



# Sua Sponte

www.1rrpranger.org

*Second Quarter 2017*

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**Deadlines:** *Sua Sponte* is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. Absolute deadline for submitting material for the newsletter is 45 days prior to the month mentioned above.

**Submissions:**  
Please send to Stephen Johnson,  
Editor. Address page 2 inset

## Beamer Guest Speaker

*Roger Beamer photo: Buffalo News*



service and enlisting into the Army and fast tracking to Special Forces soon after graduating from jump school.

His experiences in Vietnam, for two and one-half tours, have steered his interest in serving other Veterans and he will share what he and others have been doing to serve them.

Right now he is on another mission

Some of the earlier members maybe had Roger Beamer as an instructor at MACV Recondo School. This year at Buffalo, we are honored to have him as our guest speaker, arranged by Rod Congdon.

Roger served with the 5th Special Forces Group while in Vietnam and will share his life experiences with us at our reunion.

Like true Patriots that we are, Roger will talk about his family's Patriotic

quite different from Vietnam but with the same commitment of passion and drive to get that mission done.

It has been a long interesting road since all of us have left Vietnam. Most Veterans will go out of their way to connect with others who have served. We welcome a man who is walking the talk in his quest to serve!

## Company G (Ranger)

### 75th Infantry Association

Frank Svensson, Secretary

6964 Berkshire Ave

Alta Loma, CA

91701

Email: [fsvensson8557@hotmail.com](mailto:fsvensson8557@hotmail.com)

## Sua Sponte

Stephen "Tower" Johnson, Editor

10433 Juneberry Rd. NW

Bemidji, MN 56601

E-mail:

[TowerG75th@yahoo.com](mailto:TowerG75th@yahoo.com)

## Officers

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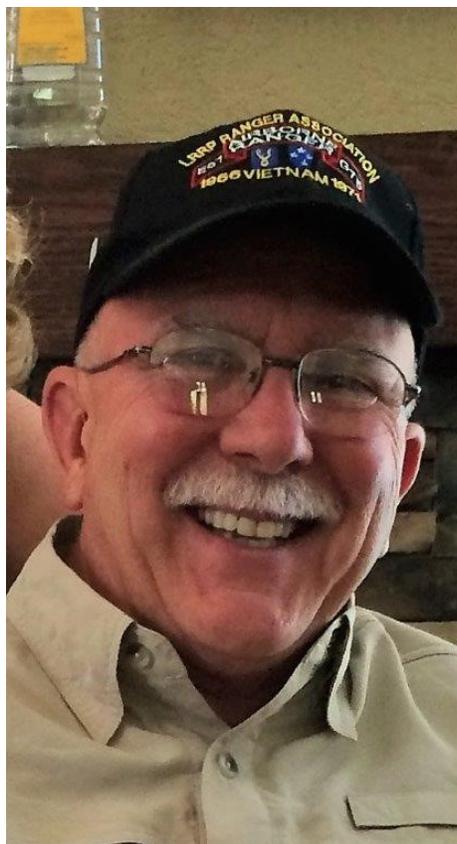
Chuck Ford, Board Member

**Sua Sponte** is the official newsletter published quarterly by the Company G (RANGER) 75th Infantry Association edited by Stephen "Tower" Johnson.

**Change of Address:** Any Address Changes should be sent to: Sharon Robison, 5523 North Ocean Blvd., Suite 1512, Box 12, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577 or email: [tomsharonrobison@msn.com](mailto:tomsharonrobison@msn.com)

**Membership Information:** All former members of the 196th LRRPs, E/51st LRP, and G/75th Rangers are eligible to receive Sua Sponte. Membership applications can be obtained by contacting the Association at any of the addresses or phone numbers listed above.

**Newsletter Submittals and Deadlines:** see page 1



## Presidents Message

Greetings,

In our lifetimes, we have seen tremendous changes, not the least of which is how we are able to communicate with each other. Hard-wired phones and party lines (remember them) have given way to handheld computers, which not only allow us to speak to others but also are capable of performing a plethora of tasks through ever increasing apps. Technology and social media has enabled us to find old friends and maybe make new ones. We can watch entertaining videos or some that help us learn how to do a task and we can speak with and see people in distant places in real time, crossing borders and oceans without leaving our home.

While all of this is great, social media has not replaced the need for human social interaction (hermits excepted). To sit with others and be engaged in conversa-

tion, to shake their hand, look them in the eye and see their body language makes the connection so much richer. Sitting with a group, especially one that has a special connection in a common history, enjoying your favorite adult beverage, reminiscing about past times and discussing plans for the future is what binds us together. You can't give a RANGER buddy a hug or welcome in one who has found his way to the association on Skype.

So, I look forward to having some rich RANGER encounters in Buffalo. Rod Congdon and his team have put together a great itinerary for this years' reunion in September. After all, how can you pass up the chance to meet with other Rangers and at the same time visit the city famous for the invention of a national treasure; Buffalo Wings!!

While looking forward to this years' reunion, it's not too soon to be thinking about reunion 2018. Next year the rotation brings us to a location in the central zone of the U.S. If someone is interested in hosting the 2018 reunion please contact me or one of the other officers of the association. You should write a description of your ideas / plan so it can be submitted to the membership at the meeting in Buffalo. You will find a sample informational page in this issue, which can be used as a guide for your submission.

Our organization exists for all our membership, so please let us know of any issues or ideas that you think need to be addressed or can be helpful. You can email me at [lrrp75thinf@aol.com](mailto:lrrp75thinf@aol.com).

Please have Ranger or LRRP in the title of your email.

I look forward to seeing you in Buffalo.

**RLTW**

Bill Martin

# Wanted: Midwest 2018 Reunion Host

One of you lucky members who live in the “Midwest” have the chance to show off your hometown to the Association. We rotate every year from the East Coast to the Midwest, then the West Coast and start over again taking turns. This year we are on the Eastern part of the country so for 2018 it's in the Midwest.

If you would like to host next year's reunion, please put together a short letter (no more than three to four paragraphs) to be read at the general membership meeting. Attending members will then vote on the reunion site for 2018.

The letter should be sent email or snail mail to our secretary, Frank Svensson and needs be in his possession no later than August 15th. Frank's contact information is on page two of this newsletter.

Some suggestions: Attractions nearby? For example, this year we have our reunion in Buffalo and a major attraction would be Niagara Falls. If you think of previous reunions there was always an attraction nearby.

Secondly, is there a major airport hub service nearby for those that fly in? At least half of those attending arrive via air travel.

Is there an appropriate place nearby that we can use to honor and read the name of our Brothers who gave all? This year, for instance, we are holding our memorial service at the Naval and Servicemen's Park.

Is there a suitable hotel (Best Western is banned) that can provide free shuttle service to and from the airport and other amenities like a free, adequate space for our banquet-hospitality room so we can serve our own adult beverages and sell our concessions and hold our “world-renowned” auction.

These are some of the things that you might want to mention in your letter to Frank. Just provide some basic information from the above and include whatever else you think would draw our members to your home town.

Mail, email or snail mail, Frank Svensson by August 15. The membership will decide at our annual meeting

where our next reunion will be. You will be notified.

December 1 deadline: dates and hotel. We hold our reunions, usually, Thursday and checkout Sunday. To save money, we have found it best to have our reunions after Labor Day.

We also like to get the special room rate 2 days prior and after our reunion for additional time to sight-see. Having the information by December 1st allows time to share the information with our members in the Sua Sponte December issue.

If selected you will have a small reunion advisor group to work with you. They will give you cheap advice and sometimes reliable information (you get what you pay for)!

## Chu's Friend Needs and Shares Information

Steve,

Good talking to you and finding out a little more about Mike.

I served two tours as a Sr. Advisor to the Vietnamese Rangers and knew Mike personally and professionally. I also have items that Mike gave to me because he knew I was military historian and collector of Vietnam militaria.

In any event the question that I had was: "Does any one recognize this DI and have any information on when made, by whom, and why the stars were change to the Star of David? See photo, Your assistance would be greatly appreciated, to record this information for history's sake.

I also have a Facebook site covering both the First and Second Indochina Wars:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1726441960963865/?ref=bookmarks>

Great talking with you and aloha.

Dennis Kim  
michalkim3466@gmail.com



# Ron Olsen Featured Member



I was asked if I would be a featured member my first thought was no. Second thought was it might help me even though it's been many years. I still have many blanks of my time in Vietnam but here is what I can remember.

When I graduated in 1966 from Anoka High School in Minn., I already knew my draft number and it was 34. I was only 17 and family tradition said you have to go. My mom would not sign papers; she was just being a mom. So on 1 May 1967 I enlisted for Infantry/Airborne. I went Ft. Campbell, KY for

basic and Ft. McClellan Ala. For AIT and came out as an 11C. They took our whole barracks and sent us to Vietnam. I landed in Cameron Bay sometime in Sept. 1967 and was assigned to C/4/31 196<sup>th</sup> Brigade. We were convoyed to somewhere and I remember that I was asked who is 11C I answered I am. I was told we hump so here is the base plate for a 60mm. I was in the bush from that time for about nine months before seeing a LZ. Somewhere during that time I asked how to get out of the mortar platoon and was told they had an opening in Recon so I went to 4/31 Recon. My worst time in recon was when they assigned us to a Cav company (think it was the 17<sup>th</sup> Cav) doing stay behind missions of off APC's. The first LZ that I remember was Camp Evans 1967. During my time in the 4/31, I got to visit the 7 field hospital at Camp Evans as I got blown off one of them APC's., and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Med. Chu Lai 1968. I spent the Tet Offensive of 1968 in the Que Son Valley. For some reason I remember the Que Son Valley and Hiep Duc Valley's and not being very friendly. Went to a stand down finally in Chu Lai around July of 1968 and that is when I put in for the Lrrps.

I was in the Lrrps from August 1968 to November 1969. I am one of the Legs as I am not Airborne Qualified. I remember going to the Recondo School in Chu Lai and thinking this is cool much better than the infantry. I felt that the Lrrps were great as there were no grey areas. My first assignment was Duc Pho and my Team Leader was Ron Ridenhour. I eventually took over that team as my own, (for some reason I do not remember the team names that I was on). I worked mostly out of Duc Pho but their where times that I was a Team Leader for teams out of Chu Lai. I spent some time on Mad Mac's Mtn. not sure why but I did not like that place. My team main team was John Schultz, Henry Tablano, Donald Scheerer, Bruce Davey and myself. My team also had Lt. Pennington on it at time when we needed a fifth person. Some guys I knew and worked with were Roth, Mosley, Thomas, Lett, Chandler, Felts, Beach, Corkran, Scallion, Swires, Thiele, Dane, Lineham, Pruden, Castile, Jacks, Lt. Pennington and a lot that I do not remember. Places that I remember as a Lrrp were Duc Pho, Mo Duc, Chu Lia, Quanggai, Kham Duc, Hoi An and LZ Baldy. To me I had two code names for the team it was Parrot and when I went to Chu Lai Danny Jacks would change it to Slim. On the missions some were intense, some not but I have one that still gives me problems. That mission was March 23 1968 in the vicinity of Mo Duc. I am proud of my team after finding five enemy positions we received heavy fire from all directions. (*Feature continued on the next page*)

# “Parrot” Feature

The firing was so intense that I felt that was our last day. Then the helicopters arrived. Enough said love those Shark gunships. We returned all ok. It became missions and party hardy after that.

In the last days I wanted to extend again and was told no I need to go stateside, they would recommend me for Warrant Officer Training or I could become a 1<sup>st</sup> Lewie. I then ask if an early out was available was told yes so I left late November 1969. Give me a ticket for a airplane.

When I got out things did not make a lot of sense. I landed at Ft. Lewis at the airport I was called names and spit on. When I landed in Mpls. Minn. I went to a bar to have a drink and was asked to leave as I upset their customers. I tried school but I could not hide who I was so it became party hardy so that I would not have to face the demonstrations and protests. I got a job and put forth Lrrp effort (never was unemployed) but still partied hardy. I got married and had two wonderful kids (whom stayed part of my life) but it did not last due to booze, frustration, and anger. Somewhere along the line I met my current beautiful wife of 38 years. I adopted Vickie's daughter so I have 3 wonderful daughters. I am not sure how she put up with me for this long. My first job as a boiler operator led me to facility management and construction management. This also allowed me to move to all of the following states; Minnesota, North Dakota, Kansas, North Dakota, Kentucky and Nebraska. Moving allowed me to be alone and in charge as you build by codes and no one could argue with me. In the 80's I was in North Dakota building and remodeling hospitals. I was drinking hard and going to a Vet Center it was good and bad. We built a small Vet Nam Memorial and Huey Helicopter for parades in a not so friendly town toward Vietnam Vets. My wife at this time was tired of my life style something had to change so I went to alcohol/drug treatment in Mpls my wife and daughters attended. Did not like what I heard but I quit drinking did not change attitude. The oil in the area came to a bust so; I had to send out resumes and would land in Kansas 1990. All was not well in the family (but of course it was not me). I was still having nightmares and attitude was still there leave me alone. We lost two grandbabies and I wanted to have what I seen in a Cowboy who I knew (laughing/smiling). So I read what I could in the Bible about kids, looked up in the sky and said if you are real take these nightmares of 27 years away. I have not had nightmares since then (still have thoughts/remembering's). In 1991 my one daughter was in college and wrote a story for a course it was called One Man's Story, it happened to be my story in Vietnam as she knew it and how it affected her and our family. Not easy to read two quick excerpts; 1. This war caused many men to die for their country. Many were affected emotionally, not just during

the war, but forever after the war. Ron Olsen is one of those men who forever will be haunted. 2. Ron did not stay in touch with anyone as he was a loner. He attributes that for saving his life in the Infantry and Lrrps. Even though he was a loner (not getting close to anyone) He is very proud of the Lrrps/Rangers as they had each other's back. While in Kansas I received a call from Jerry Schuster and met with him in Great Bend Ks, he convinced me to join the Association in 1991. I also had my first meeting with the VA in 1996 diagnosed with PTSD 30% disability. Ya right.

We moved many times to other states due to my job of construction management. I was 64 and was sending resumes out could not find job so I retired. Looking back management changed and I still had not. I feel I could not get employment due to my attitude. We moved to the Black Hills were we had a cabin and our kids loved it there so why not retire (by the way it was off grid). We lived there for a year and moved close to Deadwood due to snow, age, etc. I went to the VA for healthcare as I was a vet, first meeting they recommended that I also take counseling. I go twice a week to the PCT clinic, my wife and I have used their marriage counseling and things are on the upswing. They also gave me 50% disability.

I have went to the Wall 3 time with my wife (very emotional but healing) and for some reason we went to the Ranger reunion in Mpls Minn and the one in Norco. I am very glad to have gone; my brother in arms welcomed us with open arms. The trip to Norco we did in a ten week adventure across Canada and Western United States. Thank you Linda and Shawn Rannahan for the great time. We will be going to Buffalo to continue with this Great Brotherhood whom have shown me that Ranger/Lrrps Lead the Way and Never forget a Brother. I also received a plaque in Vietnam from the Rangers that I shared, not sure why but I seem to be the only one that got one (at least with all I shared it with)

One last comment we went to Hawaii 2017 and went on a catamaran outing that included a barbecue. While waiting for eats they started to play 60's music and the announcer stated that most of us would enjoy the Hippie/Love music. A Lady looks at my Ranger hat and stated: I protested your war and I am teaching my kids to protest know. I bit my tongue and afterwards to a 3 mile hike. If I think of the 70's congress and the nation was at odds. This is my belief but I think that we have arrived their again with the protests and demonstrations. It is sad. Still fighting the VA, PTSD, but with my Beautiful Wife, Family and Brothers in Arms I am making it. Later Parrot/Ron

# Camp Merrill Ranger Cookout



*Story by David "Chief" Moncada*

## A WEEK AT THE MOUNTAIN RANGER CAMP

I had the good fortune of meeting up with my good friend and fellow brother Ranger Roger "Gunn" Peet in Dahlonega, GA from 19 – 25 Apr. After our 1-year tour in Vietnam, Gunn and I were Patrolling Instructors at the Mountain Ranger Camp (2<sup>nd</sup> phase of Ranger School), the best duty station I had in the Army. It was the annual Critter Cookout and Open House at MRC. I hadn't been to Dahlonega since I left in Feb 1971. The

MRC is now known as Camp Merrill (in honor of Gen Merrill of Merrill's Marauders), which has undergone many modern changes. The permanent duty staff were terrific in hosting and putting on a Rangers in Action display of mountaineering, hand to hand fighting, fast roping, skydiving, and other classic Ranger tactical demonstrations. It was a lot of fun to watch and to recall how we used to do things. During the Open House (Sat) hundreds of families with young children were certainly treated to observing all the Rangers in Action displays, especially the Black Hawk helicopters on the ground in the little airstrip at Camp Merrill. Gunn and I (and all other Ranger Cadre at MRC) had to use this little, thin airstrip as a DZ to maintain our jump pay....crazy stuff indeed.

Gunn and I were able to visit Lonnie D. Miller's gravesite a few miles from the Ranger Camp. He passed due to cancer in 2000, after retiring as a 1SG from the Ranger Camp. We spoke with many old Rangers from the camp that worked with and knew 1SG L. Miller, and it was quite clear that Lonnie was held in the greatest esteem and admiration among all. Lonnie was my friend and fellow instructor of the Americal Recondo School in Chu Lai, and I had the honor of going into the bush with him on many occasions. Lonnie was a straight shooter, a great man, and one hell of a Ranger.



# Camp Merrill Cookout



The Critter Cookout was simply amazing – on the menu we had venison, wild hog, fish of all type, possum, turtle, snake, and other enticing chow, all in the Ranger tradition. As the day waned into evening, a few bottles of local Moonshine somehow appeared around the large evening bonfire. Gunn was the designated driver that evening....nice for me, as I do have “a hankering for white lightning” from time to time, especially around old Rangers telling their war stories! Maybe it’s just because we’re growing a bit older, but I never tire of hearing Ranger war stories, especially from those who served in other units and beyond. The old LRRP/Rangers from P/75 were among the funniest in their accounts (they were along the DMZ in Nam), as they seemed to enjoy pestering and messing with their buds....very much like us and other 75<sup>th</sup> units.

We had the privilege of meeting two older Rangers who both fought in the last stages of the Korean War and who had multiple tours in Vietnam with Ranger units – and they were also Ranger Instructors at the MRC. One of these Rangers graded Colin Powell as a student at the MRC. It simply boggles my mind that the Ranger Family

is comprised of amazing men from all walks of life and who love to hang together to enjoy “more Ranger company!” This event happens every year, and it’s open to all LRRPs/Rangers, and I plan to return as often as possible, God willing.

I hope that guys from our association have the opportunity to visit Camp Merrill for the Critter Cookout in future years.

God Bless and RLTW  
Chief



# Buffalo 2017 Reunion

## Buffalo Itinerary Working Copy

Airport Fairfield Inn

Wednesday, September 20

Early Check in

Hospitality Room opens from 4:00 PM to 11:00 PM

On your own for the evening

Thursday, September 21

Official start of our reunion

Hospitality room open from 12:00 Noon until 11:30 PM

Host & Hostess Pizza and Wings party- 6:00 PM in Hospitality Room

Friday, September 22

Board Meeting- 9:00 AM Hospitality Room

General Membership Meeting- 10:00 AM Hospitality Room

Hospitality Room open from 12:00 Noon until 11:30 PM

On your own for supper

For those interested, Cook out at the Hospitality Room 5:30 PM until 7:00 PM, \$5 per person

Music in the Hospitality Room 8:00 PM- 11:00 PM by an all veteran local band

Saturday, September 23

Memorial Service Rendezvous – Parking Lot- 9:00 AM

Drive to Buffalo Naval and Servicemen's Park 9:15 AM

Memorial at Naval and Servicemen's Park 10:00 AM

Time allowed for tour of the Park and Canal Side if desired

Return to hotel at 12:00 Noon

Hospitality Room open 1:00 PM until 12:00 Midnight

Banquet in Hospitality Room at 6:00 PM

Auction in Hospitality Room at 8:00 PM (This pays for our reunion cost; please bring something to auction and your banker)

Sunday, September 24

Check out and farewells



### Third Fret

*Rocking in Buffalo Entertainment*

Andy Congdon, guitarist and backing vocals, served in the US Army at Walter Reed Army Medical Center from 1985 to 1989.

Joe Brady, Vocalist, Harmonica and guitar, Served in the US Army. Served 5 years as an Army Medic and Lpn at Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center and at Leavenworth.

Formed in the late 90's, 3rd Fret has resurfaced as one of WNY's sought-after duo's. Acoustic guitarist, Andy C. is a well-known part of Buffalo's music scene, best known for his strong leads and versatility. Former Sidekick band member, Joe brings his diverse musical background and strong vocals giving 3rd Fret's music a distinct style that is sure to please.

### Bitter Sweet Acoustic

Andy Congdon, Guitar and backing vocals ( same as above)

Gina Gigliotti, Vocalist, Served as a US Army Reservist from 1993 until 2004.

Sal Anello, guitar and vocals

Gina has been the vocalist for the Local WNY band Bitter Sweet since its inception. Andy joined in with Bitter Sweet as a fill in for a few shows then became their acoustic guitarist in late 2010. Both members have experience in the local music scene and are now taking it to a new level....bringing the best of Bitter Sweets material and adding to it, then playing it acoustically.

The combination of both groups will cover a lot of musical styles that everyone will be sure to enjoy! (Special Guest Guitarist- Roger Beamer)

# 2017 Reunion Buffalo, NY

The 2017 Reunion dates are Thursday, September 21st with a checkout date on Sunday, September 24th. The rate is \$109 per night plus tax (\$13.75). For those that want an extended stay you can get the special rate 2 days prior or after our reunion.

The reunion will be at the Marriott Airport Fairfield Inn with free airport shuttle and a hot breakfast and free parking.

The phone for booking is 1-716-633-2488. The address is 4271 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, NY, 14225. See you in Buffalo. Rod Congdon



## Quarterly Financial by Lynn "Cowboy" Walker CPA

1:57 PM  
05/09/17  
Cash Basis

### COMPANY G RANGER 75TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION Profit & Loss January 1 through May 9, 2017

	Jan 1 - May 9, 17
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Direct Public Support	
Individ, Business Contributions	1,745.00
Total Direct Public Support	1,745.00
Other Types of Income	
Concessions	720.00
Total Other Types of Income	720.00
Program Income	
Membership Dues	2,135.00
Total Program Income	2,135.00
Total Income	4,600.00
Gross Profit	4,600.00
Expense	
Operations	
Postage, Mailing Service	118.39
Printing and Copying	617.72
Website rental	67.75
Total Operations	803.86
Other Types of Expenses	
Other Costs	
Coin Costs	757.50
Total Other Costs	757.50
Total Other Types of Expenses	757.50
Total Expense	1,561.36
Net Ordinary Income	3,038.64
Net Income	3,038.64

Financial continued on the next page.

# FINANCIALS CONTINUED

1:58 PM  
05/09/17  
Cash Basis

## COMPANY G RANGER 75TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION Balance Sheet As of May 9, 2017

	<u>May 9, 17</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Company G Ranger 75th Infantry	19,297.38
Total Checking/Savings	19,297.38
Other Current Assets	
Charter Oak Capital Management	11,021.21
Total Other Current Assets	11,021.21
Total Current Assets	30,318.59
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>30,318.59</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
National Ranger Memorial Founda	250.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	250.00
Total Current Liabilities	250.00
Total Liabilities	250.00
Equity	
Equity Prior Year	186.85
Opening Balance Equity	26,843.10
Net Income	3,038.64
Total Equity	30,068.59
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>30,318.59</u></b>

# Concessions



Here is the new pricing for concessions,

1. Black polo shirts - \$35 ea.
2. Legacy t-shirts - \$30 ea/
3. Ball caps - \$20 ea.
4. Travel bags - \$30 ea.
5. Americal LRRP or Recondo pins - \$5 ea.
6. Challenge coins - \$35 if shipped  
\$30 if purchased at a reunion site.

## ASSOCIATION CONCESSIONS...

Great Bags for Travel @ \$30



email David "Chief" Moncada at:  
[meganmoncada1@comcast.net](mailto:meganmoncada1@comcast.net)

Sua Sponte  
5523 North Ocean Blvd., Suite 1512  
Box 12  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

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*"of their own accord"*

Quarterly Newsletter of  
The 196th LRRPs, E51st  
LRPs, and G-75th Rangers

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Featured Member Ron Olsen with Vickie