

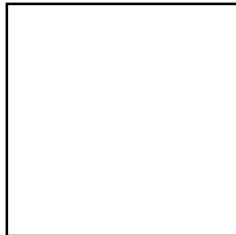
Semper Fi News

Los Angeles County Chapter, Inc
1st Marine Division Assn.
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GOD BLESS AMERICA

Semper Fi News

Los Angeles County Chapter, Incorporated
1st Marine Division Association

April 2008

Dale Turner, Editor



SEMPER FIDELIS

Chapter Life Member Deploys



Staff Sgt.. Charles Vattimo, HML/A--167 tool room supervisor, a Levittown, Pa., native, says his final goodbyes to his four--year--old son, Chuckie, as he prepares to leave for a seven--month deployment to Al Asad, Iraq.. His wife Sandy Feickert Vattimo watches, with pride, her husband and sons exchange. Both Chuck and Sandy are Life Members of the FMDA and LA County Chapter.

Approximately 35 Marines from Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron 167 advance party deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Feb. 29 2008.

The squadron's mission is to provide offensive air support, utility support, armed escort and airborne supporting arms coordination during naval expeditionary operations or joint and combined operations.

The squadron, which returned from its last deployment 11 months ago, is scheduled to be deployed to Al Asad, Iraq, for seven months, said Lance Cpl. Daniel Siniscalchi, HML/A-167 administrative clerk.

This will be Chucks 4th combat tour. The dedication of our Marines is unmatched. This is so evident by the fact Chuck volunteered for the advance party.

We wish him well and a safe return. As for Sandy she will have her hands full for the next seven to eight months. However, I have it from a good source that she will have a helping hand . Sandy and their three children will be spending time with GrandPa and GrandMa Feickert (Paul & Jan) in Idaho. They plan to help with Grandma Jan's garden. Paul plans to supervise between taking long naps.

Paul and Jan Feickerts two children, Doug and Sandy, both served in the Marine Corps. Doug as an MP and Sandy with the Air Wing where she met Chuck . All of them are Bodfish members. Paul is a Bodfish Past President. Bodfish Forever!

Reported by DT

See "Follow Up" on Page 6

Chapter Welcomes New Chapter Members Corpsman Up!!

HM2 Charles Gore
FMF Corpsman
A-1-5, Korea

Sponsored by Paul Blum

HM3 Jim Mann
FMF Corpsman
W-3-11, Vietnam

Sponsored by Tom Whetzel

The Chapter Mourns the Passing of Chapter Life Member and Super Grunt Club Member Everett Partridge

E-2-7 Korea

Everett passed away on November 1, 2007 at his home in Monkton, Maryland.

The Chapter extends our condolences to his wife, Mary, and to all of the Partridge Family.

Semper Fi Marine!
You will be missed.

Los Angeles County Chapter Inc- 1st Marine Division Association Membership Application/Renewal Form

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Membership in the First Marine Division Association, Incorporated, is open to anyone who at anytime **honorably served in**, is **now serving**, was **attached to**, or **in support** of the First Marine Division. Dues are as noted below, circle choice of membership and mail application and check to: **First Marine Division Assn-Los Angeles , LA Chapter, 5429 Hazeltine Av. Sherman Oaks CA 91401** (Make check payable to: FMDA-LA)

Dues

National Annual Membership—\$30.00
Chapter Annual Membership - \$15.00
Total \$45.00

National Life Membership-\$1000.00
Chapter Life Membership- \$100.00
Total \$1100.00

Attention! Active Duty Marines: National Membership is **\$20.00**. Your LA Chapter Membership is **FREE**

Name: _____ Rank: _____ DOB: _____ Last four digits of SSN: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State/Zip+4): _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Spouses Name _____ Email: _____

Unit(s) Served With: _____ Dates of Service: _____ Campaigns: _____

Employer Info. (Optional): _____ WWII, Korea, Vietnam ,Kuwait, Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq, Cold War, Peacetime Etc.

Applicant's Signature/Date: _____ Sponsor: _____

April 2008 Issue

IF THIS IS A RENEWAL, CHECK HERE

ACTIVE DUTY CHECK HERE

Revised 8/05/07

Features

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Visit the Chapter Web Site: www.1stmarinedivisionassociationla.org

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GRUNT CLUB MEMBERS

The following members are major contributors to the
Annual LA Chapter / Alpine Village Fundraiser.

Grunt Club Members
1 Oct 2007 to 30 Sept 2008

American Legion 507
***LA CHAPTER**
***Mellon Bank**
***Sentinel Investigations**
***Jim Anderson**
Anonymous 1
***Mary Anthony**
In memory of
Tony Anthony
John Arthur
Peter Barnett
Bob Barron
***Michael Bernstein**
David Bigbie
***Paul Blum**
Bob Bobst
***Dick Cesaroni**
Gary Condry
***Coleman Coughlin**
***Jack Coughlin**
***Pat Coulter**
***Howard Crowell**
***Frank DeFina**
Luis De La Cruz
Dave Delgado &
Sara Carlton
In honor of Marine
Michael Ludvik
Ed Demrest
Don Farquar
Max Felser
***Bob George**
Gene Greene
***Jim Hackett**
George Hatzidakis
George Hoffstetter
***Jasper Hood**
***Art Jackson**
***Floyd Johnson**
***Jerry Johnson**
Norm Kellems
***Tom Kelly**
***Paul Kim**
***Gary Kipp**
Kathy Lander
In memory of
Richard Lander
***J.J. Leonard**

***Tone Lovell**
In memory
of Bob Lovell
***Bill Maker**
Dave Marshall
***Bob McKee**
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***Bruce Noonan**
Pat O'Flaherty
Richard Oldenburg
***Everett Partridge**
Raul's Pharmacy
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In memory of
Chuck Ratcliff
***Ernie Riesen**
***Don Reid**
***Marlene "Sam" Reiss**
***Jeff Roberts**
***Dick Rogge**
Tom Rohrback
***Leo Rothove**
***Rusty Russell**
***Richard Sams**
Sandy Sandoval
Gene Schultz
***Francis Shea**
In memory of
Phil Shea
Bill Shedlov
***Chuck Singer**
***Joe Smith**
***Maury Starr**
***Zack Taylor**
Don Tennenbaum
***Bill Turner**
Charles E. Turner
***Dale Turner**
***Ken Wagner**
***Myrl Wallace**
***George Waselinko**
***Tom & Diane Whetzel**
***Al Wright**
Terry Young
****Joe Martinez & Donna Kay**
In memory of
CWO4 James Carroll
MSgt Robert Heine
Capt. "Pete" Flournoy
**** One Hundred dollars donated**
for each Marine.

(41)

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For All, who may be having a bad day...

It could always be worse.





Dale Turner, Editor

Editors Corner 2008 Let's Support The 2008 Nashville Reunion Journal

Last year the Western Region along with Bodfish Chapter members accounted for approximately 73% of all the Ads placed in the Philadelphia Reunion Journal (47 of 65 Ads).

Needless to say the Bodfish Chapter sent a clear message on just how united this great chapter is and its dedication to the Association.

This year the reunion will be held in Nashville, TN and once again we have an opportunity to lead the way by having a repeat of last year.

The cost for a Business card Ad is just \$40.00. If you placed an Ad last year with the Bodfish Logo on it you may use the same one (I have them on file). If you would like me to create an Ad for you just let me know. There is no charge for me to do this for you and I'll ensure that the Bodfish is displayed proudly on the Ad.

You may ask, "Why should I support the Reunion Journal?" "What's in it for me?" "Where does the money for the ad go?"

Let me address those concerns. By supporting the Reunion Journal you support the Association. By placing an Ad with the Bodfish, proudly displayed, it demonstrates the strength of the Bodfish Chapter and reflects the unity of its members. As for the money, it goes to the FMDA General Fund and helps off set the cost of publishing the Journal and helps to make the Association strong.

Even if you don't plan on going to the National Reunion in Nashville you will be sent a copy of the Journal. You will find it to be informative, creative and quite frankly I enjoy reading the Ads and looking for all the Bodfish Logos.

Both the LA & Bodfish Chapters have already reserved their full page Ad for this years Reunion Journal.

Here is an opportunity for you to honor your old Regiment, a fellow Marine or Corpsman or just get your name in print. Last year Bill Maker and Carol Maker Johnson honored John Loomis with a half page Ad. Jimmy Greene honored Phil Shea with an Ad for his old Irish friend and Bodfisher. SgtMaj Jess Wise honored all Marines and FMF Corpsman who served in the Division and proudly announced he is a "*Proud Member of the Tar Spring Posse*".

Even our Bodfish Bevy of Beauties took out an Ad in the last journal and will renew their Ad again this year.

Again the cost is just 40.00 for a Business Card Ad and it's tax deductible.

I sincerely hope you will join me in supporting this years Reunion Journal by taking out an Ad.

Should you have any questions regarding placing an Ad please feel free to call upon me.


I know we can have another great showing by the Western Region and particularly the Bodfish Chapter in the Nashville 2008 Reunion Journal.

Below is a sample of a Business Card size Ad placed by a proud Bodfish Chapter member.


Mick has informed me that he will once again be supporting this years Reunion Journal with the below Ad. Thanks Mick!!

Until next month, Happy Trails to you.

Semper Fi and Bodfish Forever. **Dale**
dalefmda@earthlink.net (661-253-1981)





**Saluting All Those Who
Served With The 7th Regiment**



Mick Olson
Wisconsin Chapter President

And

**Proud Member of the
Bodfish Chapter**

Fox 2-7

Follow Up "Life Member Deploys"

Continued from Page 1

Hello everyone.

Chuck has arrived safely at Al Asad. He will be sharing a room with someone else. They have internet access in their rooms, but for a pretty penny. He has access to his gruntzz@hotmail.com address, but his work email is charles.vattimo@aa.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil His physical address is the same as before:

SSgt Charles Vattimo, USMC
HMLA-167
Unit 77021
FPO-AE 09509-7021

He is in the base paper holding Chuckie (scan down when the site comes up).

<http://www.newriver.usmc.mil/PDF/ROTOVUE/106-5Mar081.pdf>

The sqdn also has a website so you can keep track of anything that may be going on. There is also a toll-free number you can call which has a recorded message about how things are going. It should be changed every couple of weeks.

<http://www.2maw.usmc.mil/FamilyReadiness/MAG26/hmla167KVN.asp>

Love you all! Sandy

FMDA-LA Calendar of Events

Corpsman Up! and Chapter Memorial Service (This will be a combined event)

Saturday, June 7, 2008
Rancho San Antonio Boys Town of the West
21000 Plummer Street, Chatsworth, CA
West of DeSoto Ave.

Price and time to be determined

A Farewell to Tar Spring Ranch

This past February I attended the last of the Bodfish campouts. Although my wife and I were relative new comers, this being only our third time to Bodfish we were saddened to find out that it would be the last time we would be able to stand on that hallowed ground for it had become an event, a tradition. After our first campout we looked forward to the next one, planning what to bring, what to wear and so forth.

When I first joined the L.A. Chapter I had asked what Bodfish was and I was told that it was something best experienced. What I got out of it was that it was a huge family reunion, a Marine family reunion. And like most family reunions you look forward to seeing all the wonderfully individualistic characters who made up the family. This Marine family was no different. There was uncle Ben Holibonich whose induction of the Bodfishers was one of the funniest routines I have ever heard. Uncle Bobby Barron, the Camp Gunny, who like most gruff uncles had a bark which was much worse than his bite, with a heart so big he choked up Sunday morning as he addressed us for the last time. And of course uncle Dale Turner and uncle Bill Maker always running around, working behind the scenes making sure everything ran right and that everyone had a good time.

And above it all, Gramps. John Loomis, who stood over it all like the patriarch of the family. It was at his home that we all gathered and it was his joy to have us all there. Sadly Ben and John are no longer with us. They have earned their rest, having received their final orders.

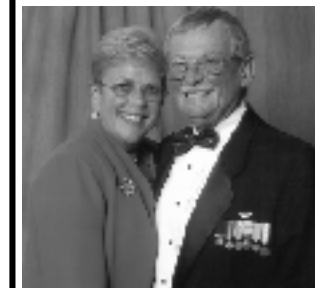
And now, for whatever reason, the campout is no more. Like most families the time had come to regulate the memories of the campouts to the albums and scrapbooks of our lives. To look back with fondness and a smile to those times at Christies Last Chance Saloon or the times at the Opera House Annex holding the Bodfish meetings ("All in favor say Aye, all opposed say Aye, the Ayes have it!) or the meals at the Opera House.

Like most families we will slowly drift apart, seeing each other on occasion and always remembering our get togethers. And like most families Bodfish will remain in one form or another, the reunions moved to Camp Pendleton to coincide with the Division's Anniversary. And like most families the best of times are those in the past.

What I will remember is getting up on a cool crisp morning listening to Bob call us all to colors, seeing the Horse Marines come around the corner, Max with his jar of cherries, Ben inducting the new members, the passing of the bone and listening to all of the great sea stories. But the thing I think I'll miss the most is simply being in the presence of such wonderful people. No man could ask for better than to belong to this family. Bodfish Forever!

Luis M. De La Cruz, Chapter Secretary
FMF Corpsman, 3d AAV Bn.

Support the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, 1st Marine Division



Molly and Tom Kelly

On 4 March, Molly and I traveled to Camp Horno to meet with the new command of the 1/4.

There has been a total change in personnel. The new Commanding Officer is Lt Col Eric "Chris" Hastings; Major Todd Backhus –

Executive Officer; SgtMajor Terry L. Jones and Family Readiness Officer – S/Sgt Greg Rogers.

Various activities were discussed. The 1/4 will be deploying again in the Fall and we will be working around their training schedule.

Some of the activities discussed were active duty Marines who will be attending the Memorial/Corpsman Up BBQ on June 7th, a field mess possibly in July, attendance at our Birthday Luncheon, "Thank a Marine" at Thanksgiving and attendance at our Christmas Luncheon.

Our support activities for the families will continue as in previous years. In addition to handmade baby blankets, we may possibly add a family picnic at Camp Pendleton in the summer. At the Memorial/Corpsman Up BBQ on June 7th we will be having a Diaper/Baby Wipe Drive. We will also start collecting the handmade baby blankets.

Our scheduled family support activities are:

- **June – Memorial Service/Corpsmen Recognition – Diaper/Baby Wipe Drive**
- **Jul/Aug – To Be Determined**
- **Sept – Del Mar Campout – Diaper/Baby Wipe Drive**
- **Nov/Dec – Holiday Commissary Gift Certificates**
- **Ongoing – Manufacturer Coupons & Baby Blankets**

Thank you for all your support in keeping with the spirit of the Corps.

Semper Fidelis,
Tom Kelly
t.takellype@verizon.net

A Message From Our Chapter President, Bill Turner (billturner26.2@att.net)



I can't believe it is already April!, Spring is here, daylight savings time starts, WOW! I think the world's best magic trick is making time disappear.

I want to thank all of you who attended our annual meeting, Camp Pendleton 1st Division anniversary, and the Bodfish campout, plus those that took the time to visit our chapter website. I am excited about all the progress we are making in our chapter. New members, saving time and monies by looking at our programs, website, here a special thanks to Dale Turner for putting it all together and getting it up and running.

The website is being viewed by other chapters. I think we set the bar high enough for a challenge to other chapters. I want to thank all chapter members for making me look good for the past 14 months. Finally continue to watch the newsletter and website for changes upcoming, all designed to enhance your membership value and move our chapter forward.

Thoughts: Hard learned lessons are those remembered longest. Wisdom is knowledge in action.



Jack Coughlin with new Bodfish President Coleman Coughlin

BODFISH SKINNYOR JUST PLAIN BS

Well I guess by now we have all faced up to the reality that the Bodfish Campout at Tar Spring Ranch is now a thing of the past. It was a great run while it lasted and will provide many of us with many memories over the coming years. I have been making the trip up to Arroyo Grande for twenty three years and I am sure I am still considered a "boot" by some of the more senior participants.

Our hats are off to the entire Loomis Family for the many years of their hospitality and generous treatment of all of the Bodfish campers.

As you all know the term "Bodfish Forever" still remains true and the get-together will now take place along with the First Marine Division Anniversary starting January 26 through the 30th. It will be held at the Guesthouse Inn, located in Oceanside. There will be many events held along with the Division and we will also have time for some of our Bodfish activities. You can make your reservations at the hotel by calling (760) 722-1904.

I would like to mention that this is the Headquarters Hotel for the Anniversary and will also have the Bodfish Hospitality Room. Get your reservation in soon.

Also, I just wanted to let you all know that I am getting along a lot better with our new Bodfish President. I thought it was going to be a pretty rocky road, but I really believe he has mellowed out and realizes we have to work together to make all of the work out. So we are coming along, in fact, I almost feel like I have known him all of my life.

That's all folks.
Jack Coughlin, BFPP
Bodfish Forever
jackfmda@adelphia.net

Semper Fi Marines and FMF Corpsman,

Well, what a great year this has started out to be. The annual business meeting at Alpine Village was great, a little wet on account of the rain, and great food as always. Next day was the 67th Anniversary of the 1st Marine Division, down at Camp Pendleton. Staying at the Guesthouse Inn was also a plus, what a great Bodfish Hospitality room. Thanks Squidley for all your hard work.

A "Special Meeting" of the Board of Directors was called by the National President, Frank Lindstrom. The meeting was held on Camp Pendleton in the "Iron Mike Room", South Mesa Staff Club on 29 January 2008.

Executive Director, Col. Len Hayes, gave a briefing on the overall state of the FMDA. Very impressive I might add. Also fund-raising and membership was discussed.

A new organization named the "1st Marine Division Foundation" has been created and was introduced at the meeting by Joe Ryan. Below are listed the key points:

- **It is a 501c3 Corporation with tax ID# 26-1582465**
- **The Board of Directors are currently forming,**
- **A trust will be formed under the Foundation.**
- **This Foundation will "Contract Services" with the FMDA and provide a funding source for the General Fund.**
- **Joe Ryan will resign as the FMDA Fund-raising Chairman due to a conflict of interest.**

Joe Ryan will be working on a \$1000.00 grant to support FMDA office expenses. He will also be looking into acquiring new computers and software for the office.

The presentation stirred up a hornets nest among some Directors. One of the concerns is the potential competition for donated funds between the two organizations. This should make a good topic of discussion and debate at the next two Director meetings in Nashville.

If you have an opinion let it be known so that I may reflect your views at the Directors meeting.

Bodfish Forever! Now, I could talk all day about the Bodfish campout at Tar Spring Ranch, and as you know, it was the last one, and if you did not make it, you missed out on a great time.

A special thanks to Lindy Loomis, the Bodfish Bevy of Beauties and all those who worked so hard to make this last Bodfish Campout a huge success.

Please don't forget to read you're your Semper Fi newsletter for the up coming events, and think about joining the Blue Diamond Team, and support the 1st Marine Division Association.

In April I will be in Nashville Tn. as you Chapter Rep. What an honor it is to serve you as your L.A. County Chapter Rep. at the Directors meetings.

I will be looking forward to seeing you all at the next event the Corpsman Up BBQ, and Memorial Service on June 7.

Until Then, Semper FI and Bodfish Forever!

Tom Whetzel, Chapter VP
LA Chapter Representative.
twhetzel@socal.rr.com



Tom Whetzel



Dick Cesaroni

Greetings All,

My wife, Rose and I attended both the Chapter Annual Business meeting at Alpine Village and spent two days at the Division Anniversary in Oceanside where I also attended the Special Meeting of the FMDA Directors.

During the Chapter Business meeting I provided an update on this years Del Mar Beach campout and The Day at the Races. If you were not at the meeting then you will just have to wait for further information.

At the special meeting of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Initially I attended the meeting as a Director-at-Large to the Executive Committee. This appointment came a few of months ago by the president of the FMDA. But early on in the meeting I found that I had been reduced back to the position of plain old Director-at-Large for the FMDA. I had a few fleeting hours of power, importance and excitement. But that's the way it is in micro politics, easy come, easy go.

Anyway, stay tuned for a new twist that is coming up on the ridgeline of the FMDA and that is a new fund raising group that is being formed by five Life Members of the FMDA (Tom Vetter, Joe Ryan, John Mehan, Don Reid and Mike Sisk). It is called the 1st. Marine Division Foundation and their motto is "Just Marines helping Marines."

Already there have been comments flying back and forth (both positive & negative) about the intent of this new organization. They are still going through the incorporation and IRS approval process, which will take a few months. So if you start hearing talk about it please reserve your comments until the process is complete and they have an opportunity to present their "Goals & Mission" statement to the FMDA and it's members.

These five men have always been honorable, loyal and dedicated members of the FMDA and have always worked very hard to maintain the integrity and success of the FMDA. So please do not rush to judge their intentions or the organization (1st. Marine Division Foundation) until they can complete their organizations paperwork and present it to the membership in it's entirety. As a side note it is strange that the negative comments come "after" the idea of the foundation was presented to the Executive Committee instead of a direct face-to-face inquiry with the founders of the new organization at the time it was presented.

Also at the meeting a presentation was by the newly appointed Blue Diamond Team Committee. (Don Reid, Chairman, Jack Coughlin and Dale Turner)

Dale Turner presented a very interesting overview of the "The BLUE DIAMOND TEAM." The Blue Diamond Team membership Chart and program will appear in the next issue of the OBN.

It sounds like a very worthwhile tool for supporting your FMDA. It is a spin off of the L.A. County Chapter's Grunt/Super Grunt ClubI would like to tell you what else went on in that meeting but I fear a court martial. Remember, "Stupid mistakes are made by others- we only make "unavoidable errors".

Until next month, stay healthy.
Semper Fi

Dick Cesaroni – Chapter Legal Officer /FMDA Director-at-Large
dick_rose@sbcglobal.net