it towards helping another chapter sponsor a Warrior. Bob Buffington

BOOSTERS

NEWSLETTER BOOSTERS



Mark McCollem, Harold Kravitz, Bev Niskanen, Irv Weinsoff, Chris Watson, Tony Altobell, Moses Johnson, Martin Gonzales, Gilberto Marin, Ron Stirlacci, Lettie Bien, Al Gilliam, Jose Perez Ortiz, Bob Wirt.

June 2009

Ron Stirlacci, Bob Buffington, Al Hartig, German Martinez, Jose Perez Ortiz, Dvid Salet and Hiram Diaz Gonzalez

July 2009

Jimmy Campillo, Bob Buffington, Fred Jaca, Ron Stirlacci, Hirman Diaz Gonzelez, Anthony Altobell, Willie Washington, and Alfred Gilliam

Recommend you read the book, "HORSE SOLDIERS" by Doug Stanton. It is educational, interesting and a very enjoyable read about the Special Forces in Afghanistan starting in October 2001.

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ELECTIONS

Elections will be held during the Sept picnic
open positions are:

Vice Chairman, Sgt-at-Arms, and three
directors:

Al Gilliam, Don Moffett, and Bob Wirt
Member must be present to be elected OR
notify Secretary prior to meeting, of your
absence.

**The 22nd Florida All Airborne Days Reunion Will Be Hosted By
The North Central Florida Chapter
October 15 - 17 - 2009
At The Beautiful Waterfront Inn, at Lake Sumter Landing
The Villages, Florida.**

Thursday & Friday
Registration Main Lobby: 1300 - 1600

Thursday - Friday - Saturday
Hospitality Suite Room 115
Open 1200

Friday & Saturday: 7:00 - 10:00 AM
Coffee, Juice; Pastry in hospitality room

Friday PM
Bus Tour of The Villages
Evening Open
Enjoy Hospitality Room
Or, Just Steps Away On The Square.
Great music and Entertainment
Hotel Bar - Happy Hr. 50% off. 1500 - 1900
Lobby Has Piano Music

Saturday Morning
Ladies Breakfast & Men's Annual
Chapter's Meeting 0830
Hospitality Room 1200 / Bag Raffle 1400

Saturday Evening
** Proper Attire **
Cocktail Hr 0600 - 0700
Memorial Banquet Dinner: 0700
Special Ceremony; Entertainment
Early Bird & Cash Raffle

Waterfront INN
1105 Lake Shore Drive
Sumter Landing, The Villages, FL 32162
1 - 352 753 - 7535

Room Rates
Standard \$ 83.00 + 9%tax
Lake View \$ 93.00 + 9%tax
Lake View/ Balcony \$ 103.00 + 9% tax
Hotel Reservations
1 - 352 - 753 - 7535

!!! Mention !!!
**Florida All Airborne Days Reunion For
Special Room Rate**

REUNION REGISTRATION FEE
\$ 15.00 per person

EARLY BIRD
Registrations Must Be Received
No Later Than Sept. 4th

NOTE
No Refunds After October 5, rd

Mail Checks to, or Contact
Donald M. Van Alstyne
10270 S. E. 178th Pl
Summerfield, FL 34491
1 - 352 - 307 - 6719

Name _____

Spouse / Guest _____

Chapter _____

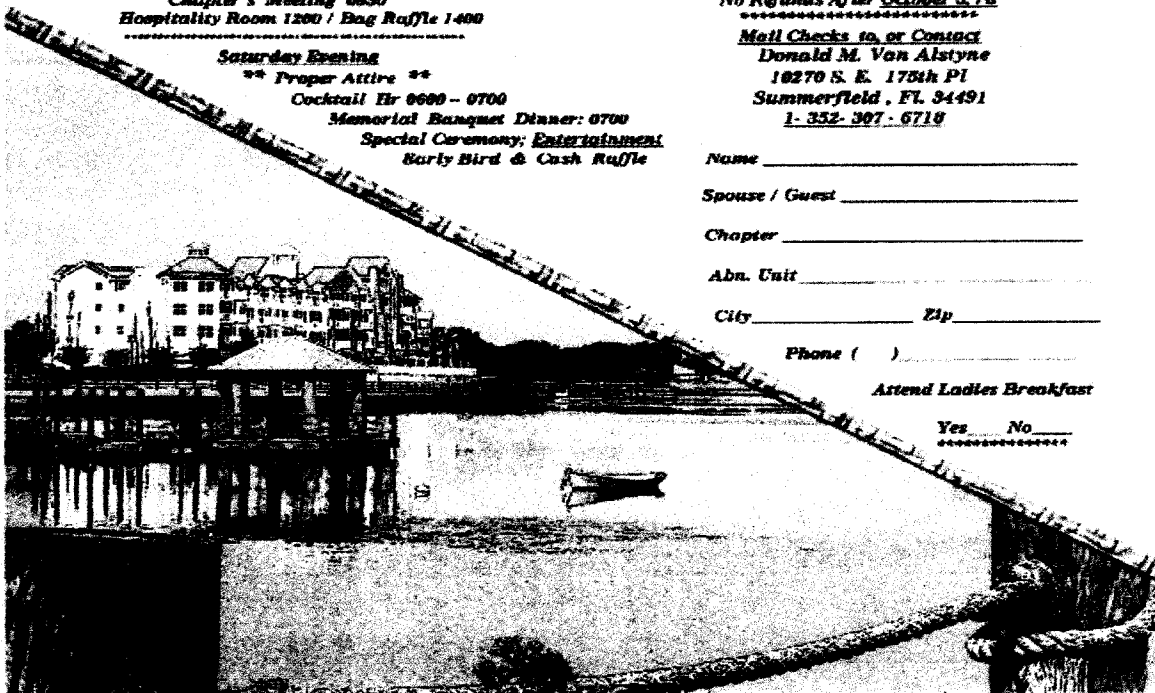
Abn. Unit _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

Attend Ladies Breakfast

Yes No _____



Color Guard:

The color guard once again led the July 4th parade in Key Largo. Tony Altobell, Frank Rivera, Gus Vass and Ron Stilacci deserve our thanks. Tony marched the complete 3 miles after having his second hip replaced just a couple months ago. I guess he proves if you're going to be dumb you have to be tough.

DUES

Renewals: Desormeau, John L

All American Members: (Note all renewals after August 17th will be for 2010 so please send in your 2009 dues now)

New members: Michael Switzer; Michael served with A 2/508th 82nd, HHC, 82nd Abn Div, and with C 3/503rd 173rd Abn in Viet Nam. Willie Washington, Willie served with the 325 of the 82nd Abn and C 3/20th, SFG

By the time you are reading this it will be too late to pay for the year 2009. That's 36 members who have NOT renewed for 2009. That's almost a quarter of our members. I'm sorry to report that this will be the last Newsletter you will receive if your dues are not up to date for this year. Check the mailing label if the first line is 12/09 your are in arrears, renew now for 2010 and get an early bird registration and help the chapter raise a little more money. Each "Early bird" gives the chapter another dollar rebate from National.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New members must complete all parts of the application and include proof of glider/airborne qualifications or service with the 82nd Airborne Division. Renewing members please fill in all parts of application.

DOB _____

Home Telephone: (____) _____ Renewal New Member Reinstatement

Enclosed is \$15.00, my membership year for the year _____ subscription to THE PARAGLIDE included.

Enclosed is \$16.00, an additional \$1.00 for the Educational Fund.

Enclosed is _____ for All-American Membership (\$150 if under 50 yrs of age/\$100 if over 50 yrs of age).

Name: _____

Street/RFD _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____ (9 digits)

Rank: _____ ASN: _____ or SSN _____

Airborne unit (be complete-Co,Bn,Div) _____

Dates of Airborne Service _____ to _____ Single Married
Month/Yr Month/Yr

Present Occupation _____ Spouse Name _____ # of children _____

Work Phone _____ Email _____

Please fill above completely. Make checks payable to 82nd Abn Div Assoc, South Florida Chapter

Mail To: Bob Buffington, 2765 Garden Drive, Cooper City, Florida 33026-3605

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 18TH AMERICAN LEGION POST 92

I WAS AIRBORNE I AM AIRBORNE I WILL ALWAYS BE AIRBORNE