



THE FWCVHPA NEWSLETTER

May 2000

FORT WOLTERS CHAPTER - VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

VOL.5, NO. 4

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http://www.fwcvhpa.org		

President's Report

Welcome to all the new members and loyal newsletter followers.

The March meeting at Risky's Steak House in "Old Cow Town" was a huge success, due in part because of the efforts of attorney Jim Lane to bring our little group a real taste of the history of old Fort Worth, and what being a real cow hand is all about. Sure is a lot different than being a "real helicopter pilot."

If you live outside the DFW Metromess, and would like to have a quarterly meeting in your area, get those cards, letters and e-mails rolling in. If you have any suggestions for the Chapter, such as, a community service project or something you think the Chapter should be involved with, give us your input ☺

Bobby Bateman

Vice President's Report

I would like to start off by saying that it was great to see so many of you at the March meeting at Risky's Steakhouse. We had a great turn out, good food and unsurpassable friendship. Let's make the June meeting even better.

Let's face it; if we do not support our chapter we will not have a chapter. Come on out and enjoy the company of your fellow aviators and friends.

On March 28th I set up the booth for the VHPA and Chapter at the Fort Worth Convention Center for the Army Aviation Association of America and then went on home to outrun the tornado. Because of the tornado the Wednesday's activities were cancelled and the AAAA opened on Thursday the 30th.

Several members (and one spouse) showed up to help man the booth. I would like to thank Bettie Lou Jordan, Dan Brunger, Bill Murphy, Barry McHenry, Ron Paddock, and anyone else that I have left out.

We sold several chapter and museum items and signed up thirteen new or renewal members for the VHPA. In addition got to meet several old friends from times gone by plus many of the newer generation of aviators.

They had a great display of aircraft and aviation related items. They had a Russian Hind there also. It is quite a rugged machine. Many of the vendors also had good give-a-

ways. Next time it is in Fort Worth you might want to volunteer for a shift in the booth, it is well worth it.

John Grow

Niss Publishing



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Photos and first person accounts enhance this chronological history of the helicopter units, aircraft, and crews that were the backbone of the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. The story like it's never been told, written by those who were there.

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David Freeman

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Lee Westbrook

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ISBN 0-944372-06-6
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Secretary's Report

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

The *Executive Council* meeting was quite animated, with a gallon jug of "Old Sweathog" setting in the middle of the table. The voices were hushed, barely above a whisper. Hearing anything was as hard as the Arkansas method of steaming open an envelope with a bucket of ice water. There was a lot of "looking over the shoulder," which to one observer suggested that perhaps a raid was about to take place. There was a Sheriff's Deputy in the room, but turns out he was the guest speaker. Calls for investigation by an *Independent Counsel* have so far gone unanswered.

Film at Eleven. (Editor)

General Meeting The quarterly meeting of the Fort Wolters Chapter of VHPA was held on Saturday, March 4, 2000, at Risky's Barbeque in the Fort Worth Stockyards. As the 40 attendees were beginning their delicious lunch, the meeting was called to order by President, Bobby Bateman, at 11:45 am. Bobby solicited volunteers for setting up and manning the Chapter's booth at the Quad A convention at the Fort Worth Convention Center March 29 through April 1. The booth will be set up on March 28.

Lee Westbrook volunteered to serve as newsletter editor.

[Editor's Note: No I didn't! I just trying to find out which way it was to the men's room!]

The next quarterly Chapter meeting will be held on Saturday, **June 10, at Risky's Barbeque in the Stockyards.** Hank Scheiblel, who serves as the Veterans Service Officer for Denton County, will be the speaker. The September quarterly meeting will be held in Mineral Wells at the American Legion.

The Museum Committee will set up a booth at the Fort Worth Air Show, which will be held at Carswell on May 13 and 14.

Bobby announced that funeral services for Cleve Clark would be held on Monday, March 6, in Mineral Wells at the Baptist Church at 2 pm. Memorials can be given to Jim Irwin or Charles Bogle. Bobby also mentioned that Dick Stroud had recently been hospitalized.

Charles Bogle gave an update on the activities of the Museum Committee. A new sign which reads "Future Home of National Vietnam War Museum" has been erected at the building site. The Museum brochure has been revised. Jim Messinger passed out Kroger Share cards. At each Kroger shopping experience, have the cashier scan the Share card. The purchase amount is recorded for the Museum. Each quarter, Kroger refunds a percentage of these purchases to the Museum. Winn Dixie has indicated interest in issuing Share cards as well.

Jay Elliott introduced one of the guests, Jim Lane, an attorney and Fort Worth city councilman. After a few words, Jim introduced, Ben Tahmahkera, a retired Tarrant County Sheriff's Department Captain. He is a descendant of Quanna Parker, a Comanche Indian Chief, and represents the Native Americans in the Fort Worth area. Ben indicated that during the Chisholm Trail Round-Up in Fort Worth, June 11-13, they would be honoring Vietnam veterans and invited the Chapter to attend the festivities.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by **Nancy Brazell** (Substitute Secretary)
[Editor Note: *And better looking than Barnes, too!*]

Treasurer Report

AS of January 31, 2000.

Prior Balance(9/11/99)	\$4585.33
Income	\$1108.50
Expenses	\$967.04
Balance	\$4726.79

Jim Messinger

[For those of you who are "check book challenged" like me my "Six" explained it this way: "The Treasurers report hasn't changed all that much: We had some money, got some more, spent a little, but still have more than we did to begin with, and if we don't spend any more we will still have more than we did when we started." Makes perfect sense to me. Editor]

e-mail ADDRESSES

If you're in the e-mail database, you will get a quarterly update of the database (about the same time as the newsletter). If you don't receive the database, it means the e-mail address we have on file is incorrect or not working. Send e-mail additions and changes to **Jerry Barnes** <baron67@airmail.net>.

PARAPHERNALIA COMMITTEE

Chapter paraphernalia can be purchased by contacting **Bob-bateman** (940-325-8427 or bbateman@wf.net). Patches (\$5), an audio tape of Vietnam-era music (\$10), T-shirts -- available in two colors (\$15), caps (\$15), museum bricks (\$100). The patch graphic is in the newsletter masthead.

Members: Bobby Bateman, Charles Holley, Ron Paddock, Bob Springer (Chair)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Remember, dues are due on or before January 1, and to make it easy, you can pay by credit card. Just go to <http://www.fwcvhpa.org> and follow the link for buying paraphernalia, paying dues, etc. Ten dollars isn't much to spend for the good fellowship, newsletters, and the chance to be involved with the museum project. And don't forget, you can always pay dues ahead, say for 5 years (\$50) or ten years (\$100) or even more, as a hedge against inflation (well, we might go up, you never can tell).

If you don't have a bumper sticker, get one! Mine's a simple one, a small Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with the silhouette of a Huey on it, but it attracted enough attention that a fellow VHPA'er, who had just moved to the area, followed me home the other day and I got to sell him on the benefits of joining the Chapter. Now if I could just get the e-mail address he gave me to stop bouncing my messages. ☺

David Freeman

Members: Tom Forbes, David Freeman (Chair), Virgil Laughlin, Gerry Morgan, and Jack Suttle.

<http://www.fwcvhpa.org>

You can now join the *Chapter*, pay your dues, buy *Chapter* paraphernalia, join "Friends of the Museum", and buy *Museum* bricks using MasterCard or Visa via our secure server connection.

The *Fort Wolters Chapter Web Site* continues to draw visitors. Each month a number of inquiries are made about *Fort Wolters* and its history, many going back to **WW II days**. Whenever possible, the webmaster tries to find someone in the *Mineral Wells* area that may have the information being sought. These inquiries re-emphasize the importance of capturing and displaying the history of *Fort Wolters* through the *National Vietnam War Museum* and through both the *Chapter* and the *Museum Websites*.

David Freeman

Members: Jerry Barnes, Del Belanger, Ed Faught, David Freeman (Chair), Charles Holley, Ira Will McComic, James Rankin, Lee Westbrook

DUES WARNING

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As previously reported the Chapter has gone to a January 1 to December 31 membership year. **Your expiration date is now shown on the mailing label of this newsletter. If it still shows 1/1/99 (or prior), your dues have expired and this will be your last newsletter until dues are current.** Memberships are still a measly \$10 a year (multiple years accepted) and should be sent to: FWC-VHPA PO Box 461 Mineral Wells, TX 76068-0461 (or online by credit card at <http://www.fwcvhpa.org>).

If you have questions about your membership or mail address, contact me at baron67@airmail.net or 3305 Laurel Lane Plano, TX 75074.

I'm getting seriouser and seriouser about this!!!

Jerry Barnes

Major Cleve Clark, USA (Ret)

January 16, 1935 --- March 2, 2000

MINERAL WELLS, TEXAS -- Cleveland Andrew "Cleve" Clark, 65, a career soldier, pilot and business manager, died Thursday, March 2, 2000, at a Fort Worth hospital.

Cleveland Clark was born Jan. 16, 1935, in North Carolina. He married Betty Galope May 27, 1990.

He joined the Army Infantry in 1955 and attended Airborne and Ranger schools. He rose to the rank of sergeant and served in the 82nd Airborne Division. In 1961, he attended Officers Candidate School and was commissioned a second lieutenant,

Clark volunteered for and was assigned to Flight School in 1962 and graduated in class 63-3 as an Army Rotary Wing Aviator in 1963. In 1964, Clark was assigned to the 119th Aviation Company in Pleiku, RSV, where he served as a aviator and flight section leader in the Second Flight Platoon in late 1964 and during 1965. After returning to the States, he served as an Instructor Pilot at Fort Wolters, the Army Primary Helicopter Training Center and School. In 1967, he was assigned to a second tour of duty in Vietnam where he served as an aviator and as a Scout Platoon Commander in Co. B of the 227 Battalion of the First Cavalry Division at An Khe and later at other locations near the North Vietnamese and Laos borders in I Corps.

Clark was awarded numerous decorations and medals for his activities during two tours of duty in Vietnam,

After returning to the States, Clark was again assigned to Fort Wolters where he was responsible for the management of training aids in the Department of Academics. Receiving steady promotions during his military career, he retired in 1975 with the Field Grade Officer rank of Major.

Clark was what is referred to with a great deal of respect in the military, a Mustang Officer, one who worked his way up through the ranks and possessed the wisdom of that journey.

After retirement, Clark settled in San Antonio, where he opened a small restaurant and bar but found he missed aviation activity. As a result he moved to Alaska where he returned to flying helicopters. In late 1976, he returned to Mineral Wells and went to work for Edo-Aire/Mitchell as a manager of OEM Manufacturing and Delivery Scheduling. In mid-1979, he joined the first management team at S-Tee Corporation as Manager of Manufacturing where he designed and set up the manufacturing operation which commenced in January 1980. Clark managed manufacturing at S-Tec 19 years until his retirement in 1998 as director of manufacturing. After retirement he continued his work for the company in developing preparations for new product introductions to the manufacturing process.

Clark was a life member of the American Legion Post 75 and of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2399. He was a founding member of the National Vietnam War Museum committee

and a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Museum.

He was a life member of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association and a member of the Fort Wolters Chapter of that organization, where he contributed significant time and effort to organizational and community activities.

Survivors: Wife, Bretenia "Betty" G. Clark of Mineral Wells; sons, Andrew Clark of El Paso; daughters, Barbara Clark of Paradise; stepson, Bob Davis of Rochester, N.H.; stepdaughter, Evelyn Smith of Mineral Wells; mother-in-law, Juliana Galope of Mineral Wells; brother, Jimmy Clark of North Carolina; and three grandchildren.

MEETINGS COMMITTEE

The next quarterly Chapter meeting will be held on Saturday, **June 10, at Risky's Barbeque in the Stockyards**. Hank Scheibel, who serves as the Veterans Service Officer for Denton County, will be the speaker. The food is good, and the price is pretty good too. Maybe Barton will show up. It could happen!

The September quarterly meeting will be held in Mineral Wells at the American Legion.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

Gerald Brazell

Members:), Vance Barton, Bobby Bateman, Gerald Brazell (Chair).

Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry

Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry (1st Cav. Div.) is having a big Unit reunion during the VHPA annual reunion in Washington, D.C., beginning with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Wall the morning of July 1; banquet that evening. T Shirts and everything :-). For more information contact Randy Zahn at :

ZAHNCLAN@compuserve.com or Nate Shaffer at nates@w-coil.com

Walker Jones

walkerjones@earthlink.net

Notes for Reunion 2000

Museum and Chapter are staffing separate booths in Washington D.C. We need all the volunteers we can get to help out. These are great fund-raising and publicity tools. The Chapter and Museum made several hundred dollars last year in Nashville. Contact Jim Messinger if you can help. We will take 2 hour blocks of time.

Stag Second Saturday (S₂S)

Keith Wysong and I went to lunch one day in December 1999. During that luncheon, we wondered if others in the chapter would enjoy meeting for lunch STAG; no dogs, kids, or wives. We had the first one on January 2000 and it has become an event each month for about a dozen guys.

The place is called "Harrigans" and it is located in SW Arlington on I-20 between Green Oaks and Little Road. We meet for lunch at 1130 hrs.

All we accomplish is to eat, drink an adult beverage or two and tell each other war stories...not bad.

The May and June dates are in conflict with chapter functions, so the STAG SECOND SATURDAY will return July 8, 2000.

Jay Elliott