



New England Chapter IX 173rd Airborne Bde.



November 2008

Greetings and welcome to another newsletter from The New England Chapter of the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Sep).



We welcome our newest members and my apologies to Phil Leduc for misspelling his name in the Oct newsletter:

Phil Leduc
Richard Flynn
Gene Marsolias
Margaret Klausner (A)

Russ Temple
Humberto Neves
Roy Hiter
Tom Whittaker

Steve Baptiste (A)
Wellesley Eastman
BG William Meehan III
Robert Beaton



OFFICER CHANGES

Bob Fairbairn resigned his positions as Historian & Service Officer because of personal reasons. These positions are currently unfilled. Thanks Bob for your years of help to the Chapter.



PRESIDENT

After the last meeting two months ago, Dennis and I were tasked with finding a meeting place outside of Dedham. We sent e-mails and called people North, South, East, and West and received no response. Finally Steve Baptiste offered his restaurant in Onset Mass. and we had a meeting

away from Dedham. It was good to meet members face to face that can't always find the time to travel to Dedham. We need three other good places to meet. New Hampshire, the western part of Mass. On the Connecticut, Rhode Island border. If someone in those areas can offer a suggestion as to a great place to have a meeting specifically a hotel with a meeting room and we can get a break on the price please let us know. The chapter will pay for the meeting room and staying overnight would make the distance the members have to travel more pleasurable. The officers need to meet and greet the members so that we can get input and also we may be able to help a member in need.

Drop us a line on suggested meeting places and we will do the bargaining on the room rates.

Meet the Staff:

My Name is Peter Klausner, I am the Newsletter Editor and manage our website, I am also Dennis Hill's helper. My wife and I live in S. Easton MA. Our only child, Eric was severely wounded while serving his second tour in Iraq Jan 08. He continues his slow, long recovery in Germany.

I retired from the Army, after serving 20 years active duty obtaining the rank of 1SG. I like many of you; served, in Viet Nam with the 173rd. I was one of the "Boat Guys" with the 4th Battalion. I served as an 11B, Company A, 2nd platoon, 2nd squad. Four years ago I was diagnosed and treated for cancer. I am today a survivor..

My wife Margaret (Peg) works at the Brockton VA, Homeless Program for veterans with addictions, (REACH) Bldg #7. Stop in any time and say hello, she likes to talk! She continues to look for one of us, to date many fine paratroopers, but none of us. As if Peg does not spend enough hours at the VA already, we also donate our time coaching their softball team all summer. Peg served 15 years in the Army, she recently became the Chapter's 1st Associate female member!

We own our own computer company, that continues to keep us busy, and most of the time pays the bills. I guess the saying “you never work a day in your life if you like what you do” is true.

I was not involved in the Chapter for many, many years, there were several reasons, but now that the ghosts, and demons have lessened I find that there is nothing that I would rather do than to support the Chapter. Dennis and Fred manage to keep me busy. I have talked to many of you, emailed all of you, and can honestly say that it has been a pleasure!

Our little Chapter is full of the finest warriors the world has ever known. I am humbled being in such company. There are many accolades that can be said about our members. The most important one I can say is that

I would share a foxhole with any of you!

I wish you a good door position and safe landing always.



STUFF

LIFE MEMBERSHIP: Every member that is life should have received from National a permanent (plastic) membership card as well as be getting the National Newsletter. If you are a Life Member and you did not get, or are not getting, either of these two items let us know so that we can remedy the problem. (Proof of payment is required by National). Contact Dennis Hill if you fall into this category. Dhill173@verizon.net. Replacement Life cards are available \$10.00 from National, Dennis is again the POC.

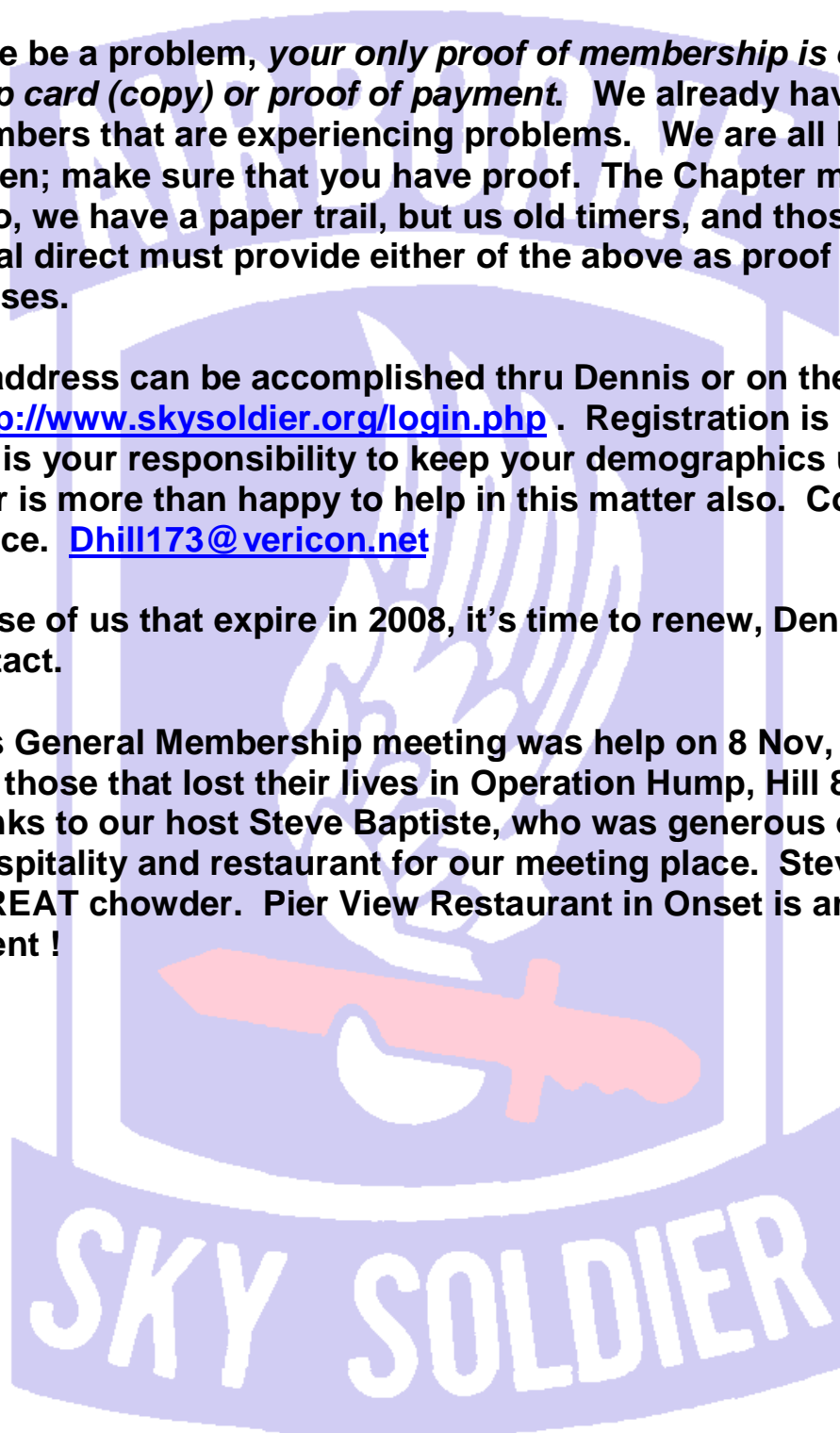
YEARLY MEMBERSHIP: Everyone should have received a paper membership card and be getting the National Newsletter, problems with either, Dennis is the person to contact.

Should there be a problem, *your only proof of membership is either the membership card (copy) or proof of payment.* We already have had several members that are experiencing problems. We are all human and errors happen; make sure that you have proof. The Chapter maintains records also, we have a paper trail, but us old timers, and those that pay, or paid National direct must provide either of the above as proof of payment if the need arises.

Change of address can be accomplished thru Dennis or on the National Website <http://www.skysoldier.org/login.php> . Registration is required by National. It is your responsibility to keep your demographics up to date. The Chapter is more than happy to help in this matter also. Contact Dennis for assistance. Dhill173@vericon.net

DUES: Those of us that expire in 2008, it's time to renew, Dennis is the man to contact.

November's General Membership meeting was held on 8 Nov, (a tribute was paid to those that lost their lives in Operation Hump, Hill 875), A special thanks to our host Steve Baptiste, who was generous enough to offer his hospitality and restaurant for our meeting place. Steve also gave us some GREAT chowder. Pier View Restaurant in Onset is an Airborne establishment !





A bit of little known history about the 503rd

June 1942: As an independent battalion, the 503rd sailed to Scotland becoming the first American parachute unit to go overseas in World War Two. It was attached to the British 1st Airborne Division for training, which included the lowest altitude mass parachute jump in history, exiting the aircraft at 143 feet.

That seems pretty darn low to me!

***"Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously
Never encountered automatic weapons".***

General MacArthur

If you have an article or picture of interest to the Chapter submit it to webmaster@newenglandskysoldier.com, we will include this on our website and the newsletter. It can be historical or current.

As always, we wish you a good door position and a safe landing.