



The 2/4 Association

Sea Horse

The Second Battalion, Fourth Marines: “Second to None—The Magnificent Bastards”

March 2008

2006–2008 2/4 Association Officers and Chairs

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Sergeant at Arms	TBD.

The 2/4 Association Sea Horse is published quarterly, and is the official newsletter of the Second Battalion, Fourth Marines Association, Inc.

President's Message

To All Members and Friends of the 2/4 Association:

This may be the last time that I get to write to you as your Association President. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all that have made the last 4 years a memorable experience. If I tried to name each member that has given of their time and patience to make sure that I got through I know that I would miss someone, so I will just say Semper Fi and Thank You all. To be able to say that I was chosen by such fine Marines to represent them and our Association is truly humbling. I have heard from the nominations committee and I know that they have a great line-up of candidates to lead us into the future. To these members I wish all the best.

Have you ever sat down and thought about those kids you grew up with? Or that cute person that lived next door? Where are they now? What are they doing? Are they rich and famous or just getting by? Well, sometime before 1988, a small group of Marines that "grew up" together under the most trying circumstances a person can experience, had those thoughts. But instead of just wondering, they did something about it and in 1988 the first reunion of what would soon be the 2/4 Association was held. 21 years later we are still meeting annually and sharing our lives with one another. Over those years we have visited many cities; some with military installations, some without a military presence. We have lost some wonderful friends that none of us will forget; we have built a memorial to ALL Marines but especially to those who served with the 2ndBn, 4th Marine Regiment, United States Marine Corps. For each of us there is a different reason why we attend these reunions. For me, the reasons are many. I love being with those men that meant so much to me during my youth. I enjoy meeting your families and joking about how "robust" we have all become. But most of all I love having that feeling again that no matter where I am there will be a Marine watching my back. They say that you can serve in the Navy, or the Army or golf in the Air Force; but you are always a Marine.

Thank you Marines for all you have given to me and I am looking forward to seeing you all again in New Mexico in August.

Semper Fidelis
Jack

News From The CO....

2/4 is settling in here in Okinawa, and I want to update you on our schedule and activities ... We have over 1100 Marines assigned to the Battalion after picking-up our artillery, light armored reconnaissance, Amtrak, and engineer attachments. Our last elements joined us about a week ago, and we're scheduled to get on ship in a few days. I expect that we'll be away from Okinawa for about 50 days. We'll conduct some shipboard integration training and work out procedures for operations with the Navy and our shipboard aviation assets, then transit to exercises in the Philippines and Indonesia where we'll train with their militaries. In late-March, I expect that we'll send about 400 Marines to Camp Fuji on mainland Japan for training while the remainder of us stay on Okinawa and focus on jungle training. In late-April, we head to Thailand for some training there that includes militaries from across the region. All in all, it looks like an extremely busy schedule - exactly what we need to keep the clock moving quickly.

I'd like to thank each of you again for your generosity and support to the Battalion. It is impossible to overstate how much it means to the Marines and Sailors to feel the warm embrace of San Clemente, the 2/4 Association, and the 1st Marine Division Association.

Semper Fidelis,
Christian

C. F. Wortman
LtCol, USMC
CO, 2/4
760-763-3693
wortmancf@1mardiv.usmc.mil

2008 Reunion

REUNION 2008 UPDATE;

The 2008 2/4 reunion will take place 20Aug-24Aug at the Angel Fire Resort, Angel Fire, NM. A registration form is printed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Angel Fire is approximately 2 1/2 hours North West of Albuquerque, NM. Members should fly into Albuquerque and rent a car and drive north on I-25 through Santa Fe and then northwest to Taos/Angel Fire. There is also a shuttle available that runs 4 times daily. The number to reserve the shuttle is printed on the registration form.

To those members that I spoke to earlier and said that the reunion was the last week in August, I am sorry and I hope that this doesn't cause any problems. We were trying to stay away from the holiday weekend to be sure that there would be no problems with travel plans. I did not realize that the last week in August was also Labor Day weekend.

Angel Fire is approximately 27 miles north of Taos, NM that is known for its arts and historical significance. Taos is where the legendary Kit Carson spent a great deal of time and there are many points of interest and museums. Taos and Angel Fire are also world famous ski resorts.

The Vietnam Memorial in Angel Fire was built by a family to commemorate the death of a Marine Lt. killed in 1968 in a province not far from DaiDo. One of our members, Vic Taylor, who was with 2/4 at DaiDo, attended the basic school at Quantico with this Marine and visited his family after returning from Vietnam. Vic will be with us at this reunion and has agreed to be our guest speaker and to give us some insight into this amazing and loving family and the monument that they built. This memorial, which is now part of the NM State Park system, was actually the first Vietnam memorial in the country.

If you read the registration form, you will notice that this year the reunion "officially" ends on Saturday with a banquet/change of command ceremony on Friday evening. This change will allow members to explore northern NM and/or to visit the narrow gauge railroad where member Brooks Wilson has spent many summers as a volunteer. This railroad begins in NM and travels through beautiful NM mountain ranges and concludes in southern Colorado. It is an all day trip and includes a real cowboy railroad lunch. Brooks wanted us to try to make this part of the reunion but, because of timing and the lack of transportation, we were not able to do this. If any member wishes to do this, please e-mail me and I will forward your request to Brooks. It IS a very worthwhile and well spent day, and the adventure of a lifetime.

Our Association is 20 years old this year and this year marks our 21st annual reunion. I know that I have enjoyed all the many cities that Peggy and I have visited during our reunions and I look forward to many more gatherings with all of you. We both hope to see you all in New Mexico.

If anyone needs a registration form or other information concerning the reunion, please feel free to contact me via e-mail or by phone.

Semper Fidelis
Jack and Peggy

**2nd Battalion, 4th Marines Association
2008 Reunion
20August 2008 - 24August, 2008
Angel Fire, New Mexico**

Registration Form

Registration Fee:

(Includes event transportation as needed* and hospitality)

Number registering _____ @ \$25.pp

Total:

Day One: Wednesday, 20August 2008 - Check-in

Day-time/Evening – on your own

Day Two: Thursday, 21August 2008 – Check-in

Day-time - on your own

Evening - Association Welcome back picnic

Number attending _____ @ \$35 per person

Day Three: Friday, 22August 2008 – Check-in

Annual business meeting/brunch 9AM-11:30AM

All members and spouses welcome ***

Number attending _____ @ \$20.pp

Afternoon – on your own

Evening – Banquet/Change of Command ceremony

Number attending _____ @ \$45.pp

Day Four: Saturday, 23August 2008

Association Sunrise Memorial Service/Breakfast

Number attending _____ @ \$20.pp

Rest of time – on your own**

Optional: Lunch

Number attending _____ @ \$25.pp

Reunion Polo Shirts: Men's/Women's style @ \$30.00

_____ Sm

_____ Med

_____ Lg

_____ XLg

_____ 2XL

_____ 3XL

Member's names, address and telephone number:

E-mail:

Please complete this registration form and mail it to the Association Treasurer, **NOT LATER THAN 1 July 2008.**

Make all checks/money orders payable to the 2/4 Association and mail with registration form to:

2/4 Association

PO Box 6511

Concord, NC 28027

****Angel Fire Resort****
Reservations call 800/633-7463

* Because the hotel only offers smaller van-type bus service, it would be appreciated if those with private vehicles use them whenever possible. (Memorial is only 3 miles from hotel)

** The reunion this year will “officially” end on Saturday after the memorial service to allow our members to explore the villages of Taos, Santa Fe or Albuquerque or as Association member Brooks Wilson has suggested take a side trip to Chama, NM to travel the railroad system where he spends his summers. This railroad system offers a day trip through the mountains of northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. A lunch stop is included and the cost is about \$75, but well worth the cost and time to get there. Unfortunately, there is no bus service from Angel Fire, so those with vehicles can drive and maybe give those without transportation a ride.

*** Peggy has been thinking of taking all those who might be interested for an afternoon in Taos. This will probably be on Friday morning during the same time period as the business meeting and allow those interested to shop, visit the art galleries, or get their hair and nails done for the banquet that evening. Maybe from 9:30- 2:30, which will give you all enough time to “take 10” when you get back and still be ready for the evenings festivities. Please indicate your interest when registering. The number of registrants interested will determine the cost and schedule for this trip.

To get to this year’s reunion:

Fly to Albuquerque, NM and rent a car and drive north on I-25 through Santa Fe and then follow the signs to Taos and Angel Fire (about 2-½ hour drive)

OR Take the airport shuttle to Angel Fire, which leaves 4 times daily and costs about \$60 one-way, or \$115.00 Round-trip. To make a reservation for the shuttle call: 1-505-751-1201.

2008 REUNION SIDE TRIP

*** RIDE THE CUMBRES & TOLTEC SCENIC RAILROAD ***

The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad (C&TS) has its origins from the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad (D&RGW) narrow gauge system which operated in Utah, Colorado and New Mexico 1880-1968. It has always used coal-fired steam engines. The D&RGW hauled cattle, sheep, timber, mineral ores and petroleum during its lifetime. Riding this train was also a grand way to see Southern Colorado and Northwestern New Mexico. In 1968, the railroad shut down due to lack of business and the fact that narrow gauge railroads had no future. In 1970, the Denver & Rio Grande Western began pulling up track, but two entities were to remain: the privately owned Durango & Silverton Railroad between those two towns in Colorado, and the C&TS jointly owned by the states of Colorado and New Mexico. The C&TS operates daily between Chama, NM, and Antonito, CO, from Memorial Day weekend through the middle of October. It offers a 64-mile trip through some of the most beautiful country in the United States with the added bonus of passing over Cumbres Pass at 10,012 feet elevation. Truly a wonderfully scenic trip! The railroad boasts of being the longest and highest tourist railroad in North America.

There are several ways to ride, but 2/4 Association members attending the 2008 reunion in Angel Fire are offered the opportunity to ride as a group on Trip #6 from Chama to Antonito since it offers the best railroading experience as the engine works hard up the four percent grade to Cumbres Pass. Our train will depart Sunday, 24 August 2008, at 1000 (10:00 a.m. civilian). Upon arriving in Antonito, a coach will return us to Chama at approximately 1745 (5:45 p.m. civilian). Lunch is provided halfway at Osier, CO, and the meal cost is part of the trip. There is also a great gift shop at Osier.

Additional information on the railroad may be found on the Internet at www.cumbrestoltec.com or by phone at (888) 286-2737.

If enough members sign on for this great trip, Brooks will ask the railroad to provide a private car(s) for their use only. The president of the C&TS RR is Frank Turner, retired from the CSX Railroad and former Marine lieutenant, and solicitous of our needs.

The cost of the trip is presently being worked out though it is expected to be about \$75 and perhaps a bit more if we charter cars for the 2/4 Association. Further information will be provided in the next newsletter. You may also call Brooks at (559) 298-3094 or e-mail him at jarhead10@earthlink.net.

Trip planning at this point is flexible, but it might be prudent to go ahead and make your billeting reservations as soon as possible. Please see the information provided below for billeting and meals.

Election Time

The following names are candidates for election to the offices indicated, for the next two years. Those attending this years Reunion will be asked to vote on the slate of Officers and members of the Board of Directors.

Immediate past President.....Jack Petrowsky (not included in the election)

Officers:

PresidentPeter Schlesiona

Vice President.....Randy Kington

Treasurer.....Jim Swann (incumbent)

Secretary.....Phil Skaggs (incumbent)

Board of Directors:

Jim Mazy (former President and Immediate Past President)

Richard Morris

Jim Williams

Jay Brown

Kevin Conry

Sergeant at Arms:

Pat Burns

All others Association positions remain as listed in the current issue of the Sea Horse.

Respectfully submitted,

Fritz Warren and Dave Jones

Co-Chairmen, 2/4 Nominating Committee

Monument

"THE FIRST PHASE OF THE 2/4 MONUMENT FEATURING FIVE WATERHOUSE RIFLEMEN CAN NOW BE VIEWED BY THE PUBLIC IN SEMPER FIDELIS MEMORIAL PARK NEXT TO THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS. THE TRAIL LEADING TO THE BEAUTIFUL BLACK GRANITE MONUMENT IS WHEEL CHAIR ACCESSIBLE. WE HAVE RECEIVED MANY FAVORABLE COMMENTS ON THIS MEMORIAL. YOU HAVE TO SEE OUR MONUMENT TO TRULY APPRECIATE ITS BEAUTY. THE TRAIL, ITSELF, AND SURROUNDING LANDSCAPING FORM THE PERFECT SETTING FOR THE MEMORIAL WHICH IS LOCATED ONLY FORTY PACES (Fritz Warren size paces) FROM THE FUTURE SITE OF THE WOODLAND CHAPEL.

"PRESENTLY, THE PANELS HONORING CORPSMEN AND CHAPLAINS ARE BEING CREATED BY THE MODLICH MONUMENT COMPANY. THESE PANELS WILL BE ADDED AS SOON AS WE RAISE THE MONEY (CURRENTLY WE NEED ABOUT \$18,000.00 TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT). SEE PAGE 22 OF THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF THE LEATHERNECK MAGAZINE FOR MORE DETAILS.

"WE NEED YOUR HELP TO FINISH THE MISSION. EVEN IF YOU HAVE ALREADY GIVEN PLEASE SEND YOUR MOST GENEROUS DONATION TO:

2D BATTALION, 4TH MARINES ASSOCIATION 008

The 2/4 Association *Sea Horse*

P.O. BOX 6087
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401-0087"

Semper Fi,
Bill Weise

To get an idea of the size of our monument, see attached photo. Lon Lawson is 6', 5" tall.

Lon Lawson, a member of 2/4 in 1967-68, is shown standing next to the 2/4 monument on the hillside overlooking the USMC Museum at Quantico.

Lon retired from the USMC at Quantico in 1987 after serving for 20 years. He resides in Stafford, VA. His wife Sue and he have attended a number of the 2/4 reunions.

Lon served 2 tours in Vietnam; 6 months on a Mediterranean tour; Camp Lejeune; Code DPO, Headquarters Marine Corps; Quantico for AWS and Nuclear Weapons Employment School; 6 years at Camp Pendleton, CA; 3 years as the Commanding Officer of the Marine Barracks, Naples, Italy; 4 years at Firepower, Quantico, VA.

Lon retired as a Lt. Colonel.

Currently, he works as the Manager of the Dumfries, VA office of MTC Technologies.

Lon Lawson.jpg



In the Spotlight~



(Pictured with Billy Armer from left to right are Teresa Schalm, Ray Del Rio & Bill Weise)

1st Sgt. Bill Armer, USMC Ret.

Sadly, I must report that 1stSgt. Bill Armer has been diagnosed with melanoma in his lower intestines and he also has bone cancer. He is presently taking chemo treatments and the success of that remains unknown since the doctors have not told him much, nor has he asked much of them. Captain/WO-4 Jim Mulloy, USMC Ret. goes to visit Billy almost every day, if he is up to a visit as he tends to wear out fast with the chemo treatments.

Jim lives nearby, in fact mere blocks away, and so looks in on both Billy Armer, as well as on our Captain Jack, USN Ret. in nearby Carlsbad. Like anyone on chemo, Billy has his good and bad days, and occasionally likes to take a short ride to avoid "cabin fever," but even short walks tend to wear him out. Since he has no computer, emails can be sent to him through Jim Mulloy at jmulloy6@cox.net, or cards or letters can be sent to Billy at 2846 Cedar St. Oceanside, California 92056. Bill does not want phone calls at this time, however, should he change his mind then that Jim Mulloy will provide a number.

Many of you probably met Billy Armer at the Special Services (MWR) office, as he worked there for some 25 years after he retired from the Marine Corps. Likewise, some of you might have met him when he was active duty, and so his mini- bio is provided below to allow for your recall.

Bill Armer was born in St. Louis, Missouri on May 14th, 1934. He was raised on a farm in Vienna, Mo., and after graduating from high school he joined the Marine Corps in 1951, at the age of 17.

After graduating from Boot Camp in San Diego, he was posted to Marine Barracks, Bremerton Washington. In July 1952, he was transferred to Korea as a BARMAN with 1st Battalion, 1st Marines. Within 6 months he was promoted to PFC, then to Corporal, and then to Sergeant all before his 19th birthday. He went from fire team leader to squad leader, and then to Platoon Sergeant all within that same time period.

His assignments between the Korea and Vietnam Wars were: 1st Marines, 2nd Marines, 3rd Marines, 4th Marines, and 5th Marines, as well as a tour at Marine Barracks Sasebo, Japan and a tour on the drill field in San Diego.

During the Vietnam War his assignments included serving in both the 1st and 3rd Reconnaissance Battalions. His last assignment in RVN was as the Company Gunny for G Company, 2nd Battalion, 4TH Marines.

After 20 years in the Corps, with practically all of it in the Infantry, and after being promoted earlier to 1st Sgt., he was transferred to the Fleet Marine Corps, Reserves.

His personal decorations include: Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Navy Achievement Medal with V device, 2 Purple Heart Medals while serving in Korea, and 2 Purple Heart Medals while serving in Vietnam, as well as the Combat Action Ribbon. His many campaign awards include: Presidential Unit Citation with 4 stars, Navy Unit Citation with 2 stars, plus 14 campaign ribbons.

Keith Nolan~

Keith Nolan who is the Author of several books to include "The Magnificent Bastards" is currently battling cancer.

Reports are that he is doing as well as can be expected and goes through chemotherapy periodically. His spirits, however, are high and he's not letting this get him down. He is very thankful to all of his 2/4 friends that got in touch, to pass along their best wishes and messages of support. He asks only that we continue to keep our fingers crossed and the prayers coming.

The 2/4 Association *Sea Horse*

Membership Application, Second Battalion, Fourth Marines Association

Name: _____

Home

Phone :(____) _____

Address: _____

Work phone: (____) _____

E-mail address: _____

Current rank if active duty or highest rank if discharged or retired: _____

Personal awards and decorations: _____

Period(s) of service (total): From _____ To _____; From _____ To _____; From _____ To _____

Period(s) with 2/4: From _____ To _____; From _____ To _____; From _____ To _____

Place(s) served with 2/4: _____

Unit(s) assigned to while with 2/4: Company ____ Platoon ____; Company ____ Platoon ____; Company ____ Platoon ____

Other military affiliations: _____

Married ____ Single ____ Widowed ____ Spouse or significant other's name: _____

Dues Information

Life membership can be paid in up to three installments over a period not to exceed nine consecutive months. Dues guidelines are the same for Regular Membership and Associate Membership. Please indicate below the type of membership you desire.

Membership Class:	Regular Membership: ____ Associate Membership: ____
Life Member	<p>____ 54 and under: \$175(Lump sum or two payments of \$58.34 and one payment of \$58.32)</p> <p>____ 55 to 64: \$125(Lump sum or two payments of \$41.67 and one payment of \$41.66)</p> <p>____ 65 and over: \$75(Lump sum or three payments of \$25.00 each)</p>
Annual Member	____ \$20

It is the applicant's responsibility to schedule payments, since the association will not send invoices. If the applicant fails to complete payment of life membership dues as set forth above, amounts paid and received towards life membership will be converted and credited as annual membership dues.

Please mail checks (payable to "2/4 Association") and application to:

James Swann
P.O. Box 6511
Concord, N.C. 28027