

The Rigger Check

Red Hat Chapter Newsletter 2021

President's Remarks

Greetings from the Red Hat Chapter (RHC). It is my honor to serve as your president. It has been a long time since we published a newsletter. Unfortunately, the chapter level of activity fell off considerably over the past several years. Our monthly meetings lack a robust presence of RHC members translating into some unique leadership challenges for your RHC officers.

As with many organizations of our type you have "ebbs and flows". We are rebuilding the core of the organization to better serve you - the member. Making efforts to update our methodologies for example, this is the first electronic newsletter for the chapter. Mailings will no longer be utilized by the RHC. This is where the request within this newsletter (page 2) to update your information is particularly important. An incredibly positive note on our Chapter of the Association of Quartermasters, is that we are the largest chapter within the association.

Many thanks to all our current and active members, thank you for your continued support to the aerial delivery field. For those of you who have been inactive, we sincerely welcome you back and look forward to reacquainting with you. Our shared history is important, and we need all of you to help keep our legacy of service alive.

Please note that in an effort to help you decipher spam etc.. all RHC email sent to you will start with "RHC – subject..." in the subject line.

—AIRBORNE!

Monthly Meetings

The Red Hat Chapter holds monthly meetings for members (friends and family are always welcome) to promote camaraderie and recognize excellence within the Rigger Community. Our monthly meetings are held at Elizabeth's Pizza located at 2468 Hope Mills Rd, Fayetteville, NC at 1200 hrs. on the third Saturday of each month except for the month of December. Please come and join us!

Currently due to COVID constraints and North Carolina Governor Cooper's executive orders to restrict gatherings of 10 or less still being in place and the fact that the ole' faithful attendees are in a

high-risk category by age and/or underlying medical conditions, it is just not worth the risk to our members to hold meetings. Until herd immunity counterbalances the probability of someone becoming ill from attending or other mitigating conditions are available, the monthly RHC meeting are suspended until further notice.

Visit the RHC website at least monthly to monitor for updates on this subject.

UPDATE Your Information

The RHC leadership is requesting that all current RHC members please update your information by clicking on the [RHC Member Information Update](#) link at the RHC website. This info is used to update members annually or whenever there is a changes or events that the leaderships feel may be of importance to all. Information is used to disseminate information like RHC Newsletters. If you received this newsletter and your membership has elapsed, please go to the RHC website download the membership form and renew your membership through the Association of Quartermasters (AQM).

[Membership Application Link](#)

2019 Rigger Ball



Preparatory to the ball's success, a Rigger Social was sponsored by the RHC with major assistance from the SWC Parachute Riggers which included donated door prizes and great camaraderie; estimated attendance throughout the night was over 300. A big THANKS goes out to SWC OIC CW3 Beville, NCOIC SFC Bass and their crew, without them the social would not have been a success.

The Rigger Ball was huge success for 2019. The RHC partnered with the 11th QM Company and the 151st QM Company to organize the 2019 ball. We sold the venue out with over 400 attendees. Over 50 Tickets were fully sponsored by RHC members through online donations. The winners of the 2019 Rigger Rodeo were announced during ball and for a second time in a row the 7th SFG(A) Riggers retained the title. A special thanks to LT Maria Salvador for her outstanding work in organizing the 2019 Rigger Ball truly a new standard has been set!

Riggers Inducted into Newly Dedicated Parachute Rigger Hall of Fame



From L to R: CW5 Cortez Frazier, Aerial Delivery and Field Services Department (ADFSD) senior airdrop advisor; Wayne Cross, son of retired Col. Thomas Cross; Brig. Gen. Douglas McBride Jr., QM General; Jason Hanifin, ADFSD director; and Master Sgt. Reuben Greene, ADFSD's senior enlisted leader, take part in a 25 Feb 2019 ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially dedicate the ADFSD Parachute Rigger Hall of Fame room in the name of Col. Cross, the creator of the Army Parachute Rigger badge.

ADFSD has inducted the following Parachute Riggers into the Parachute Rigger Hall of Fame since its dedication.

February 2019

CW5 Gabino Seda
CW5 Leonas J. Venckus
CSM Mary L. Brown
CSM Danny Richards
CSM Tonika E. Scott-Morris
SGM Dale Marks

February 2020

CW5 Wendy M. Jenner
CW5 Roy E. Melebeck
CW5 Mark A. Michel
CW4 Deborah Lee
CW4 Petrice McKey-Reese
CSM Maria Allsopp
Specialist Eric T. Burri (Posthumously)

Information on the Parachute Rigger Hall of Fame can be found at: [Aerial Delivery & Field Services Department \(ADFSD\) - Quartermaster School](#) this accolade is not an RHC function.

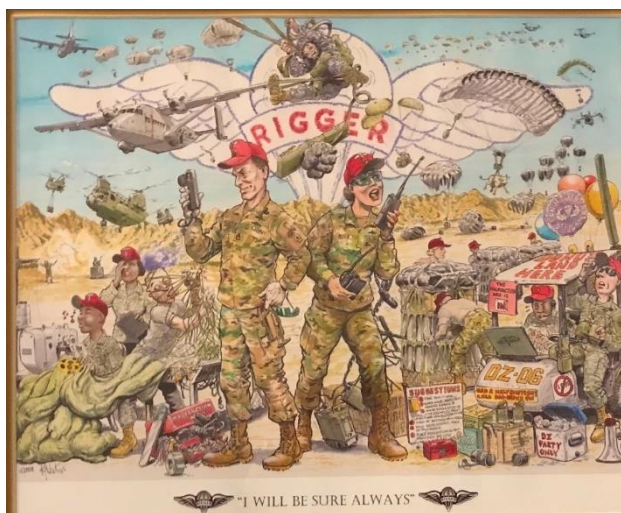
2022 International Parachute Rigger and Air Despatcher Reunion

Every 2 years the International Parachute Rigger/Air Despatchers have held a reunion. In 2020, members from New Zealand hosted a reunion cruise of Australia and New Zealand. The reunion was well attended by people from Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, and the US. The RHC will be sponsoring a reunion in the Fall of 2022. We are currently soliciting input from US and International organizations and will coordinate the details, soon. If you have any preferences/thoughts, please share by going to the RHC [contact link](#) to submit. Watch your email for an announcement of dates, location, etc. We look forward to welcoming a lot of our RHC members, as well as the International folks to this reunion.

A NEW “Rigger Print”



“Old” Print



“New” Print

Its back by popular demand - For a limited time, the original Rigger and the NEW print are available! You can contact Debbie at AQM to purchase, 804-734-3082, or click here [Rigger Prints](#) Cost is \$35.00, which includes shipping and handling. All proceeds from your purchase belong to the AQM.

New Association of Quartermasters Website: <https://associationofquartermasters.org/>

Supply Room

Our Supply Room is closed. This is mainly due to the lack of a volunteer to manage request/orders and inventory. If anyone in the local area would like to volunteer to take this responsibility on, please contact us through the RHC [contact link](#). We will do our best to satisfy request for Red Hats and Rigger Wings.

Rigger News

Please use the contact links on the RHC website to keep us informed on significant Rigger activity whether it is about active duty, retirees, or former Riggers.

We also monitor the Facebook page named "[Rigger Joe](#)" and encourage all to join it as it is a good source of real time events and conversations; click or type in:

<https://www.facebook.com/red.h.chapter>

Memoriam – "Last Rigger Check"

While there may be more, these are the RHC members and Riggers that the RHC has been informed of their passing. If you would like you can inform us of those who have given their last Rigger Check by using the RHC [contact link](#). We humbly thank these individuals for their service and dedication to our nation. [Please Click Here to review the Fallen](#)

Of special note—



RHC was notified that COL(R) Thomas R. Cross, who turned 101 on 01 FEB 2020, passed away on JUL 3, 2020. COL(R) Cross designed the Parachute Rigger Wings in 1958, which were later approved for wear in 1986. COL(R) Cross was inducted in the Parachute Rigger Hall of Fame (named after him) on 25 FEB 19.

RHC Officers

Officers

President: CW5(R) Mark A. Michel
Vice-President: CW4(R) Mike Charge
Secretary: SFC(R) Karl Whitby
Quartermaster: VACANT
Treasurer: VACANT
Webmaster: CW4(R) Mike Charge

***Special Counsel**

LTG(R) John Cusick
MG(R) Scott West
COL(R) David Shaw
CW4(R) Joe DeCosta
CW3(R) Gaylin Jesmer
1SG(R) Delma Weitman (RHC Chaplin)

**Special Counsel was created by the RHC President to provide counsel to RHC Officers from time to time in the absence of a robust RHC membership presents during monthly meetings.*

Share This Newsletter with Your Fellow Riggers!



I Will Be Sure Always!