



# RTNC 7 NEWS

June 2011

## MISSION STATEMENT

Rolling Thunder®, Inc.'s major function is to publicize the POW-MIA issue. To educate the public of the fact that many American prisoners of war were left behind after all past wars. To help correct the past and to protect the future veterans from being left behind should they become Prisoners Of War/Missing in Action. We are committed to helping American veterans from all wars. Rolling Thunder, Inc. is a non-profit organization and everyone donates his or her time because they believe in the POW/MIA issue.

**When one American is not worth the effort to be found, then we as Americans have lost.**

## Letter from the President

Summer is here – and North Carolina has had one of the best springs I can remember! We had generous spring showers and actual spring weather! For those of us that ride, you could not ask for better temperatures, even now into June, the riding weather has been excellent!

On April 30<sup>th</sup> the chapter held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Poker Run, and we would like to thank all the friends who came to support us, again a beautiful day to ride along with some good fellowship. Brewer Cycles in Henderson, Ancient Iron in Oxford and Corner Grocery in Creedmoor were gracious hosts for our stops.

May 1<sup>st</sup> the chapter and friends gathered for breakfast at Honey's in Durham then rode to Kannapolis to honor Sgt Donald Shue, a Green Beret missing in the jungles of Vietnam since Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1969. Welcome home Sgt Shue! Jeff Phillips, President of RTNC 2 did an outstanding job of organizing this ceremony. Thank you Jeff!

On May 21<sup>st</sup> the chapter again was pulling double duty, as we seem to do so much of these days, while some of us went to ride in the Timberlake Memorial Parade honoring Person County Veterans, others in the chapter set up and Education table at a local car show.

May 27<sup>th</sup> we began the ride to Washington, DC to participate in Rolling Thunder XXIV. Read about our weekend later in the newsletter.

And once again, our busy little chapter was pulling double duty, as those who stayed in North Carolina placed flags on Veterans graves and participated in local ceremonies on Memorial Day. Lu Ann Spain presented the missing man table ceremony at the Memorial Day Ceremony in Wake Forest.

June 4<sup>th</sup> our Education table was in Butner for the annual Chicken Pickin event. It was moving to see so many people take our stickers of current POW Bowe Bergdahl and wear them! Amazing and sad at the same time, we would say, thank you for honoring Bowe and bringing awareness to his status, only to hear, "I didn't know." It has now been two years, and I'm sure Bowe is wondering when he will come home. A huge thank you to Quartermaster Randy Grosskopf and his team for a successful day of educating the public.

**Until they all come home.....**

*Monica Vetula Cash*



# HOUSE RES 111

**H.Res 111 - "That there is established in the House of Representatives a select committee to be known as the Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs."**

"The select committee shall conduct a full investigation of all unresolved matters relating to any United States personnel unaccounted for from the Vietnam era, the Korean conflict, World War II, Cold War Missions, Persian Gulf War, Operation Iraqi Freedom, or Operation Enduring Freedom, including MIA's and POW's missing and captured."

The Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs concluded in 1993 that; **"There is evidence, moreover, that indicates the possibility of survival, at least for a small number, after Operation Homecoming..."**

Much new information has surfaced regarding the mis-handling and suppression of POW/MIA information. A former analyst with the Defense POW/MIA Office provided this information along with many other disturbing details requiring Congressional attention. Specifically, he detailed a report referred to, in house, as the "185 Report," This report discussed the possibility that as many as 185 American POWs were alive as late as 1976. During the same time frame the Joint Casualty Resolution Center (JCRC) concluded their own study. They found the possibility existed that as many as 57 American servicemen might be alive.

In the fall of 2008, we learned that investigators for the Senate Committee compiled a list of 59 names representing the "small number" the committee evidence "indicates the possibility of survival." Investigators also stated they represented the "minimum number" of POWs. Isn't it time we find out what happened to that "small number" and address the "unresolved matters" relating to our POW/MIA's.

**At the time of this newsletter, only Representative Virginia Foxx is on board from North Carolina.**

**Call your Congressman! Tell them to support House Res 111**



This legislation needs your support!  
We need answers!

# TIMBERLAKE MEMORIAL PARADE

For the last few years we have been invited to the little village of Timberlake, North Carolina. They love their Veterans and on Flag day have a parade to honor them. The first couple of years the veterans, like Santa Claus, were on trailer beds at the end of the parade, but complained that they never got to see all the floats, cars, and other entries. So, it was decided to place them at the beginning of the lineup so that they could watch the parade go by then pull in at the end. Rolling Thunder and friends follow them. We really enjoy getting to see the classic antique cars and tractors go by, many of the men guessing at the year of the vehicles, calling it out to the drivers.

The first couple of years we showed up, it was interesting, the Veterans didn't know what to think of us, but then as they came to know us, with the help of some of them being relatives, teachers and church family – we have all come to look forward to spending this time together, especially before the parade kicks off when we can catch up on the happenings of life. It has become an event that the members always look forward to.



Local Veterans ready to roll!

Watching the parade of antique tractors go by.



# **SP4 DONALD MONROE SHUE**

MACV-SOG, or Military Assistance Command Vietnam Studies and Observation Group, was a joint service high command unconventional warfare task force engaged in highly classified operations throughout Southeast Asia. The 5th Special Forces channeled personnel into MACV-SOG (though it was not a Special Forces group) through Special Operations Augmentation (SOA), which provided their "cover" while under secret orders to MACV-SOG. These teams performed deep penetration missions of strategic reconnaissance and interdiction which were called, depending on the time frame, "Shining Brass" or "Prairie Fire" missions.

On 3 November 1969, SSgt. Brown, team leader and demolitions expert; Sgt. Gunther Wald, radio operator; then SP4 Donald Shue, rifleman; and six Montagnards comprised a patrol operating 30 miles west of the South Vietnamese/Lao border in the isolated and rugged jungle-covered mountains near Ban Chakevy Tai, Savannakhet Province, Laos.

As the patrol moved through the area, it was ambushed by a numerically superior communist force. During the initial burst of automatic weapons fire, SSgt. Brown was shot through the body just below the rib cage. The communists lobbed in grenades, fragments of which struck SP4 Shue. At the same time, as Sgt. Wald was making radio contact for help, he was also struck by grenade fragments. Two of the six Montagnard team members were also wounded in the initial attack. All three Americans were last seen lying wounded on the ground by Pong, one of the four surviving team members, who were forced to withdraw under fire leaving the others behind. At the time he departed the area, Pong did not know the extent or severity of the wounds sustained by the Americans. Further, as the Montagnards were escaping the ambush site, they heard the communists shout: "Capture the Americans!" They successfully evaded capture and reported the results of the ambush once they made their way back to base.

Due to bad weather, a search and rescue (SAR) team could not be inserted into the area until 11 November. They searched the entire area, but could only find some web gear which was identified as belonging to the patrol members. More importantly, no personal equipment, weapons or graves were found in or around the battle site. Likewise, there was no trace of the men themselves. At the time the formal search effort was terminated, William Brown, Donald Shue and Gunther Wald were all listed Missing In Action.

SP4 Donald M Shue is on the Wall at Panel 16W Line 024

42 years later, Donnie Shue is home. His family contacted Rolling Thunder NC 2 President Jeff Phillips to help give SP4 Shue the welcome home he deserved. Jeff and his chapter stepped up and the Welcome Home was the tribute he deserved. So many groups and individuals came to be a part of this ceremony. Rolling Thunder chapters from across the state, and neighboring states came. His friends spoke of a wonderful, fun loving, handsome young man, who loved to sing, ride motorcycles, and wanted to be a Special Forces soldier. Sitting in the service, it became apparent that Donnie was a well loved man by all that met him.

It was our honor to be there to welcome SP4 Shue home. Our chapter joins in with the North Carolina Vietnam Veterans, Inc. every first Saturday of the month to honor the North Carolina sons still waiting to come home from Vietnam, they have read the names of our POW/MIA's for 26 years without missing once. The first list had 65 names on it. SP4 Donald Shue's name was retired from the list on May 7, 2011, taking the list to 42.

We have another son waiting to come home to North Carolina, MSG Ralph Reno. His remains are in Hawaii till his return can be co-ordinated with his family.

**So now there are 41 North Carolina Sons – waiting to come home.**

# ROLLING THUNDER XXIV

On May 27<sup>th</sup> the chapter met at the Waffle House in Youngsville for some breakfast fellowship with the members making the trip to DC and members who came to see us off! We even had some friends ride with us up to the Virginia line!



Friday night had an interesting start to the Candlelight Ceremony at the Vietnam Wall, at first the skys lit up with some incredible lightning and just enough rain to cool things down. All the weather passed in time for the ceremonies. You can't help but feel the love and pain of so many there to honor their friends and family whose names are on the wall. The Candlelight Ceremony is an essential part of the weekend, not to be missed.

Saturday morning we headed out with a couple hundred Rolling Thunder members from across the Nation to visit with the TAPS families. Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors. We roll up on our bikes and they come out to visit us, it's a chance for them to smile and for a short time, forget that they have lost a loved one. I remember at one point looking at the sea of children with their active duty big brother/sister and realizing that each one of these children has lost a parent in the current conflict, each year this group grows and it is sobering.

At 11 we were at the Navy Memorial for the annual Rolling Thunder wreath laying ceremony, lunch, then our Security team kicked in for stage security at the reflecting pool. And of course, shopping at Thunder Alley is always high on the priority list of all of us. If you need a patch or shirt or haven't purchased your bike raffle ticket, it's the place to go!

An early night was in order for all, with 5am kick stands up for the Pentagon parking lot where we worked with the parking team for the first time – and concensus was, we'd love to do it again. It made for a fast paced morning and the opportunity to meet so many of the people who join us on the protest ride. We also fielded a Security team for the first time, but you would have thought they'd been doing it for years, a great job!

Monday morning we went to the World War II Memorial wreath laying ceremony before heading out for the ride home. What a wonderful ceremony! We were honored to be there to support our Greatest Generation!

# PHOTOS

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P  
S



Navy Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony

WWII Memorial Ceremony



World War II Veterans Salute

A little road side repair....

# Calendar of Events – Ours and those we support!

July 15 – Family Fun Day with the Wounded Warriors at Ft. Bragg

Aug 2 – Purple Heart Dinner Wake Forest, NC

Aug 27 – Rolling Thunder NC State Chapter Picnic

Sep 3 – Bingo at the VA Hospital

Sep 3 – Lake Gaston Turnaround, Littleton, NC (Pin & Patch Sales)

Sep 3 – RTNC 1 Ride for the Ride Home

Sep 14 – Raleigh Flight of Honor

Sep 15-16-17 – RT Chapters - The Ride Home – Andersonville, Georgia

Oct 1 – RTNC 7 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bike Show and Military Appreciation Rally– Franklinton, NC

Oct 8 – RTNC 7 Wounded Warrior “Bug Run” to benefit the Wounded Warriors at Ft. Bragg

Nov 5 – Bingo at the VA Hospital

Dec 10 – RTNC 7 Christmas Party





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NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER 7  
&  
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**OCTOBER 1, 2011**  
33801 Us 1 Hwy  
Franklinton, NC

REGISTRATION 9 AM to 12 PM  
JUDGING BEGINS 12 PM  
TROPHIES AND AWARDS 1 PM  
REGISTRATION FEE \$10.00



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[bikeshow@rollingthunder-nc7.com](mailto:bikeshow@rollingthunder-nc7.com)  
Proceeds Benefit ALL Rolling Thunder NC7 Charities  
[www.rollingthunder-nc7.com](http://www.rollingthunder-nc7.com)

LOCAL RESTAURANTS INCLUDE –  
Rik's, Andy's, Chen's, Subway  
ALL ON LOCATION!



ANCIENT IRON OXFORD NC  
SUPPORTS RTNC7





# WOUNDED WARRIOR “BUG RUN”



MONEY RAISED WILL PURCHASE GIFT CARDS WHICH WILL BE GIVEN DIRECTLY TO THE WOUNDED WARRIORS AT FT BRAGG TO HELP THEIR FAMILIES HAVE A BETTER CHRISTMAS



\$50 FIRST PRIZE FOR BUG SPLAT CLOSEST TO DEAD CENTER ON THE STICKER PLACED ON YOUR HEADLIGHT

OCTOBER 8, 2011  
Registration 10:00am – 11:00am  
Ride Starts at 11:00am

RIDE STARTS AND ENDS AT  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 52  
40 American Legion Road  
Franklinton, NC 27525



\$20 PER RIDER/ \$10 PASSENGER INCLUDES MEAL AND MUSIC  
DOOR PRIZES and 50/50 RAFFLE

RAIN DATE: October 9, 2011



ROLLING THUNDER NORTH CAROLINA 7  
WWW.ROLLINGTHUNDER-NC7.COM

## Pins & Patches

Rolling Thunder NC7 Second Quarter Raffle Tickets is in the history books, and our winner was a deployed soldier – Congratulations to Lucas Elliott! \$500 Cash Award.

Tickets are \$2 ea and include 2 chances at the Prize! The winning number is based on the NC Edu Lottery Evening Draw pick three; all proceeds will benefit the Rolling Thunder NC7 General Fund.

Look for our third quarter raffle starting soon~! POC: Randy Grosskopf

Plenty of Support Shirts available in both Black and Sand.

### Pray for Bowe Bergdahl and Ahmed Altaie, our current POWS

## Rolling Thunder NC 7

P.O. Box 228  
Franklinton, NC  
27525

MEETINGS ARE  
HELD AT:  
AMERICAN LEGION  
POST 52  
40 AMERICAN LEGION RD  
FRANKLINTON, NC

EVERY MONTH  
3<sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY  
AT 7PM

GUESTS WELCOME

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.rollingthunder-nc7.com](http://www.rollingthunder-nc7.com)

FACEBOOK:

ROLLING THUNDER NC-7

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## About Our Organization..

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Is Not a Motorcycle Club

All Members of this organization must be willing to help fight the prisoner of war missing in action issue, which still exists. To help protect future veterans from becoming POW-MIA's and to help veterans in need from all wars

Every member must abide by the constitution and by-laws of Rolling Thunder®, Inc.

Members must be present at the Rolling Thunder®, Inc. RUN in Washington D.C. on Memorial Day weekend and keep their membership in good standing

Membership applications can be picked up in person at any national or state chapter - at their monthly membership meetings. We do not mail out membership applications.

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. relies on volunteers to donate their time to keep it going. If you cannot volunteer your time and attend meetings, please do not sign up for membership in our organization.