

AVIATION LOGISTICS MARINES NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2015

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LOG NOTES

2015 REUNION 8 THROUGH 10 OCTOBER: WATERFRONT INN AT THE VILLAGES IN FLORIDA

A Great Time was had by all at the 2014 Reunion at the Landmark Resort in Myrtle Beach. My sincere Thanks to all those who took time out of their busy lives to attend. As in the past years, The Resort did a good job of hosting us. We had a nice Welcome Aboard, attended an entertaining Show at the Palace Theatre, and our Banquet was highlighted by a wonderful Guest speaker (**Col. Bill Anderson**). The food was delicious, and the comradery fantastic!

We've held several good Reunions in Myrtle Beach, but the time has come to change the scenery. **Jack Middleton and Jim Payne** volunteered to find us a new Reunion site this year and they have found an absolutely wonderful location! **Jackie and I** visited The Villages on the

18th of March and stayed at the Waterfront Inn, and explored the adjacent Market Square, called Lake Sumter Landing. The Inn and the Square's colorful waterfront setting reminded us of quaint seaside villages that we both remember visiting in our youth. There is FREE live entertainment nightly in the Town Square, and plenty of shops and restaurants to visit, along with bus and boat tours to show you the many interesting places in the vast Villages Development. If you want to explore on your own, you can rent a golf cart for the day (they are really inexpensive), and travel the vast expanse of cart roads that exist throughout the area. I'll have all the details in the next ALM Newsletter along with the Reunion Registration form. But as things progress I'll be putting updates on our ALM Website (avlogmarines.org). So please check out the Website! **Mark your calendars for the 8th thru the 10th of October.** It's the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday before Columbus Day, which allows Sunday and Monday the 11th and 12th for travel days.

My thanks to all those that have taken the time during the last 6 months to communicate with me. I've received about two thousand e-mails, and although all of them were interesting photos, stories, military information etc, and jokes about history, politics and many other subjects, it would take about 50 pages to put them all in this Newsletter. So, as I've tried to do in past, I'm only going to tell you about what I've heard about what folks have done, what they're doing now, or what they plan on doing in the future. So, let's get at it!

First, our congratulations to **MALS-12** for being selected as the **Marine Corps Aviation Association (MCAA), Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron of the Year.** Hopefully, we can find a way for a Squadron Representative to attend our Reunion in October and receive the ALM "You Make Us Proud" Plaque for the Squadron.

Sadly, **Floyd Dufore, Stan Godsil and Mike Di Francesco** are no longer with us. They've made the last muster here on earth, and have reported to their new duty station in Heaven. For as long as I can remember they devoted their time and effort to the ALM, and especially our yearly Reunions and Newsletter mailing sessions. Their Help and Advice will be missed, but their Friendship and Comraderie will always be remembered and cherished. It's Marines like **Floyd, Stan and Mike** that understood the importance of keeping the Legacy of A/C Maintainers, Aviation Ordnance, Supply and Avionics Folks alive through the Aviation Logistics Marines Organization. God Bless Them!

Well, let's get on with telling you about other folks I've heard from or about! **Dr, Andre Boyer** advises his U. of Phoenix teaching job in Asia ends in July and he's looking for a new adventure. Wonder how **Bill Anderson's** (our Guest speaker last year) ISR Strike Jet project is coming along? **Bill Lightsey** is refereeing amateur boxing in NC. **Bill Hamlin** had heart surgery (blocked arteries) last October. Last I heard he is doing Great! **Bob Aitchison** is still helping Marines find jobs in the private sector. **Brad Wilhelm** is providing MH60R, flight, maintenance and weapons training to the Royal Australian Navy. **Major Bridget Bemis** has graduated from the Naval War College, and the Maritime Advanced Warfighting School and is now an operational Planner at III MAF. She hope to be assigned to MALS-36 during her 3 year tour in Okinawa. **Colonel Byron Stebbins** is still the Vice Commandant and Chief of Staff for Cadets (2500 strong) at Texas A&M. Says all is going well, and he is very proud of his 4 Children.

Daughter **Arleigh** is teaching English in Japan, Son **Chris** is a senior at Texas A&M and Commander of Cadets, Son **Travis** has just joined the Corps of Cadets, and Daughter **Elyssa** is doing great as a junior in High School. **Carl Gassaway** attended the funeral services for **LtCol. Dick Miller** out in California and said it was a very nice ceremony. **Carl** says he keeps in contact with **Burt Burchette**, who lives about 10 miles away! **Charlie Davis** (I miss our Coffee Chats) says the AV8 Harrier is going to get another Readiness Review that will be called the HIRR (Harrier Independent Readiness Review). I Hope it goes better than the one they had back in 1997-98 called the HARP? **Charlie Hayes** sent a very interesting video on the history of MCAS Cherry Point. Review it at www.dvidshub.net/video/359674/marine-corps-air-station-cherry-point-history. Has anyone heard from **Chick Reeves**? Last we heard he was cancer free, but still on a lot of medication. Hope all is well! **Chris Joyce** is now living in Bradenton Florida, and doing a lot of fishing. **Ed and Jackie Bacon** were kind enough to stop by last year and say hello. We are also glad to report that **Ed** has gotten a clean bill of health from his bout with Cancer

Got the following stuff from LINKEDIN: **LtCol. Tom Lenhart** is now the F35 Sustainment & Logistics Lead at HQMC (ASL). **LtCol. Andrew J. Thompson** is CO of MALS-13. **LtCol. Kolter Miller** is CO of MALS-12. **Sam Brown** is a DOD Program Manager for Acquisition and Logistics. **Tim Junette** is Lead Associate at Booz Allen Hamilton. **SgtMaj. Bill Harvey** is the SgtMaj. of the Marine and Family Division at HQMC. **Don Davis** (Major ret) is doing a fantastic job at DRS Technologies. **Dan Gillan** is the CEO of the Albany GA. YMCA, **Don Fincham** is a Logistics Management Specialist at NAVAIR COMFRC N42. **Dan Sullivan** is a Research Scientist at Pacific Northwest Laboratories. **John Polley** is a Logistic Manager at the Naval Expeditionary Combat Command. **Shelby Dubois** is a Program Manager at Volt Workforce Solutions. **Len Bernat** is the Purchasing Manager for Jackson County Georgia. **Sam Flores** has decided to step down as President of PKL Services, and take on the job as Chairman of the Company Board of Directors. **Col. John Rutherford**, recently retired from ComMarForPac ALD, is now the President of PKL Services. **Jamie Bates** is the General Manager for Valley Mountain Transportation. Regrettably, I know little about how to use LINKEDIN or FACEBOOK, but I'm determined to learn very soon. However, I believe **A.J Manuel** still has an Aviation Logistics site on LINKEDIN and I hope all the info above is useful to those that use it.

Cliff Chen had some exploratory surgery done in October and reported that nothing wrong was found. Hope all is still OK. **Jackie and I** had a great visit with **Col. (ret)."Chub" Madden and wife Jean** last month at their winter home in Winter Haven Florida. **"Chub"** was the Wing Supply Officer at 1stMAW way back in 1980. (His 1st and only tour with aviation). **Chris Mendez** is recovering from some really serious medical problems. While he and wife **Cindy** were on vacation in October his variceal veins in his esophagus burst and he was in ICU at a Pittsburgh hospital for a week. At the same time **Cindy** needed surgery to replace her mitral valve and repair her tricuspid. Last word was they are back in the DC area and on the road to complete recovery, Great!!! **Randy Virgil's** two sons are both students at NC State University and both are doing very well. No wonder Randy is always hunting and fishing! How else can he afford to eat? Thanks to **Ed Creamer** for correcting my Spelling of "Pop A Smoke". Read **Ed's**

interesting articles at [popasmoke.com/fast eddie creamer](http://popasmoke.com/fast-eddie-creamer). Did **Gary Lucas** visit Muscle Car City in Punta Gorda, Florida? Almost got to visit **George and Margaret McLaughlin** in Sarasota Florida, but **George** had to go into the hospital to get his pacemaker replaced and do about 10 days of rehab. Hope all is OK now? Did **H. Wayne Olive** contact **Jackie Ray**? **Irv Muston** said he had a long drive back from the Reunion. I promise the one at The Villages will be much shorter! I hope **Jack and Martha McHugh** are back to their old Happy and Healthy selves. **Mary Lou Demmond** has been spending a lot of happy times visiting her Daughters **Wendy and Mary Ruth**, in Texas and Kentucky. **Karen Hartman** is enjoying life in Arizona. She's thinking about taking up golf again. Will that give her time for all her other hobbies? **Joe Chisholm** is proud to announce that his Grand Daughter recently married "Glee" TV star **Matt Morrison** in Hawaii. **Joe Featherston** has sent me hundreds of very interesting stories and photos about everything you can imagine. Thanks **Joe**! Get on **Joe's** e-mail list for some really neat things! Ask him how the Ch53E "Sea Dragon" got its name. **John and Karen Karp**s are still traveling the States, and the Globe, having fun! **John Buckley** says he likes the Newsletter! Well, that's one vote! Thanks **John**! Is **LtCol. John DiGovanni** still the AVO at ComMarForPac? **John Marawski** said he was in the first 3M training class back in 1964. **Col. Scott Hallstrom** is now the ALD at ComMarForPac. I heard **John Glover** is still enjoying biscuits and red gravy at Hellen's Kitchen in Jax, NC. After several tries and a lot of effort on the part of **Rick Owen**, the ALM Plaque finally was received by MALS-36 (the problem was wrong Zip Code). **LtCol. Kevin Doherty** CO of MALS-36 said the plaque was presented to the Squadron by the CG of the 1stMAW, **BGen. Rudder**. Additionally, we received a very nice note from the CO of MAG-36, **Col Brain Cavanaugh**, thanking us for recognizing the excellent work the Marines of MALS-36 have done in the past, and continues to do in the present. Now that's what I call class! **Rick and Joanne Owen** celebrated the marriage of their Daughter **Ashley** on the 21st of March in Raleigh. Congratulations to the newlyweds and to the proud parents! **Kevin McCutcheon** is working on a big project that will really help the ALM. See the Editors Comments for more details. **Laurin Eck** is working hard on a West Coast A6E Squadron Reunion for 2017. **Lee Holloway** says retirement is all about hunting, fishing and spending time with the family. **Linda Forman** says she is thinking seriously about retirement and starting her own business. Had a nice telephone chat with **Randy Bell**. **Col. Clarence (Bubba) Harper** is the Director of Warfighting Integration at the JTF Program Office. **Scott Loch** is an Aerospace Consultant at the Highland Group! **LtCol. Ray LeGall** is the Program Manager for MALSP II. **Major Liz Perez** USMCR said she liked the new ALM Website and provided some helpful suggestions. Our Thanks to **Luke Bolenbarker** for sending Sympathy cards to the families who have lost loved ones. We hope to see **Maria-Elena Augustin** at our next Reunion? **LtCol. Martin Starta** has left HQMC (ASL) and is now the CO of CNATT at MCAS New River. **Marty and Tilley Zigovsky** celebrated the MC Birthday last year in Blowing Rock, NC. **Mike Duggan** has been giving me updates on **Ray Redford** who had heart by-pass (1) surgery and a valve replaced on 20 March. **Ray** also spent a few extra days in ICU because of a touch of Pneumonia, but at last report he was on the road to getting better. Please say a little prayer that **Ray** will have a quick and complete recovery. **Joe Featherston** asked that we say some prayers for **John Cauble**. **John's** been suffering with lung cancer for the last decade and has recently undergone several surgeries that have left him very weak. However, **Joe**

says **John** is improving and our prayers will certainly add to his fast recovery. Tennis players **Mike and Diane Welter** played in the local Marine Corps Birthday Tournament held at their local tennis club in Florida. **Mike** didn't say who won? Last September, **Arline and John Mott** proudly participated in the promotion of their son to Major in the USMC! **Nick Russell** has been appointed to the Marine Corps Mustang Association Board of Directors. Hope "**The Caveman**" **Norm Root** makes the Reunion this year! **Pat Anthes** said he knows his Dad, **Fred and Floyd DuFore** had a great reunion in Heaven. **Paul Cerkez** is doing a fantastic job developing the ALM Website (avlogmarines.org). He said he would like any pictures of ALM folks and especially any pictures taken at our Reunions. Our Thanks to **Paul** for his efforts! **Pete Lynch** had a little health set back a few months ago, but he says he is well on the way to being his old self! **Pete** is the keeper of our ALM Roster and if you have changes please contact **Pete** at: plynchusmc@comcast.net. Is **Rocky Donahue** still working hard as a military rights activist? **Roger Laton** has been hunting Nilgai in South Texas. What's a Nilgai? It's a form of India antelope, I think! **Ron Dillon** posts a Blog called "**Ron's Rants**"! If interested in reading it, contact **Ron** at: msgt1969@bellsouth.net. I'm told that retired small Texas town mayor **Bill Wolf** is now residing just outside of Ft. Worth. **Steve Potter and wife** celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary this year. Congrats!! **Tim LaPlaunt** attended the MC Ball in Las Vegas. Wow, that sounds like a winner!! **Tom Mix** has written some very interesting stories about his experiences while in the Corps. I wish I had the room to publish some of his and **Ed Creamers** stories, they are both very good writers! Did **Tom Zymanek** get the Roster? **Walt Lehner** has retired from SAIC and is thinking about what he is going to do next. **Will Wilson** gave us the following updates on a few folks: **Col Jeff Bolduc** is now the 2ndMAW ALD. **John Decker** is no longer with CACI. He is now a civil servant at MarForPac ALD. **LtCol Ray LeGall** is at NavAir on the EPUK Program (?). **Col. Bill Mackey** is now at PP&O at HQMC. We thank **Will** for keeping us in the loop. **Will** has been at 2ndMAW ALD as a Marine, and a Civilian for about 32 years! That has got to be a record! But the best thing is, the 2ndMAW has had a Great Guy helping them out!

I've gotten e-mails from a lot of other folks that have sent holiday greetings, condolences for deceased friends, etc., or just forwarded an interesting piece of information. I hate to think I'm ignoring anybody so here's a list of who I've heard from that I haven't mentioned above: **Bones Rathbone, Al Brandt, Bo Honeycut, Irene Bridges, Bob Rackham, Bob Timmons, Bob Wittenburg, Carmine Borrelli, Chet Drinkwine, Curtis Bare, David Fitzgerald, Don Herpy, Doug Elliott, Ed Green, Frank Kinlaw, Frank Visconi, Gene Tessler, George Cook, Gil Diaz, Ed Emanuel, Jamie Bates, Jerry Thomas, Jim Burton, Jim Gilley, Joe Creaghe, Joe Chisholm, Joe Driver, John Bell, John Hannaford, Kay Boulter, Liz Bergman, Ken White, Laura Sampsel, Leonard Pietrowski, Col. Joe Atkins, Mike Cooper, Mike Kennedy, Mike Stitcher, Pat Garrett, Pat Curd, Art Fuentes, Rich Gough, Rich Holihan, Bob Moore, Rusty Gann, Sammy Bibb, Shari Hodson, Steve Hickey, Tal LeMay, Ted Grubke, Tim Murphy, Charlie Carr, Burt Bruchette, Francis McCarthy, Jerrell Townsend.**

I hope I haven't left anyone out? However, there may be a few folks that I've mentioned twice, Sorry! The two fingers I use to do this are rapidly wearing out. So it's time to Quit! Please read the EDITORS COMMENTS for more info on the future of this Newsletter! Semper Fi!!!!

EDITORS COMMENTS

If you received this Newsletter via the U.S.Postal Service (By Mail), and you have an **E-MAIL ADDRESS** that we can send future Newsletters to **PLEASE PROVIDE IT. This will be the last Newsletter sent by mail.** If you don't have an e-mail address, and still wish to receive the Newsletter, Please let us know by calling 321-610-8474 or writing a note to: PO Box 293 Havelock NC 28532. If necessary, we will **copy** a limited number of Newsletters to send out. Our bulk mail permit, printing and mailing costs for the last couple of years have been nearly \$1000 each time we publish a Newsletter. With our limited Administrative funds, printing and mailing has become prohibited!

We have established a WEBSITE (avlogmarines.org) and we will be publishing information and announcements on it as necessary. We also will be putting things of interest on it, so PLEASE check it regularly.

Kevin McCutcheon is working with the Marine Corps Aviation Association to establish an associated Aviation Logistics Squadron. If (When) Kevin is successful, we will initially activate a Squadron on the East Coast (the Wright Squadron) and subsequently, if enough interest is generated, a second Squadron on the West Coast (the Curtis Squadron). Stay Tuned! Check the WEBSITE for updates!

All of the above initiatives are being taken to bring The Aviation Logistics Marines Organization into the modern day world and enable us to communicate more effectively. It is extremely important that the Legacy of Aviation Logistics be kept alive! We are encouraging all who are Aviation Logisticians (Past or Present) to assist in this effort! Semper Fidelis!

Don Davis

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IN MEMORIUM

**IT IS WITH SINCERE SYMPATHY FOR THEIR LOVED ONES
THAT WE ANNOUNCE THE FOLLWING DEATHS**

LtCol. Mike Murphy February 2015

Maj. Johnnie D. Burtcher March 2014

GySgt. Mike Di Francesco March 2015

1stLt. Bill Moody July 2013

CWO-4 Fowler Williams Date Unknown

LtCol. Earl Lillestrand January 2013

Tom Evans October 2013

Capt. Floyd DuFore February 2015

LtCol. Ed Sutton December 2014

Capt. Stan Godsil February 2015

LtCol. Bud Barritt May 2014

Capt. Mike Hudson December 2014

Carol Oehlers (wife of Maj. Roy Oehlers) October 2014

Father in Heaven we thank you because you made us in your image and gave us the gifts of mind, body and spirit. As we honor the memory of our loved ones, make us more aware that you are the one from whom comes every perfect gift, including the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Amen.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Thanks for the Support

We would like to thank the following folks for sending us their generous donations for the Pete Freeman Scholarship Foundation and ALM Administrative costs.

Jim Garner, Bill Dempsey, Joe Chisholm, Chet Drinkwine, Bill Hamlin, George Smith, Laura Sampsel, Bart Consford, Mike Di Francesco, and all the folks who attend the Reunion and drop a few (and sometimes many) bucks in the Contribution Jar! Thanks Again!

Being a **NO MEMBERSHIP DUES ORGANIZATION**, your contributions, and attendance at our yearly Reunions, are what allow us to continue providing The Freeman Scholarships, pay bulk mailing and post office box fees, publish and mail the Newsletter, and pay extraneous Reunion costs, etc.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Unfortunately, we did not assemble a Scholarship Awards Committee last year. But we definitely will have one this year, and we strongly encourage anyone that have Spouses, Children or Grandchildren that are interested in applying to contact us at greyegl@ec.rr.com or call 321-610-8474 for an application. We will award as many \$500 scholarships as possible.

Please send all donations to: PO Box 293 Havelock, NC 28532 and indicate **Scholarship or Admin** on your check

MARK YOUR CALENDAR ALM REUNION 8-10 OCT 15

WATERFRONT INN THE VILLAGES IN FLORIDA

