



"Sound Off"

Website = <http://armm.us>

Vol 16, No 2

The Association of Retired Military Musicians

June 2007



The Lead Cornett

Latest Reunion Information Included

Plans are moving forward on the hospitality front. We'd like to try one new thing (at least I think it hasn't been done before) and bring back an idea from a previous reunion.

The new thing is to offer bus tours to popular destinations in the Tidewater area. A few of you have asked about visiting a variety of attractions around here so I asked Phillips Bus Tours to provide a list of tours they typically offer. That list and the prices of each offering are at the end of my section of this newsletter.

To make this work ARMM must pay a nonrefundable deposit of \$100 to cover the company's administrative costs in setting up the tours. In return, Phillips Tours will take all reservations and payments directly from you. They must have a minimum of 35 people to make a tour available. Unfilled seats will be sold on the day of the tour with a surcharge of \$3 for last minute participants. Phillips tours asks for our tentative numbers six weeks in advance and final counts three weeks before the reunion.

When you get this newsletter please let me know via email (preferably) or telephone if you are interested in taking any of the tours on the list. Also

let us know if there are destinations not on the list you might be interested in visiting.

The old thing we'd like to bring back is a BBQ starting late Friday afternoon. This would give us another way to socialize with military musicians in this area as well as whatever military band performs for us Friday evening. It would also be a nice way to end a day of bus touring or looking around the area on your own. I'm working with the Lake Wright now to figure out availability of grills, foods, etc. If you like the idea and have any other thoughts on how to make the BBQ fun please let me know.

I have not yet confirmed a military band for Friday evening but, I am working on getting a band from the Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard to perform for us. Hopefully, this might increase interest in ARMM among retirees from those services.

Here's the list of the bus tours that can be offered immediately after the deposit is paid. Please do let me know if these are of interest to you. If you call, please understand you'll probably get my voice mail. I don't spend much time around the phone for a variety of reasons. Email is a more reliable way of getting in touch with me and it will help me record your preferences more accurately. But, I will get the voice messages and count your thoughts among others I may get.

EMAIL:
scornett2@cox.net

PHONE:
(757) 941-5102

BBQ



PHILLIPS Tours & Destination Management Services *"Your Hampton Roads Experience"*

Program Overview for Retired Military Musicians 2007 Reunion

Prepared on 4/23/2007

Sleep Inn at the Lake Wright, estimated number of guests 150-175 people

Thursday, September 13, 2007, 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

NORFOLK BOTANICAL GARDENS

- Board the motor coach with your tour guide to visit the Norfolk Botanical Garden, which dates back to 1938, and is considered a premiere example of horticultural excellence. The Garden represents 155-acres of colorful landscapes, unusual flowers, mature forests and seasonal plantings and features one of the largest collections of azaleas, camellias, roses and rhododendrons on the East Coast.
- Enjoy a relaxing trackless train ride, and spend time browsing in the Garden Gift Shop which specializes in unique home and garden items and hard to find gardening books.

SPIRIT OF NORFOLK LUNCH CRUISE

- Board the magnificent Spirit of Norfolk for a two-hour luncheon cruise. Feast on a sumptuous buffet and enjoy the informative narration as you cruise through the Hampton Roads Harbor. View many fascinating sights along the waterfront, including mighty aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines at the Norfolk Naval Base, Nauticus and the Battleship Wisconsin and Old Fort Norfolk. Enjoy dancing and a show following lunch. The ship has two climate-controlled lower decks and an open-air upper deck.

Package Price: \$65.00 per person, inclusive. Includes lunch.

Friday, September 14, 2007, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

RIDING NORFOLK TOUR

- Board the motor coach with your guide to learn about Norfolk's colorful 325 year history as you ride through the lovely historic district and restored areas. View the stately homes along the Hague, old St. Paul's Church, the Moses Myers House, the Chrysler Museum of Art, the historic Freemason District, Nauticus - The National Maritime Center, the Battleship Wisconsin and the restored waterfront area, as well as many other points of interest.

MACARTHUR MEMORIAL

- Enjoy a visit to the MacArthur Memorial for a glimpse into our country's history. During your visit you will view the outstanding collection of artifacts, documents, photographs and memorabilia housed in Norfolk's historic city hall which trace the life and times of five-star General Douglas MacArthur. You will also have the opportunity to view the 25 minute film which chronicles General MacArthur's life. The General and Mrs. MacArthur are entombed in the rotunda of the memorial. Nine separate galleries arranged in two levels circle the rotunda and tell the story of General MacArthur and the millions of American men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces from the Civil War through the Korean War. A gift shop with unique memorabilia is located on the premises.

NAVAL STATION NORFOLK TOUR

- Next, you will tour the Norfolk Naval Base, which is part of Naval Station Norfolk - the largest naval installation in the world. Home port to 78 ships, ranging in size from aircraft carriers to submarines, 26 aircraft squadrons comprised of 133 aircraft and headquarters of the Atlantic Fleet, this naval complex occupies over 8,000 acres of land and is home to more than 100,000 military personnel. Your tour will take you past the 14 piers and through the Naval Air Station. You will also drive by the historic homes built for the 1907 Jamestown Exposition on "Admiral's Row" which now house the flag officers.

LUNCH INCLUDED ON BASE

- Lunch will be included on the base in one of the clubs.

SHIP VISIT

- Enjoy touring an active duty Navy ship (**PENDING APPROVAL**)

Package Price: \$42.00 per person, inclusive. Lunch included.

Saturday, September 15, 2007, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG OVERVIEW

- Depart via motor coach with your tour guide for the charming town of Williamsburg. Your guide will provide interesting and informative narration during your ride about the historic Virginia Peninsula and the Hampton Roads area.
- Once you arrive in Williamsburg, you will step back into the 18th century while strolling through the streets of Colonial Williamsburg. Your historical interpreter will guide you through the past and the events that helped shape America's history as you enjoy a one and one half hour leisurely walking tour through the restored area of this lovely colonial capital city (Actual distance is approximately 4-5 blocks).
- Following your overview tour, enjoy free time to shop and browse in the many unique specialty shops in Merchants Square. High quality apparel, gifts, jewelry, unusual quilts, beautiful furniture and holiday decorations are but a few of the offerings found in this quaint, picturesque shopping area.
- Enjoy lunch on your own in one of the Colonial Taverns or in Merchants Square. Your guide will point out all of the dining options as you pass through town.

HISTORIC JAMESTOWNE ISLAND

- Next, board the bus and admire the view as you ride along the scenic Colonial Parkway to Historic Jamestowne Island, original site of the first permanent English settlement in America in 1607. Exhibits include ruins of the 17th century settlement, a beautiful new visitor's center as well as the 1639 Church Tower, the only 17th century building still standing at Jamestown, and one of the oldest English built structures in the United States. Also visit the Archaearium, a newly built exhibition facility which displays and interprets the archaeological discoveries at the first permanent English settlement in the New World and the birthplace of America. The Archaearium is built over the remains of the last State house in Jamestown (1600-1688) and shows portions of the excavated ruins of the State house through sections of glass flooring.

Package Price: \$42.00 per person, inclusive. Lunch on own.

THE PACKAGE PRICES INCLUDES:

Motor coach transportation, tour guide service, admissions as listed, meals as listed, taxes and gratuities. Gratuities for guide and driver are not included, and are at the discretion of the individual.

Prices are based on a minimum of 35 people per tour.

It is understood that all monies and registrations will be collected by Phillips Tours.

Registration information and tour descriptions will be provided for publication in your newsletter.

Boarding times will be fifteen minutes prior to listed departure times in front of the Sleep Inn at the Lake Wright.

If you have a preference for which days or times you'd like to take a tour please include that information in your response. When you get this newsletter please let me know via email (preferably) or telephone if you are interested in taking any of the tours on the list. Also let us know if there are destinations not on the list you might be interested in visiting.

**Stan Cornett
Entertainment Chairperson
2007 ARMM Reunion**



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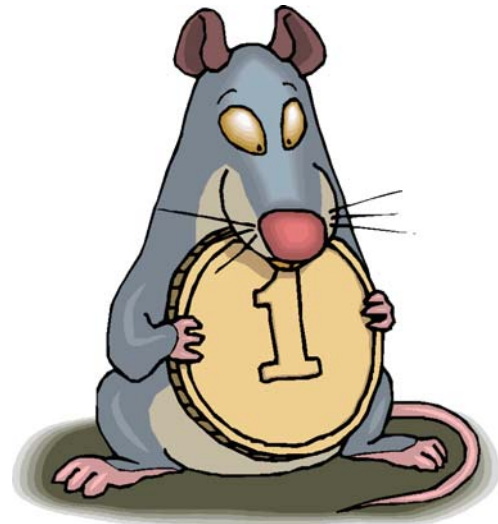
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27 Loggerhead Drive
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7423 Trailing Rock Rd
Prince George, VA 23875
(804) 453-2717



From the Head Rat

ARE WE THERE YET?

Every parent (and grandparent) has had this question asked hundreds of times. The 2007 Reunion is almost here – Virginia Beach is getting closer each day. There is a light at the end of the tunnel. Have you made your reservations? If not, please do so immediately. By the time the August newsletter arrives, the reservation deadline will have passed. Several people discovered the phone number listed in the last newsletter was incorrect. I apologize for any inconvenience. The correct number is in this issue. Stan has contacted a bus tour agency and they have several options available. Additional information is contained elsewhere in this issue. What do you want to do? No one has offered any suggestions. Stan has drafted an agenda that is new and different from past years. We would have a concert band rehearsal on Friday morning AND Friday afternoon. Do you have the chops? We would have more jam sessions. Any tours would run concurrently. Is this something YOU want? Let us know. Stan is working on a barbecue for Friday night before the military band performance. Business meeting would be on Saturday morning. Nothing has been decided.

2008 ARMM Reunion – where will it be held? In the last issue I asked for anyone willing to host to contact me or someone who has hosted a previous reunion. I am still waiting for the phone to ring or an email to appear in my mailbox. Yes, it is a lot of work. Yes, one person can do all of it but it is much easier if you can form a committee.

September 2007 marks the 22nd year of ARMM reunions. From a very small group in 1986 we have continued to increase our membership and the number attending the reunions gets larger. 2010 will mark 25 years – should we do something special?

See you in September.....

Dave Ratliff
ARMM President

TREASURER'S REPORT

At present we have \$6456.73 in our account. The new dues cards are in and Dick Saddler has the honors of receiving the first one. I am still on a search to find a replacement card for lifetime members. I will be out of state from the last week of June through most of July. If anyone would send in their dues during that time, please allow for a delay before you get your new card.



If you want to pay your 2008 dues please be my guest. This would free up some time for me at the reunion. When you send me your check please indicate that it is for the 2008 dues. There are still a few active members who have not paid their 2007 dues at this time. I plan to have set times to pay your dues at the reunion and I will only be accepting checks or money orders. I do not feel comfortable accepting cash and having it with me on the road. I will stop taking dues about 20 minutes before the meeting starts as I need to be with the other officers going over the business agenda. I will be open for business after the meeting. The bank will also be closed during our Friday entertainment. That's all I have for now.

Mike Noland
Treasurer

In Memoriam

Jack Stults - Lifetime Member
CW3 (Ret) Randolph A. Rockne

Secretary's Corner



Happy 4th of July to All

2007 ARMM Reunion (13-16 September 2007) with the AAA-rated Lake Wright Hotel and Conference Center in Norfolk, VA.

ROOM RATES:

(available 5 days prior and 5 days after the event)

- Sleep Inn = \$79 per night
- Quality Suites = \$99 per night
NOTE: "Sleep Inn" and "Quality Suites" are two adjoining "properties" of the Lake Wright. Reserving rooms in either property still keeps you close to all other attendees and events.
- When making reservations be sure to ask for the "ARMM Rate."

CONTACT INFO:

Lake Wright Hotel and Conference Center
6820 Northampton Boulevard
Norfolk, VA 23502

TOLL FREE: 800-228-5157

Please use this toll free number to reserve your room because it guarantees our "FREE" Hospitality Room for all of our refreshments and get together during the reunion.

Once again, Stan needs a definite head count for everyone desiring to take any of the bus tours. He needs this info not less than 6 weeks prior to the reunion. That means by the end of July at the very latest.

The 2008 Reunion needs a host. Mike Noland has promised us that he can get the Clarksville, TN, Quality Inn again if no one accepts the challenge!

This in from Harley & Autumn: "We're not going to be able to make it to the reunion this year. So if people want shirts they need to call: Playmaker (334) 673-0101 or e-mail at playmaker@centurytel.net to get them for September's reunion."

Please email me if you want to receive the newsletters via email.

Mike Mideiros
Secretary/Webmaster

Pick Up the Pace

ARMY BANDS UPDATE

CW5 JEANNE PACE
ARMY BANDS PROPONENCY OFFICER
FT JACKSON, SC

<http://www.army.mil/fifeanddrum/vit07.html> For latest information from the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps and to watch a video of their recent performance at the Norfolk International Tattoo; should bring back memories for Vic.

82nd Airborne Division Band CW3 Jeffry C. Larson, Commander

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan –

This month's rotation of personnel on roving guard duty brought 4 new Musical Support Teams (MST) online: Show Band, Jazz Combo, Woodwind Quintet, and the Brass Quintet II. Additionally our keyboard player, who plays in two of these MSTs, performs on her own on piano and vocals.

Musical missions began right at the beginning of the month as the Jazz Combo (aka "Jazz Offenders") traveled to HQ ISAF, located in Kabul, to perform for their Cinco de Mayo celebration. During this trip they also provided music for a TOA ceremony for the French Army detachment at Camp Phoenix. In addition they provided music for a lunchtime barbecue at Camp Eggers.

In the middle of the month the Woodwind Quintet (aka "5 Knot Winds") also went down to HQ ISAF to play for a Fellowship Dinner coordinated by the ISAF chaplain. While there the group also had additional opportunities to play in the Destille Garden as well as at Camp Eggers.

The Show Band (aka "Level 82") made their premier performance at Camp Vance at a weekend cookout hosted by the Special Forces unit there. They made a lasting impression with their show and earned a standing invitation for a return engagement.

Later in the month Level 82, along with the Jazz Offenders and the 5 Knot Winds made another visit to HQ ISAF. While there they were able to stage multiple performances as going out to perform at Camp Phoenix, Camp Eggers, and the US Embassy.



This month we again conducted an engagement visit with the ANA Band. This time we brought all 14 personnel of both Level 82 and the 5 Knot Winds. During this visit CW3 Larson had the opportunity to personally conduct a joint rehearsal of both bands as we assisted the ANA Band in preparing for a TOA ceremony at Camp Phoenix. He also gave a short presentation, including audio and video, to the ANA musicians which provided an overview of the US Army Bands program. We ended our time there by having both the 5 Knot Winds and our combined Ceremonial Band play for them from our standard repertoire.

Besides all of the musical missions at other locations, our MSTs continued musical support here at BAF. We continued our performances in all of the DFACs here on a rotating basis up to four times a week. Our Buglers and Brass Quintets continue to provide a musical tribute to our fallen comrades. Finally, this month was brought to a close as we simultaneously provided music for Memorial Day ceremonies at both HQ ISAF and BAF.

82nd Airborne Band's "Level 82" Show Band



3rd Infantry Division Band

CW4 Stephen Campbell, Commander

By way of update on our mission, we are progressing with our large project of turning our building into an effective band rehearsal facility. Since 1st Cav Band beat us to the existing building, we are in the process of renovating an old indoor pool (covered with a very large canvas cover) by building a large rehearsal building inside the shallow end of the pool and building individual practice rooms in the deep end. We are trying to make the building process move along quickly because we want to have good HVAC to protect our band members and equipment before the heat gets much worse. We are beginning to think about putting away our heavy winter coats soon because the high temps have been ranging from 98 to 105 degrees! The band continues rehearsing and playing new music all over the area, and we unfortunately have been playing for too many memorials for our fallen comrades! The main musical focus remains getting our music out to our great soldiers throughout our AO. The CG has removed the band from all outside tasking and told us to do nothing but practice and perform, and we are doing our best to comply! As always, our great 3ID Band soldiers are doing an outstanding job making the mission happen!



Sgt. Rich Yaeger, trumpet player and member of 3ID Rock of the Task Force Marne Band, practices at a breezy edge of the band's rehearsal space. The band deployed with the 3rd Infantry Division in mid-March and took over an empty swimming pool and a pavilion to practice.

1st Cavalry Division and 25th Infantry Division Bands are both still deployed.



25th Infantry Division Band's SFC Michael McClaran: "Let's blast Iran with decibels!"

PERSONNEL NEWS:

Recently selected for promotion:

TO CW5

Bob Nixon

TO CW4

Fred Ellwein (date of rank 1 JUN)

Greg Balvanz

Dewayne Kendricks

TO CW3

Lisa Guynn

Scott MacDonald

The Change of Commandant at the School of Music will take place on 17 JUL when COL Palmatier hands off to MAJ Keene

The new Chief, Army Bands will assume duties on 7 AUG.

COL Mustion will assume duties as Commandant of the Adjutant General's School and Chief of the AG Corps as well, in a ceremony at the Soldier Support Institute, Fort Jackson, SC.

REUNION ATTENDANCE FORM

Member Name: _____ @ \$50.00 = _____

Spouse or Friend: _____ @\$50.00 = _____

Children or Others: _____ @\$50.00 = _____

Total Remittance: _____

Beverage Preference: _____ Beer Preference: _____ Wine Preference: _____

Liquor Preference: _____ Bus Tours: _____

Please complete this application and return it along with your check made payable to Stan Cornett and mail to:



Association of Retired Military Musicians

Stan Cornett, Entertainment Chairperson

3909 Roebling Lane

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