

# RED HAT CHAPTER



P.O. BOX 48279 CUMBERLAND, NC 28331

[www.redhatchapter.com](http://www.redhatchapter.com)

## NEWS LETTER

JANUARY 2007



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Since our last newsletter, the RHC has been very busy. However, I would like to begin by apologizing for the lateness of this newsletter. We ran into some technical difficulties that were beyond our control, but we have them under control now and are moving forward trying to get back on schedule. I promise to do better with the Apr 07 newsletter.

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have been out of sight and touch for a while and have not said very much, so I thought this newsletter might be a good place for an update. **"I HAD A COUPLE OF NOTABLES BACK IN THE SUMMER. MY GRANDMOTHER BEGAN TO WALK 5 MILES A DAY WHEN SHE WAS 60 YEARS OLD. NOW SHE IS 97 AND WE CAN'T FIND HER".**

And... July 4<sup>th</sup> past I had a major stroke, which paralyzed my left side and perhaps left me a little mentally challenged. Since that time, I have entered an extremely rigorous rehab program and am trying very hard to learn to walk again and perform other normal everyday life functions. I have also had two surgeries which unclogged my carotid arteries. Both surgeries went very well with no complications. I just hated to lose about 20 years of gravy biscuit build up that cost me a substantial number of dollars but, I must admit was not a very good investment. As of this date, my rehab continues, and my plan is to walk again (perhaps with an aid) by early summer. I hope ya'll will continue to pray for my family and I. The Chapter

continues to be in good shape with a very busy agenda for 2007. May will be the first annual parachute Rigger picnic here at Ft Bragg and will be held in conjunction with the 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV AA week. Keep your eye on the web site and future newsletters for additional information. The 2007 reunion will be at Ft Benning and the 2008 reunion in Vietnam hosted by our Australian friends. **"STAY TUNED. I'M FINISHED NOW. Ya'll CAN GET BACK ON THE COUCH AND FINISH YOUR LONG NECK AND BAG OF CHIPS. YOUR FRIEND, Del Weitman"**.

### CHAPTER BUSINESS OCTOBER 06

Our Oct 06 RHC breakfast was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> at the usual place. It was good to see so many folks at the breakfast. We recognized the 12<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge Ed Donaldson who is also a Parachute Rigger. He and Former VP (SFC) (R) Jim Kennebeck are good friends and worked very close together when Jim was a Fayetteville Police Officer. We really appreciated Judge Donaldson taking time to drop in and say hello. Additionally, we are so very fortunate to have so many loyal fellow riggers who can make time in their busy schedules each month to come out and break bread with us on the weekends; especially the active duty folks. With such little time they have with their families, they still manage to show up. We really appreciate your loyal support guys and always remember that you will be in our thoughts and prayers. Soon after everyone had a

chance to chow down on all the good food, the RHC President brought the meeting to order. He opened the meeting with some of his personal experiences from his recent stroke. He seems to be handling it the best he can with the help of his faithful companion Helga. We wish him the very best for a speedy recovery. There is always more than one way to look at things and this will hold true in this instance. Delma has developed a new laugh and did he let ya'll know about it. It was good to hear him laughing again. Hang in there Delma, we are all praying for you. The first item brought up for business was the RHC Reunion that will be held at Fort Benning in Oct 07. 1SG (R) Fred Fourqurean stated that we need to look into having a volunteer committee to plan and execute the reunion at Ft Benning. No sooner said than done did we have our committee. Chief Charge has volunteered to head up this committee and VP Buz Baskett, SFC Wilson, and 1SG Troy Oates will assist in any way they can. Chief Charge stated that he would get in contact with Chief Brown at Ft Benning and will keep us updated on the progress of the reunion. The RHC VP SFC (R) Buz Baskett will spearhead this event. He and Chief Charge will coordinate all of the reunion events and keep us posted on their progress. While talking about the 07 Reunion, it was also brought up about the 2008 International Reunion in South Vietnam. The Australians will host this reunion in Oct 2008. There will be more to follow as information is obtained. Some folks have stated that they would never return to Vietnam and this is perfectly understandable. On the other hand, it will be an opportunity for some of the old timers to go back and see what has happened to their company area that they built from the ground up. I honestly believe that this is an individual choice. However, should you decide to accept the Australian's invitation please think ahead and apply for those US Passports. It takes time to get them processed, so don't wait until the last minute to get them and miss the boat. There will be a "Weinner Wednesday on Jan 17, 2007 from 1100-1300 at

the SWC Parachute Rigger Facility. This event was supposed to take place this past Sep, but when Delma was unable to attend it was rescheduled. This event is being paid for by the RHC with the SWC Riggers (POC SSG Jones) being the host. If you have time to attend, please do so and come out and meet our young Parachute Rigger replacements. SFC Wilson approached me concerning the sponsorship of Ms. Paola Salas. She is a 7<sup>th</sup> Grader at Albritton Jr. High School, Fort Bragg, NC. She has recently accepted to participate as a member of the People To People Student Ambassador Program in which she and other students will spend 5 days in Washington DC meeting with government officials. She asked the RHC for a \$75.00 Sponsorship so that she may attend this event. I made the motion to support this program, 1SG Fourqurean and SFC Kennebeck seconded the motion and it was passed. The check was mailed out on Oct 23, 2006. This is what the RHC is all about and the members of the Chapter should be proud that we are able to support such programs as this one. Recently, SGM Bond was injured while working on his house. It seems as though he had a little run in with his stepladder and the stepladder won. As a result, he is now wearing a cast on his leg for about three months. The cast is not the kind that you can walk on. He has his own little 4-wheel cart to get around with. We wish him the best for a speedy recovery and the RHC Chaplain will be sending him a "Get Well Card" from the Chapter. Before the meeting was adjourned, Delma & Helga said a few words to the group. They wanted to personally thank all of the members of the Chapter for all that we have done since his stroke. We are extremely fortunate to have both of them as members of the Chapter. We all wish them the best and a speedy recovery for Delma. If you have a few minutes to spare, please give them a call to see how they are doing and to let them know you are thinking about them. The meeting was closed with the Monthly Drawing. Chief Charge and SFC Karl Whitby each won \$15.00.

## **CHAPTER BUSINESS NOVEMBER 06**

Our November breakfast was held on Nov 18, 2006 at the Golden Corral Restaurant beginning at 0900. It was a rewarding experience to get together with fellow riggers again, and it was nice to see so many of them as well. After the morning prayer, folks began to chow down on all of that good food offered by the Golden Corral Restaurant. After folks had time to eat and talk to fellow riggers, the meeting was brought to order. A motion was brought to the floor by the RHC President Delma Weitman to host a picnic for the parachute riggers coming from out of town during the 82<sup>nd</sup> All American Week in May 07. It would be nice if the RHC could host the picnic at Smith Lake and invite those folks over for a BBQ. As the All American Week approaches, the RHC will decide if we can afford to sponsor the picnic. If the picnic pans out, a motion was made to host this on a yearly basis during the All American Week. There will be more to follow on this event as it nears. CW3 Jesmer gave an update on the RHC Coin. He is expecting the prototype coins any day now. As soon as he gets them in, he would bring them to the next regular meeting. Additionally, Chief Jesmer stated that he received a Thank You Card from CPT Bill Campbell in UK. He said that he had a swell time at the 2006 Reunion and just wanted to say thanks. Also included in the card was a check for \$50.00 to be used where necessary. CPT Bill Campbell, we sincerely thank you for your continued support of the RHC and certainly appreciate your generosity. Since SFC Karl Whitby is the RHC Supply Officer, the RHC President and SFC Whitby will be getting together in the very near future to inventory the property belonging to the Chapter and listing said property on the property book. With the business of the RHC concluded, the monthly raffle drawing was conducted. The winners of the drawings were Tristan Wilson (SFC Wilson's son) and Chief Charge.

## **CHAPTER BUSINESS DECEMBER 06**

The December breakfast was held on Dec 16, 2006 at the Golden Corral Restaurant at 0900 sharp. Mrs. Helga Weitman brought some Christmas place settings which she decorated the tables with. With all that she has to do, she can still find the time to make it a memorable experience for the RHC. Our Red Hats are off to you. You are truly a remarkable lady and the RHC is proud to know you and have you as a member and RHC First Lady. Thank you for all you have done both with Delma and the RHC. A few months ago, a motion was made to look at another place to hold our meetings. 1SG Troy Oates investigated the possibility of having it at the Officers Club. He gave a briefing on the club as to what they could offer the RHC in the way of a room and a meal. From what he said, it sounds very promising; however, there is no commitment made at this point. We are still waiting for word from some other folks before a decision can be made. There will be more to follow. Delma brought up the RHC Web Site. It is in desperate need of updating. Delma was the only one who kept the web site updated and given his current condition he needs some help. CW3 Mike Charge jumped up to the plate and said that he would give it a try. Now is that the Rigger Spirit or what? Way to go Chief. The RHC is in the middle of a membership drive. Since the AQM is returning \$2.00 to the RHC for each member that renews their membership, it is our plan to get some of the previous members who have let their membership expire to sign up again. We need your help to accomplish this task. There is more information pertaining to the AQM in the Quartermaster Corner below.

### **THE QUARTERMASTER CORNER**

There comes a time for everyone to take the giant leap into the unknown. As if we have never done this before in our lives. This is true

for the Red Hat Chapter (RHC) as well. The RHC will be sending the 2nd Quarter 07 Newsletter (April 07) via the Internet. Now don't get upset just yet. The only folks that will be receiving the newsletters by e-mail are those folks who wish to make that leap. Should you decide to receive the newsletter this way, please notify the RHC Quartermaster (CW3 Jesmer) at the following e-mail address: [FAARigger@aol.com](mailto:FAARigger@aol.com). Once I receive your e-mail, I will send you a confirmation e-mail and a copy of the current newsletter. From that point on, all of your newsletters will be sent this way. The Newsletter will be sent in a PDF Format and should be very easy to access by everyone. There is additional information that I would like to get from you in your initial e-mail to me. They are your full name, rank, current address and telephone number with area code. This will assist me in contacting you in the future should the need arise such as changing your contact information. Once I confirm your info, your name and address will be eliminated from the mailing address file only. I will not remove your name from the RHC Manifest. As a result of your actions, the RHC will be saving money in postage and office supplies. Additionally, time and labor spent in consolidating the Quarterly Newsletters will be substantially reduced. The bottom line is that everyone will benefit from this in all respects. So please assist the RHC and sign up for the electronic Newsletters today. You must contact me and let me know that you want to receive your Newsletters via the Internet and that you're willing to help the RHC save a few bucks in the process. Additionally, please be advised that when I send out the Newsletters it will have in the Subject Line: RHC Newsletter. This should distinguish the e-mail from official RHC business and spam e-mail. Also, please be advised that in order for you to receive the newsletters please empty your e-mail boxes regularly. I can't send a copy to you if you don't help me on your end.

Since we are on the subject of contact information, I need to bring to your attention some problems I ran into during the last two mailings. We received about 20-25 letters back in the mail because of wrong address and the Post Office was unable to forward the letters to those individuals. I was able to contact some of the folks by e-mail address annotated on the manifest, but most of them I could not. This costs the RHC additional funds to send the Newsletters twice. The contact information you provide during renewals is the only source of information we have on file for you. It is important that you keep your contact information updated each time there are changes in your status. All you need to do to keep your contact information updated is go to the RHC Web Site and download an application and mark it as address change and mail it to the RHC PO Box or click on the "Contact Us" link on our website and submit your current info via e-mail. For those folks who don't have computers at home, send a letter to the RHC PO Box and let us know your information needs to be updated. We will do the rest. Additionally, if you receive two Newsletters in the mail by mistake, please notify the RHC by sending a letter to the RHC PO Box or by e-mailing me. This will help out tremendously in future mailings.

I know that we have talked a lot about the AQM during the past few years; however, I am here to tell you all about some very good news. The RHC has finally received some money for membership renewals since the initial start up funds from the AQM. The AQM sent the RHC \$2.00 for every new member we signed up and \$2.00 for each person who renewed their membership during the past year. That's right. The RHC received a check from the AQM in the amount of \$512.00. Now that's what I'm talking about. Additionally, the RHC received a \$500.00 check for having the most people renew their membership during the past year as well. So, keep up the good work and renew your memberships when they are due. We should be

able to beat out the other AQM Chapters next year and get an extra \$500.00 for the RHC. Call your friends and tell them to renew their membership now.

The Chapter has approximately 10 original coins left in the inventory for sale. As a result, we needed to order 150 coins ASAP to bring our stock levels back up. I was having our coins made in Korea. Since the riggers are no longer stationed in Korea, we needed to locate another vendor. I have already coordinated with the company that made our 2006 International Reunion coins. They did such an outstanding job on them that I have asked them to send us a proto-type coin for consideration and approval. These new RHC Coins will cost approximately \$8.00 each when finished. There was no set up fees charged when we had the coins made. Some small changes will be made to the original coin design that will make them more attractive and desirable. If the new coins look anything like the reunion coins did, I really believe that we will have a coin that everyone will want to have in their collection. I am expecting the proto-type coins any day now with hopes that the final version will be available for sale in Feb 07. Go to the web site in the Supply Room Folder for more information about the availability of the new coins.

To keep the RHC better informed as to how the Chapter is doing financially, I will be including in the Quarterly Newsletters a copy of the Finance Statement. Please see the current statement attached. Thanks so much for your time and hope to see you at the next monthly meeting at the Golden Corral.

### **WEB SITE BUSINESS**

As I stated earlier, CW3 Michael Charge has volunteered to take over the RHC Web Site. He has asked that members of the RHC review the Web Site often. Click on the various icons and make sure that they work like they are

supposed to. If they don't, please send him an e-mail so that it can be fixed promptly. He is new at managing a web site and is learning how to fix them daily. So give him a break if things don't work as programmed. Also, he has asked that when you have an event that you want posted to the web site such as Change of Command Ceremony, picnics, promotions, and rigger gatherings of any type to please send it to him. He will post it to the web site as soon as he can. Your help will receive top priority. Additionally, if you have pictures of the above events and want them posted to the web site, please include enough information about the pictures so that the web surfer can get a clear understanding of who's who. If you know how a web site is suppose to work, I'm sure Chief Charge would like to hear from you.

Since this newsletter is a bit late, I will end with this: "May all your parachutes let you down easy so that you can do it again".

**“AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY”.**  
**CW3 (R) Gaylin (Jess) Jesmer,**  
**RHC Quartermaster.**



# ASSOCIATION OF QUARtermasters

## *RED HAT CHAPTER*

**P.O. BOX 48279 CUMBERLAND, NC 28331**

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**TIERED / ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP (CHOOSE ONE)**

	PVT-SPC	SFC/MSG	MAJ-GEN
	SGT-SSG	2LT-CPT	CW4-CW5
		W01-CW3	SGM-CSM
	GS 1-7	GS 8-12	GS 13-SES
<b>1 YEAR</b>	<b>\$12.00</b>	<b>\$17.00</b>	<b>\$22.00</b>
<b>2 YEAR</b>	<b>\$18.00</b>	<b>\$28.00</b>	<b>\$38.00</b>
<b>3 YEAR</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>	<b>\$55.00</b>

*LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP: \$200.00 OR FOUR INSTALLMENTS OF \$50.00*

AGE	PRICE
40-59	\$175.00
50-60	\$150.00
60-70	\$100.00
OVER 70	\$50.00

**RETIRED ANNUAL RATE: SAME AS ACTIVE DUTY RATE DEPENDENT ON YOUR RANK AT RETIREMENT**

For lifetime members, a handsome quartz watch (men's or ladies) with a black leather band and the Quartermaster insignia on a white face (\$59.95 retail value) watch will be mailed upon final payment.

**CHAPTER AFFILIATION: RED HAT CHAPTER**

**PAYMENT: CASH: \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK: \_\_\_\_\_ MONEY ORDER: \_\_\_\_\_**

**SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_**

**THE RED HAT CHAPTER WILL FORWARD YOUR APPLICATION TO THE AQM.**