

Swifty Spotlight

The World-Famous
Purple Foxes



Issue #2
Spring 2020

Foxes Home from Deployment

In October of last year, the VMM-364 Purple Foxes completed a mission in Kuwait of Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force, Crisis Response, Central Command (SPMAGTF-CR-CC 19.2) in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. They also leap-frogged aircraft north throughout Iraq and Syria.

The Foxes set a record for the most MV-22B Osprey hours flown by a squadron in over a decade. More importantly, they understood that they are carrying on the legacy of those that have gone before them. Past sacrifices remind them of the enormous shoes they fill in being part of one of the most storied and decorated units in military history.

And, to add to the Purple Foxes legacy, on this deployment the squadron became the first V-22 squadron to ever simultaneously fight in three countries while split site on two continents.

On a more light-hearted note, the shop purchased a small, frozen ice machine in an effort to keep their Marines cool. They found that fresh snow cones seemed to help heal minor aches and pains more effectively than



some of their other treatments (Motrin, new socks, etc.). Bet the Vietnam Foxes would have loved to have an ice machine at times!

Never fear Foxes, Swifty continues to be well-represented across the globe.

**Pop A Smoke 2020 reunion is 8-12 July 2020.
See Page 2 for full details.**

From the Editor

Welcome to the second issue of *Swiftly Spotlight*!

This is our new idea to create an online newsletter to pass along news, and share stories from Foxes from ALL the years this amazing unit has been around. But... this newsletter won't succeed without your help. Currently, I hope to do a quarterly newsletter. If we get enough interest, we might be able to do more.

This newsletter is for y'all, so what do you want to see? Send story ideas, pictures, ideas, comments... whatever you would like to see our way! My email is corpsmankid@hotmail.com.

The Pop A Smoke/Purple Fox reunion is just a few months away - have you signed up yet? See this issue for details which are current at this time, although things may change before then. Watch the Pop A Smoke and Purple Fox websites for updated information.

Semper Fi,
Stephanie

Upcoming Events



Pop A Smoke 2020 Reunion 8-12 July 2020

Nugget Hotel & Casino
Sparks, NV

Pop A Smoke holds a reunion every 2 years for all units of combat helicopter and tiltrotor Marines.

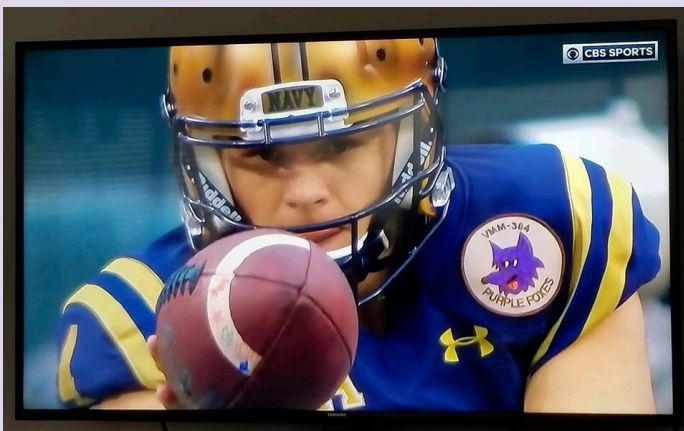
The Purple Foxes will have their own hospitality hootch within the hotel where you can catch up with fellow squadmates and meet new Foxes. Come join us for a weekend of great fun!

Hotel rooms can be reserved now. Reserve yours today if you are even thinking of coming, as there is a limited number of rooms available at the discounted rate.

[Click here](#) to reserve your hotel room today! [Click here](#) to register for the Pop A Smoke part of the reunion.

See Page 2-3 for Purple Fox reunion information.

Swiftly Sightings



Navy Midshipman, Owen White, #4, wore Swiftly during the Army Navy game on December 14, 2020.

Have you seen Swiftly around? If so, let us know about it at corpsmankid@hotmail.com.

Reunions

I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted their best, men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped raw, right down to their humanity - from "These Good Men" by Michael Norman.

HMM-364/VMM-364 REUNION - 2020



We have secured the current Commanding Officer, LtCol William "Sticks" Walker to be the Guest Speaker at the Purple Fox Friday night dinner.

To register with the Foxes, you can print, complete, and mail the form from Page 4 to Walt Wise. Or, you may also sign up online [here](#). Come catch up with old friends and make some new ones!

POP A SMOKE REUNION - 2020



Are you signed up for the 2020 Pop A Smoke reunion yet? See Page 2 for details on signing up with Pop A Smoke and hotel room information.

HMM-263 REUNION - 2020



50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARBLE MOUNTAIN, VIETNAM

DATE: September 24-27, 2020
LOCATION: Holiday Inn Resort on the Beach
Galveston, TX
HOSTS: Jesse Ruby, Earling Rolfson

HMM-263 is celebrating their 50th anniversary of when they served at Marble Mountain (1969/70) and have invited their sister unit, HMM-364, to join them. Jesse and Earling are planning a great schedule of events at this beach resort, so they hope all can join them.

Special Request: Jesse needs to guarantee hotel rooms, so they need to get an idea of who is planning to attend. If you are thinking of joining them, please send an email to [jrubby532@yahoo.com](mailto:jruby532@yahoo.com) and let them know.

HMM-364/VMM-364 SQUADRON REUNION ACTIVITIES

**For the USMC Combat Helicopter Association Reunion (Pop A Smoke)
July 8-12, 2020, The Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks, NV**

1. List your name and years that you served in, or were attached, to HMM-364/VMM-364:

2. List your guest's names and their relationship to you (if there is one):

3. Registration Fee ----- \$25.00/each squadron member and each guest.
(This fee covers rental of the hospitality suite, beef, wine, soda, etc. Pop A Smoke
does not cover any of these costs for the individual squadrons). \$ _____

4. We will hold an "ALL HANDS MEETING" at 1000 hours on Friday, 10 July, in our
hospitality Hootch at the Nugget. Topics for discussion will be future reunions, off-year
reunions, and the possibility of getting some younger and/or active-duty Purple Foxes to
join us. Please note: HMM-263 will be holding a reunion in Galveston, TX, Sept 24-27,
2020. Purple Foxes are invited to attend.

5. Our Friday (July 10, 2020) night squadron dinner will be at the Wild River Grille in
Reno, NV. Happy hour will start at 1700 hours with a cash bar. The Truckee River Buffet
comes to \$50.00 per person, with tip included. Check out www.wildrivergrille.com for
this menu.

Number of attendees: _____

\$ _____

Sign up here if you will need a ride to the Wild River Grille: _____

Walter Wise
1618 Hemlock Way
Broomfield, CO 80020

Reunion Coordinator
wwise364@comcast.net
720-340-9534

Total USD _____



**You may also sign up online [here](#); but
you will have to mail the checks to Walt.**

Now & Then...

Chuck Pflughoeft joined the Corps in May of 1969, attending boot camp in MCRD San Diego, making him a Hollywood Marine. After graduation, he went to NAS Millington where he completed basics and reciprocated H-34 engines.

Next, he was told to report for jet engine school. He arrived in a class that consisted of 29 sailors and Chuck. He heard every Jarhead joke there is for the next 10 weeks!

While working on engines, he got his orders to West Pac. Landing in Okinawa, he felt the humidity and heat as he checked in, went through medical and waited for orders.

While most of his buddies were ship-bound, Chuck went to the fleet - H&MS 16. Within a few weeks, he got orders to HMM-364. He was assigned as a door gunner and crew chief in waiting, and never saw a jet engine again.

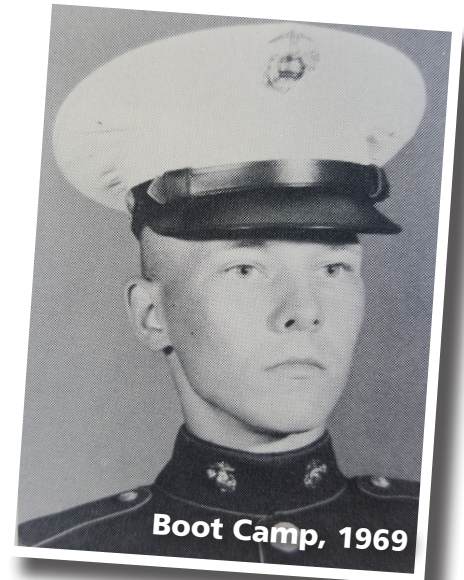
Chuck had a hard time adjusting to the heat, bugs, snakes, and hoped to God that he wouldn't get bitten by one of the big ants!

But the Fox crew chiefs were there to help him learn the ropes and Chuck says he grew up fast while flying – as the

Fox pilots had nerves of steel. After completing his tour at Marble Mountain, Chuck was assigned to HMX-1 to serve out the rest of his contract. During this time, he was privileged to go to the Bahamas with President Nixon, do SAR rescue missions, and also work on special projects.

After reluctantly deciding not to continue to OCS, Chuck went to college and began driving cross-country for seven years. Eventually, after moving around different departments, he ended up with a 30-year career in the transportation industry.

Currently, he and his wife, Kathy, live in on the Deerskin River in Wisconsin where they have a few dogs, acquired a few chickens for eggs, and now consider all pets for life. They even see the occasional bear!



Foxes in the News

Congratulations to Pat Robitaille (Cpl 67-68), for being named the 2019 Southeastern Massachusetts Veteran of the Year!

“Robot” flew medevac and resupply missions during the 77-day siege of Hill 881 South, at the Battle of Khe Sahn, and during the 1968 Tet Offensive.

He continues to serve by helping place wreaths for six hundred veterans buried at the Bourne National Cemetery every Christmas, as well as being an active member of his VFW. You may read the full story by [clicking here](#).



Photo courtesy of
Rebecca Robitaille Saber



Jim Smith and Tim Stanton

A Vietnam rescue reunion 50 years in the making was captured by news station CBS8 in San Diego. [Click here](#) to see the full story.

Tim Stanton was a 19-year-old Marine fighting with 2/1 near Da Nang when he stepped on booby trap and was blown up. Purple Fox Jim Smith (1stLt 70-71) was the pilot of the medevac helicopter who airlifted him to safety. In a wonderful reunion, Tim was able to say thank-you in person this past November.

In addition, Jim Smith and Duane Jensen (Maj 70-71) gave a presentation to the Vietnam veterans of 2/1 with more details of this medevac mission. Several members of the unit expressed amazement at the prep and effort expended at each medevac mission by the air crews. As always, Swifty says Give a Shit.

What Else?

1

This is a newsletter about Foxes and for Foxes. What else would you like to see included? Send me your stories, ideas or more, at corpsmankid@hotmail.com.

2

If you received this newsletter from someone else, and would like to be on our email list, please send your name, email address and rank/years as a Purple Fox or your affiliation with the Foxes to corpsmankid@hotmail.com.

Smoke Signals

The Archive Dept of the Marine Corps Historical Div has placed photos from one of our Purple Foxes – Warren Smith (Cpl 63-64) into their Archives. This collection includes 1038 pictures from his time in the Marine Corps.

Along with the pictures, he has provided 180 pages of narrative which includes in-depth stories from his time in boot camp, rifle range, and mess duty, for example. He did this in the hopes that those reading will know what it was like to be one of those individuals that are involved.

He has also identified the names and ranks of all those he could identify. What a great legacy he has left for the next generations.

You can view the entire collection by [clicking here](#).



TAPS

David Magee, Sgt 65-66 ([passed Mar 26, 2020](#))

John Allen Green ([passed Feb 29, 2020](#))

David Wayne "Beach" Baldwin, 1stLt 69-70 ([passed Feb 25, 2020](#))

Donald Rapp, Cpl 67-68 ([passed Jan 21, 2020](#))

Jan Bartolina, sister of Ernie Bartolina, Capt 69-69 ([passed Dec 10, 2019](#))

Bruce "Georgia Boy" Federer, Sgt 69-70 ([passed Nov 1, 2019](#))

We will post any new notifications we receive since the last newsletter issue.

If you have a name to add, let us know at corpsmankid@hotmail.com.