

# The Banshee Gazette



ISSUE 11 VOLUME 1

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2007

Jim Matthews Editor



**AIRBORNE - AIRMOBILE - AIR ASSAULT**



The Banshee Gazette is the official publication  
Of B Troop 2/17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association



## **Our Two Cents Worth**

### *President's Message:* Jim Matthews

If you missed the 2007 reunion at Ft. Campbell this year, you missed one heck of a good reunion. We were able to reestablish our ties with the existing Banshees and are happy to report that the Banshee spirit is not only alive, but as strong, if not stronger than ever. We all knew that B Troop was always a special unit when we served in it, and I am glad to report to you that that the special unit feeling still exists with the present day members. Even though the present Banshees are making preparations to be deployed again, they and their families took time out of their busy schedules to show us and extremely warm welcome by hosting a cookout for us.

In addition to reestablishing our relationship with the existing unit, we have some new changes to the existing structure of our association. Each new change is discussed separately under Association Changes in the gazette.

This will probably be the last issue of the newsletter for this year so I would like to take this opportunity to extend a "Happy Holiday" greeting to you and your families, from me and my family, for the upcoming holiday season. We hope your Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years is happy, healthy and safe.

"Out Front" – Jim Matthews

### *Vice President's Message:* Bill Crawford

Thanks for all of your prayers and cards, Freddie and I needed them. I am doing great, getting out more and doing a few things, but not too much. So again we say thank you.

The reunion @ Campbell was great and thanks to all that came, we had a good time, and next year in Brandon, Mo. we will have a good time. Thanks to Jim for the work that you have done, so far.

2009 reunion will be in Hampton, Va. the 2nd or 3rd week-end in the month of Aug. It will be at the same time with the 101st reunion and we will have more later on it. We will still have our own dinner and business meeting and so forth.

Hope all troops have a great Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.  
PRAY for all of B Troop that will be going over seas in Dec. Pray for them and hope for their safe returned home. GOD BLESS ALL AND EVERYONE OF YOU.

Bill Crawford

*Secretary – Treasurer’s Message:* Randy Kunkleman

From the Financial Secretary

To every thing there is a season and Nov. has Thanksgiving while Dec. has Christmas. Both are times to reflect on how our lives are. When I think of Thanksgiving I have to think of Christmas too. I am most thankful for Christ coming to this world living a perfect life and dying for my sin. I know that most of the guys in B-Troop thought I was too religious in Vietnam. I was not religious, and have never become religious. In actuality I had accepted Christ as my personal savior and was learning how to grow as a Christian. I was and still am thankful that if I die, I will be with Jesus. When Jesus rose again He did it to give me that assurance. Well that is another season, so I won’t talk about Easter. I just want to wish you God’s very best on Thanksgiving and Christmas and pray He will bless you as we go into the New Year.

Randy Kunkleman  
Financial Secretary

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TIDBITS

According to John Bowman (B Troop '65) "Old Bill" the lone cavalry man mounted on a horse, was originally referred to as the "Hangman." Bill furnished a program with the "Hangman's" picture on the cover and he claims that they had a unit patch depicting the Hangman. He promised to send a photo or copy when he locates it. Anyone else out there remember "Old Bill" as the "Hangman?"



**FORMER AND PRESENT BANSHEES  
REUNION 2007 – FT. CAMPBELL**



**FORMER AND PRESENT BANSHEES AND FAMILIES  
REUNION 2007 – FT CAMPBELL**



**A SPECIAL PRESENTATION GIVEN TO THE B TROOP ASSOCIATION BY THE OFFICERS AND TROOPS IN B TROOP 2/17<sup>TH</sup> CAVALRY REGIMENT.**

The Inscription Reads

“Dedicated To: The B Troop 2/17<sup>th</sup> CAV ASSN for dedicated support to the BANSEES 2007”

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## **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

First, we would like to remind you that 2008 dues are payable now. It is your continued financial support through dues and tax deductible donations, that we are able to keep the Association functioning. Why wait and possibly get lost in the rush. Don't forget, if you are tired of getting outlandish socks, ties and underwear for Christmas, you may want to start dropping hints now that your membership renewal is only \$25.00 and it's a gift that keeps giving all year long.

Secondly, it was decided to make changes in our existing membership requirements, to include Banshees that are currently assigned to the troop. At the business meeting at Clarksville, the membership unanimously agreed to extend active membership status to all active duty personnel that are assigned to B Troop 2/17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regt. Their active membership will continue at no cost to them as long as they remain on active duty. Once separated from active duty, they will have to pay the yearly dues to maintain their active membership in the association.

We will continue membership guidelines for regular membership including hardship membership, associate membership and honorary membership.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATES ASSIGNED TO B TROOP \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_

IF ATTACHED WHAT WAS YOUR PARENT UNIT \_\_\_\_\_

DUTIES ASSIGNED WHILE WITH B TROOP \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

### TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP REQUESTED

**1. REGULAR MEMBERSHIP - \$ 25.00 ANNUAL FEE**

(Anyone that served with B Troop, spouses, parents or children of a deceased veteran).

**2. REGULAR ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERSHIP – NO ANNUAL FEE**

(Anyone currently on active duty that served with B Troop. There is no yearly dues as long as the member remains on active duty.)

**3. REGULAR HARDSHIP MEMBERSHIP – NO ANNUAL FEE**

(Anyone that qualifies for REGULAR MEMBERSHIP, but can not afford the yearly dues because financial difficulties. Granted by the officers of the Association, until member can pay yearly dues).

**4. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP - \$25.00 ANNUAL FEE**

(Anyone interested in belonging to the Association as long as they abide by the Association by-laws).

**5. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP – NO ANNUAL FEE**

(Awarded by the Association to deserving individuals. Please see by-laws for requirements).

**PLEASE SEND APPLICATION AND DUES TO:**

**B Troop 2/17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association**

**C/O Randy Kunkleman**

**2395 N. Conant Road**

**Elida, OH. 45807**

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_**



# **REUNION 2008**

## **OCTOBER 9-12, 2008**

Everyone get out your PDAs or magic markers and mark your calendars for Thursday October 9, 2008 thru Sunday October 12, 2008. We have set these dates for our reunion in Branson, MO.

Every year you probably hear one of the Association's officers grumbling "I wonder where the time went?" Every year the officers go out of their way to make the reunion enjoyable, but we don't get to socialize that often because we are trying to make it memorable for everyone else.

This year we are going to do something different. We have contracted an organization called Branson Hospitality to handle most of the arrangements and coordinating event for the 2008 Reunion. In addition to this writing you will only receive a small amount of information from the Association, but Branson Hospitality will be putting out all of the information for us.

Right now, I can tell you that we have 50 rooms reserved at the *Stonecastle Inn (formerly the Settle Inn)* for the above mentioned dates. Don't panic, but prices are as follows. Single occupancy - \$376.00 per person; Double occupancy - \$284.00 per person; Triple occupancy; \$253.00 per person; and quad occupancy is \$238.00 per person. Early arrival / Later staying room price is \$71.00 (inc. tax) per night. 50 room block is being reserved until 8/9/08. Then 25 room block will be held until 9/9/08

As I said, don't panic yet. Prices include lodging and taxes, two shows (Pierce Arrow and Lowe Family) including transportation to and from; A shopping trip to Branson Landing including transportation to and from, Continental Breakfast on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Dinner / Meeting costs, and airport shuttle service if needed, Hospitality Room set up, plus many other incidental services. Reservations are made through Branson Hospitality with a \$50.00 deposit required.

You will be receiving a more detailed packet with the reunion information from Branson Hospitality in the next few weeks.

**HOPE YOU CAN MAKE IT THIS YEAR, WE'LL BE THERE!!!**

# **ASSOCIATION CHANGES**

## **CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE**



If you haven't heard by now the position of Chaplain is no longer vacant. The Chaplain's post has been unfilled since Joe Cone resigned after the 2002 Reunion in Washington, DC. Rob Switzer has stepped up and agreed to fill the position and was unanimously accepted by the membership during our 2007 annual business meeting. In addition, Rob's motion to accept Psalm 103 as the Association's official inspirational passage, was also second and unanimously accepted. If you haven't been on the website for awhile, you'll notice that it didn't take Rob long to establish a Chaplain' Corner on our website. Thanks Rob.

## **ENDOWMENT FUND**



There are several changes in the La Pointe Endowment Fund that you should be aware of. Tom Green has agreed to fill the vacancy on our scholarship committee, since an opening was created by the resignation of Dave Martin.

Facing the possibility of loosing what we had previously contributed, the membership at the Las Vegas Reunion unanimously agreed to loan the endowment fund the necessary monies to make the endowment fund a reality. That amount loaned to the endowment fund has been completely satisfied through individual donations and reunion auctions. In addition, our annual auction during the business meeting this year, netted another \$1,383.00 that will go to the endowment fund.



This coming semester, the first scholarship will be awarded from the Joseph “Guy” La Point Endowment Fund. According to officials at TTU, the fund is able to support a \$500.00 scholarship to a graduate student this fall. As the fund keeps growing through self generating interest, auctions and personal contributions, the Scholarship Committee can make recommendations as to increasing the amount awarded, or establishing two separate awards. More information will be provided after we receive the annual publication of the Endowment Fund Activity Report which we will receive at the end of 2007.

The official figures were not completed until the end of the fiscal year on August 21, 2007 and it takes a few months for TTU fund administrators to publish the official figures. But, for our annual meeting in July of this year TTU verbally provided us with the following figures: The total amount in the endowment fund was \$12,513, which equated to awarding a \$500.00 scholarship now.

## ***MEMBERSHIP SERVICES***

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In an effort to fill the void created in some of the services we provided in the way of issuing membership cards and certificates, the association has asked George “Gene” Walker to make up the new membership cards and membership certificates. He has graciously accepted the challenge and was unanimously agreed to at the membership meeting. If you have just joined the association or renewed your membership since April of 2007 and have not received a new membership card or certificate, we haven’t forgot about you. As soon as we get our logistics in order you will be sent everything that goes along with a membership in our association.

A membership card

A membership certificate

A copy of the by-laws

A bumper sticker

# BYLAWS



We are still operating under the original bylaws that the association was formed under. In haste, they were borrowed from another organization and were fitted to our use. We are in dire need to have our bylaws revised and brought up to date, to include membership changes, etc. Don Slavinski has agreed to take this bull by the horns. Ski will review our bylaws and make recommended changes to the officers for a formal presentation and vote on a new set of bylaws at our annual meeting in Branson.



# DEPLOYMENT



As mentioned earlier, the Banshees are scheduled to be deployed again, to keep their “Rendezvous With Destiny” with the rest of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault). I am asking all B Troop alumni, to remember them and their families in their thoughts and prayers. Also remember the good feeling when you received a “CARE” package from home. As soon as we get a mailing address for them, we will pass it on, so you will be able send packages to them with goodies and personal care items.

# **A TALL REQUEST**

At the close of our regular business meeting in Clarksville, I made the following request of Captain Wolf, Banshee 6. With their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan after Christmas, after about two or three months, I would like to open my morning paper and see the following headlines in big bold print. **“BANSHEES BAG BIN LADEN”**. Captain Wolf assured me that they are going to do everything in their power to fulfill that request. – GOOD LUCK AND GOOD HUNTING B TROOP.

## **ASSOCIATION CONTACTS**

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**OUR WEBSITE ADDRESS IS**  
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**Dan Schave – Webmaster**  
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# ***BLAST FROM THE PAST***



Bushgangsters Spring of 1968  
Courtesy of Gene Schiappacasse

## ***REUNION 2009***

The B Troop 2/17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association reunion in 2009 is tentatively set to occur during the same time and at the same place as the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Association. Bill Crawford is acting as the contact person with the Division Association. As of this posting, we do not have a confirmed date but it will be in Hampton, VA. As soon as that information is available we will pass it on to you. Just to clarify the proposed intentions, we will still have our own reunion, dinner and meeting. We will make available all of the Division Association's activities in the event you would like to participate. There are still plenty of logistics to work out.