



CHINA POST # 1 POOP SHEET

December 2007 • Year of the Pig

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POST REUNION / MEETING RENO 2007

Our meeting at the Silver Legacy Hotel was a success, everybody claimed that they won money at the casino and I was not struck by lightning when they said that to me so I'd guess that it is true. The biggest Snafu was that several people were planning to come the following weekend and either didn't make it at all or like

Don Hedgpeth were only able to attend one or two days of National or during the Post Convention. It is truly the one time of the year when we can gather our Post Veterans from WW II through the Cold War to share stories with our Iraq Vets like **Alan 'Hooker' Johnston** and **James Wengeroth**. We did have a presence at the **National Parade with our American Legion Riders** chapter founders, **Ron and Marlys Burkett** riding their cycles with our parade group. As a note: American legion National issued us a plaque, a "Right Hand Salute of Respect and Admiration" for their participation in the 2007 Legacy Run and Scholarship Fund. Ron was also made a Post Vice Commander.

Minutes of the annual meeting: After opening with the preamble and a prayer we saluted the colors and approved last year's minutes. The formal financial report was not available due to **Jim Luke's** inability to attend this year, however the check book and bank statements were available for inspection. In new business we started with the election of Post officers and Executive Committee members for the coming year. The listing appears on the current letterhead with the principle changes being the move of **Jerry Williams** to Director Emeritus and elevating **Bill**

Anton and Hans Stockenberger to the Post's Executive Board. We discussed the rising postal cost and encourage more of the Post members to get on the Post's list server to receive Poop Sheets and other communication by e-mail. As an experiment in the 2009 dues year we want to try to give a \$2 discount to members who choose the e-mail option for Poop Sheets or consider

the \$2 as an optional Dragon Fund donation if the full annual dues of \$ 40 is received. Our webmaster **Jim Lint** will be working out the details with us during the next 6 months to set up the procedure that should appear in the Spring Poop Sheet. We are working to get our emblem sales up to the previous level and need a responsible person to handle the task. We have a supply of the infamous "bowl-

ing shirts" and baseball caps and introduced a new "fishing shirt" at this meeting. Fore and Aft caps are available in some sizes but there is a lead-time to get all of the sizes in stock. After 10 years as our Auxiliary President and Secretary, **Jenny Williams** is stepping down to concentrate on business pursuits. **Jim Maupin** has volunteered his daughter to take over after the first of the calendar year so we will have some transition things to take care of for the **Auxiliary**. Our sincere thanks go out to Jenny for her dedicated service over this period. **Moving?** Already moved? When the mail has to be forwarded it costs an extra \$1 and sometimes, especially with overseas and APO mail, we get 2 or 3 letters to a member returned at the same time. Please keep the Post informed of your address changes



to avoid being 'lost'. It would help if those Memorial Divisions who have closer contact when a member transfers out of their area make sure that a change of address has been forwarded to the Post. After closing prayer and salute to the colors the annual meeting was adjourned. At the banquet Saturday with the usual drum roll, **Emmet Sullivan** tallied the poll of assembled past 'bull-shippers' and we added **Gene Hamner** to this exalted group. **Dick Schubnell** was our 'parade marshal' and provided the same service for the Dept. After the parade the Dept. held their delegation meeting at our hospitality room.

FODPAL is the Foreign and Outlying Departments and Posts of the Legion and is the lobby / caucus group for our ex-pat types. We were members before the Dept. switch and have our own rotation for leadership. At this year's breakfast meeting, **Tim Brown** took the reins as President.

REUNION CONVENTION 2008

The good news is that the decision was made for Phoenix, AZ for 2008 in August. At this time we do not know if we will precede the National AL Convention or if we will follow it which would put us on the last day of the National and going into Labor Day weekend. The good part of the dilemma is that Phoenix, unlike Reno, is not a destination area at that time so hotels and airfares should not be an issue. We will be looking into what would be best for the Post and those who will probably attend and put the final choice in the Spring Poop Sheet. The 90th National Convention dates are August 19 – 29 for 2008.

RAVENS

A few Ravens who had not attended in several years joined the annual meeting in San Antonio. As you might imagine the stories only get better in the retelling and when someone shows up that was there then, who hasn't been around in 20 years, joins in with another view from the

other cockpit you get a lot of Oh S### so that's what happened almost 40 years ago. The Ravens established a scholarship fund a few years ago to help the children of the Hmong who were our allies in Laos. **Chad Swedberg** started the plan and many other Ravens have since volunteered to help in its execution. **Ed Gunter** was convinced or convicted to spend another year as President with **S. 'Growth' Wilson** as VP and **Al Galante** and **Lew Hatch** on the Executive committee.

FORTY & EIGHT

At our Grande and 1496 Promenades held in Reno, we wrecked in several Legion members including several female members who are now eligible. The Promenade Nationale for 2008 will be in Sept. of 2008. **Roger Gowen**, has sent out correspondence to our 40 & 8 membership with updates on Voiture activities so I will not duplicate his work. Our next major function will be the trip to the South of France to lay wreaths and show the US flag for VE Day ceremonies.

Information on these functions will be posted on the web as their plans are formalized and they will also be in future Poop Sheets and mailings from the Voiture.

VFV X 3

We have 3 VFW Posts now associated with China Post. When we closed down our totally in-house VFW Post in the South of France, most of our members merged into the Post in Paris. After the '07 40 & 8 and Post meetings in Menton, a half dozen members went to Paris for their annual meeting. The new Post Commander, **Kelly Carrigg** is on an active duty assignment there and has former Commander **John Davis** staying on board as an advisor on the Executive Committee. Both are CP 1 members. We continue to maintain a presence there even though the Post is no longer totally CP 1. 2. **Roger Gowen** is the Cmdr. Of his Post in Arizona and we are trying to plan a steak night trip to his Post when we



are in Phoenix for the National Convention. 3. The "Viking Safe House and Watering Hole" set up by **Ole' Olson** in Chaing Mai, Thailand has received a Charter with an excess of the number of new and transferred VFW members so that we now share our 'Watering Hole' with the VFW there.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

So much for my good idea of moving the meeting back from mid week to the weekends. As **H** stated after the vote, it is a Legislative tradition after a vote fails dramatically to thank the chair for the use of the hall. A number of our members who are not retired were conspicuous by their absence, not being able to take a week off to attend. While there we had a chance for a Las Vegas Division meeting. Our banner is missing from Gilligans but we still have one up at the Marine Corps Bar. Several members of SF Chapter 39 were at SOAR including **Mark Kinsler** and **Jan Roush**.

AIR COMMANDOS

It is always good to go to Ft Walton for the annual Columbus Day meeting and getting a chance to see a number of Post members who do not make the other Division meetings. **Dick Geron** did his annual hosting of the hospitality room and **Bgen Heinie Aderholt** with new bride **Ann** and **MGen Dick Secord** were regulars along with the 'Spooky' crews and dozens of other old friends. During the Sunday Memorial service, Post members who passed in the last year, **Charlie Jones** and **Walt Landi** were honored.

DRAGON FUND DONORS

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ald Fansler / David Fitzpatrick / Gary Fleischer / Donald Fry / 'Dot' Fullick / Stephen Furman / Wayne Gaetz / Al Galante / Sherri Galante / Hale Geiger / Manuel Gonzalez / John Gose / Fred Gowan / Roger Gowen / Ronald Hammersley / James Hanke / Margaret Hanke / William Heller / James Henry / Donald Hervey / Ken Hessel / Scott Hilton / Jon Hittle / William Hutchinson / Mandy James / Alan Johnson / Lloyd Johnson / Kenneth R Jones / Peter Jutras / Lynn Keith / Charles Laye / Donald Leedle / George Lord II / Billy B Martin / Branton Martin / William Martin II / Lynn McFadden / D J McMillan / Travis Mills / James Minor / Philip Molidor / Charles Morlan / Robert Morrison / Hugh Murray / Kenneth O'Connell / Capt W E O'Connor / Peter Olinger / David Patterson / John Pearsall / Michael Pierce / Frank Powell / James Powers / Richard Prince / Alfred Puppo / Joseph Reese / Joseph Robinson / Andrew Rockwood / James Roper / Mark Ruwe / Bryan Scofield / Arnold Seale / Ronald Shalaski / James Sheldon / James Shive / Jerry Simmons / Max Sittler / James Smalley / Albert Sonntag / Russell Stephenson / Marion Stokes / Van Svensson / Chad Swedberg / William Thatcher / Gerald Tosta / Robert Truby / John Whiteside / Arthur Williams

MUSEUM FUND DONORS

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DO NOT CALL

The protection of being on the "Do Not Call" list, which started 5 years ago, has expired (wonder why you are getting those calls again). To renew your protection call 1-888-382-1222. You have to call from the number you are registering or: you can go on-line at www.donotcall.gov to register other phones.

DD-214

Every veteran should have a copy of their DD-214 stored with their papers and effects. Veterans and next of kin of deceased veterans may use a new online military personnel records

system to request documents at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>

"RESCUE DAWN" DON'T WASTE YOUR MONEY.

A new 'Hollywood' movie of this title was recently released and is a bit of Hollywood revisionist history. It is insulting and misrepresents one of our members Gene DeBruin. As one of our members suggested, if you have to see it, buy a pirate copy on the street for a couple of bucks so they do not benefit from this lie. As many members recall from previous Hollywood attempts such as "Air America" and certain selected scenes from "The Killing Fields" Hollywood is not interested in truth and this is not a documentary. For more info go to www.rescuedawnthetruth.com

COMPUTER STUFF??

If you are noting that a lot of articles have an Internet reference or link you are right. To get more information than we can put in the Poop Sheet that might not apply to everyone, we are trying to provide a link so the computer literate can get more info.

NOVA DIVISION

The 2007 Division Board or Directors are Commander, **Jerry Geegan**, Vice Cmdr **Jerry Kwiatkowski** Sect / Treasurer **Mike Evers** and **Ed Connor** is the Program Chairman. The Division has an annual lunch in April near the date of the evacuation of Saigon. Members in the DC Northern Virginia, Maryland area need to contact the Post Adjutant if you are not on the list and we will forward your contact information to Mike Evers.

INTERPRETING THE ADDRESS LABEL

The label on this mailing should say 2008 after your name or should have an "L" in it. SAL members and Aux members may or may not have this added. Unless you sent your dues in within 2 weeks of receiving this Poop Sheet it should be accurate. This indicates the last year that we have received your dues. If yours does not have 2008 or an L, then you are not current, and we ask that you send your dues, currently \$40 to the address on the masthead. There are some recipients who have "Hon" and they

are not required to pay dues. **National** sends out the dues notices but the return address is the Post's PO Box. They will be sending out a reminder notice at the first of the calendar year but remember that 2008 started on 1 July 2007 under the fiscal year used by the Legion. We do not send out bills for dues from our office. The Legion drops you from their rolls when you are delinquent for a second year and do not send you reminders or bills at that point. Since we do not send bills out, the excuse of send me a bill, or I didn't receive one is a non-starter. Due to the nature of our Post's membership and their deployments, we do not drop you after the 2 year period but when I meet someone at one of the many group meetings who says "I'm a member" and then shows me a 1999 card, I do have a tough time reminding them that that is an 'annual' card and your membership expired in Jan of 2000. This is the last Poop Sheet that some on this mailing will receive. After this mailing we will begin to purge the mailing list of those former members who are more than 4 years delinquent.

THE ABOVE WAS IMPORTANT AND I HOPE THAT YOU READ IT

This Comment thrown in for those who skip over some of the 'more mundane' items that they do not read.

PUFLS

A lot of the other Veterans Organizations have raised the cost of their Paid-Up-For-Life memberships to reflect higher costs. Although the Legion has not raised the PUFL cost, the dues increase of last year does make them more expensive. The PUFL is not a total cost savings but is regarded as a convenience with a moderate discount. It's the old real estate maxim, 'get a lot when you're young'. Contact the Post to get a quote based on your age and the actuarial table that the Legion uses. We still have the Post Founders PUFL available at a \$1,000 cost that gets you a PUFL paid up at National and a tax letter.

IMPORTANT; PUFL members should keep the Post informed of address changes. National drops you if a mailing such as a magazine comes back as 'undeliverable' and we have to resurrect you on their books. **Kendall Beam**

disappeared this year from the Waco, TX area and National has dropped him since their, and our, mail to him was returned. If anyone knows him, contact the Post with a current address or location.

PEOPLE AND THINGS

We received a copy of an appointment letter from the National Commander that **H Ownby** has the new position as Vice Chairman of the Foreign Relations Council. Since this is a National Office, he should also receive a red fore and aft cap. I guess we will have to figure out how to get a red dragon for the side.

A number of Post members ask how is Janet doing? I had a chance to go to Slidell and visit with **Janet Bond** and the house is restored from Katrina. Janet faced a testing time with the storm so soon after JC's passing but she is coping and maintains contact with her close friends in the Post.

Doug Terrill who is presently stationed as a Fire Fighter in Iraq on his fourth tour accepted a promotion to Lieutenant.

I guess that its no longer 'Root, root, root for the home team' since **Mike Anton**, son of Executive Committee member **Bill Anton**, was drafted as a pitcher by the California Angels. In his first season he led the Arizona League in most strikeouts and fewest walks. He then worked his way up in their farm system to the Pioneer League and pitched a winner in a League Championship game. He already has a ring, maybe we have a chance for World Series tickets in the future.

The Society of Combat Search and Rescue in it's '07 meeting did a presentation on the rescue in Laos of Post member **Bill Buice**. Your Adjutant was there as a former participant with **MGen Larry Taylor** giving the role of Air America in the operation along with the actual AA pilot who went down to hook Bill up.

Member **Gary Deitcher** and his wife bought the Grand Champion School Art at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, providing about a dozen full scholarships for Texas youth. They also bought the Steer Grand Champion at the Harris County Fair. Way to go Gary.

Randy Bridges, is racing limited modified dirt track cars at the South Texas tracks. He has totaled one car so far but replaced it and is back on the track for this season. I hope to get a photo on the web site, maybe we need a CP 1 sticker on the car.

Cadet **Andrew Rockwood**, the grandson of our San Antonio reunion host **C G Meyer** is playing varsity football for USMA (Army to the uninformed). I already know what is in his Christmas stocking.

Our SAL Criminal Defense Lawyer **David M Ryan** donated 50 tickets to the Aeros Hockey game for the active military in the area on Veterans Day.

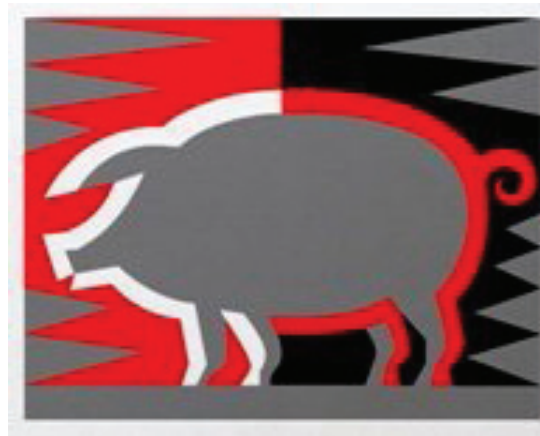
Congratulations to **Liz** and **Jim Roper** on the birth of twin sons, Seth Gabriel and William Wyatt. We do not

have to worry about having members for our SAL Squadron if our members continue to offer new candidates.

I found out why I could not catch **Wendy Liles** the last time I tried to chase her. She ran the Montauk Lighthouse triathlon, 1/2 mile swim, 13 mile bike and a 3 mile run finishing 16th in her age/gender bracket out of 608 competitors. In addition she is presently listed in the index of US Banker magazine as the Head of New Business Development. She put out their Oct. '07 issue about the 25 most powerful women in banking. (If I do catch her maybe I'll ask about a loan.)

IMD 2007 / 2008 OFFICERS

The Division officers for this year are Commander **Ernest Spetter**, 1st VC **Kevin Sterling**, VC-Social **Julia Sterling**, VC-Membership **Jerry Hurych** VC-Fund Raising **Hans Stockenberger**,



Treasurer **Joe Jernigan** and Adjutant **Lee Johnson**. BTW, Lee has written a history of the JMD group and we hope to put a final copy in the Post Archives.

POST EVERLASTING

Please note that the intention is not to provide an Obituary list of each members passing in the Poop Sheet since sometimes the event occurred years past and we were not informed until a friend or relative has informed the Post. We also have members who upon request never have their name mentioned in life or in death. What this section tries to do is inform the membership of the passing to Post Everlasting of members who are generally known to large sections of the Post who probably would not know of their passing

Remember “ When you were born you were crying and everyone around you was smiling. Live your life so that when you die, you’re the one who is smiling and everyone around you is crying.”

John G Anastasakes of Reno a Life Member who was WW II, USAAF and an Airline Captain with CAT and Air America amongst a number of others.

Philip Doyle a 33 year Post member who served with Air America and was a US Army Vietnam Veteran.

Richard ‘Dick’ French did 20 years US Army starting in WW II and retiring as a Sgt 1st Class and then went to a second career in SEA with “Sam Thong Security Services”. Dick later worked in logistics and was a Post member for over 33 years working on several Continents with other Post members in this field.

Maj Richard Hand, WWII, USMC fought in the Okinawa Campaign. He later joined the USAF and retired in 1969. His next career was as an investigator for various law enforcement agencies.

Robert Goingsnake Thundercloud USMC. ‘The Chief’ had four tours in Vietnam and his numerous combat medals are crowned by the Gold

Cluster on the Purple Heart. He got a degree in art after the VN war and became art director for a major manufacturer. Many of our members have seen his unique art in Post Dragon art and ads in commercial magazines. While he was pursuing his art career he also served on the gang unit of the Compton CA Police Dept. He was wounded twice there in the line of duty and was the only officer to be awarded both the Compton PD Medal of Valor and the PD Medal of Honor. Raise a glass to the passing of a true warrior.

For those members familiar with our “7 Continents Club” there is another first that most members are not familiar with. On a classified mission in 1979 as a courier aboard a submarine, **Gale Raymond, Ph.D.** held a China Post meeting with other members beneath the exact North Pole. His many different interests and career moves brought him in contact with many portions of the Post, operationally as well as geographically.

Walter Landi. Walt was with NSA and got a flight on the SR 71 Blackbird. Most of his career was classified but he also had time to be Commander of the Dept. of France and Chef of the Grand du North Carolina after retirement. He was fluent in the Chinese language. It was fun to go with Walt and Arnie Matanky to a restaurant at conventions and see them argue over the correct word usage to a waiter who was 2nd generation and could not understand either of them. It made for some memorable meals that can never be re-ordered.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Tim Brown has assumed the duty as our SAL coordinator and has sent one report for 2008 to National as of this mailing. If you have not sent in your SAL dues per the notice that Tim mailed out, please do so and we can meet our 2008 goal. We have several members in our Divisions who are SAL because they are not eligible for Legion membership at this time and the Division has approved their membership so that they can participate in the local activities. Several SAL members have since qualified for Legion

membership by serving and have either retained dual status or are Post members. SAL members receive a membership card that allows them worldwide access to Legion Posts.

MORE INTERNET INCOMING:

You cannot believe everything that you read in your inbox, but in anticipation of Gen Petraeus's report to Congress I was offered a quote that should be true if it isn't. "It appears we have appointed our worst Generals to command forces, and our most gifted and brilliant to edit newspapers. In fact, I discovered by reading newspapers that these editor / geniuses plainly saw all my strategic defects from the start, yet failed to inform me until it was too late. Accordingly, I am readily willing to yield my command to those obviously superior intellects, and I will, in turn, do my best for the Cause by writing editorials-after the fact" **Robert E Lee**, 1863

AIR AMERICA

This years meeting in Nashville was attended by a large number of Post members and as always I am reminded of the late **Bob Moore** who used to hand out "WGA" stickers for peoples' name tags at the Air Commando meetings. WGA means 'Worlds Greatest Aviator'. In this

group, everyone qualifies. Sr VC's **Heinie Aderholt**, **Emmet Sullivan** and **Mike Kandt**, who is also the Association Secretary attended as did Post VC's **Marius Burke**, **Gary Edwards**, **Joe Lopes** and **Clyde Morehouse** along with **Terry Bruner** from our SAL. **Emily Conde** who is an Auxiliary Life Member attended as did past AA President **Jack '90' Knotts**. **John Wiren** began his term as President of the Association, in all, we had about 43 current Post members in attendance. A full accounting of this and subsequent events is available in the Air America Log and on the AA web site.



**THE
PIG**



I SENT MY DUES, DID YOU GET IT? WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG?

Among my favorite questions. Even though we have moved into the computer age, kicking and screaming, there is still a lot of hand done paperwork to be done in the membership processing. There is a minimum of six to 8 steps to process each member and at the end of the day it averages 25 minutes per member. The Legion did us a favor? when they sent this year dues notices with a "Please pay by 1 August" notation and about 1,100 members sent in their dues immediately. We get the cards and the print out sheets from National and have them matched in about 7 days which put us into mid July. July and August have several meetings that drain the processing time but we are putting in full days to process as quickly as possible. If you do the math, 25 minutes times 1,100 on the initial blast is several full time working months. The office

policy is first in first out with exceptions for special requests and we take a 50% pay cut from the \$ 0 pay every time we foul it up. Have patience, we are getting it done as fast as we can and appreciate the quick response to the dues notice. It is better to have them come in early and overload our processing time than to wait for the January reminder that you are already past due.

GREETINGS OF THE SEASON
AND
A HAPPY AND
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

A. G. "FRED" PLATT
RAVEN 47
CHINA POST #1

