



BADGER AIRBORNE NEWS

82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION • BADGER STATE CHAPTER

November 2008



The All Americans

"We will provide some Paratroopers to come speak to your group. It is an honor for us and important as part of our communicating with our Nation who provides their sons and daughters to our Army".

- Lt. Col. Bill Huff, C.O. 321st Airborne Artillery, 508th Airborne Brigade, The Famed 82nd Airborne Division.

- *Col. Huff is a former star Tight End for Army and looks the part!*
- *We thank him and hope that the Army will soon promote Lt. Col Huff to General!*

The 82nd Airborne Division:

The Green Bay Packers of Our Troops!



Paratroopers of the 321st Airborne Artillery, 508th Parachute Infantry Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division honored the Badger Chapter by their heroic presence at our Sept. 27 meeting in Eau Claire. Sgt. Mathew Staab, S/Sgt Gregory Funk and 2nd Lt. James Fine flank WWII 325 GIR hero Lester Schwarm. In the background are John Givens, Bob Phillips, Mike Haller, Dave from Eau Claire and Lenny Shier.

A HUGE AIRBORNE thanks to Lt. Col. William Huff, CO of the 321st for arranging this visit! "We

will provide some Paratroopers to come speak to your group on 27 Sept. It is an honor for us and important as part of our communicating with our Nation who provides their sons and daughters to our Army," said Col. Huff.

Col. Huff, winner of two Bronze Stars, promises to stay in contact with the BSC and hopefully we can get the old Army tight end to show up himself for Airborne Days. Actually, Huff doesn't look old. He looks like an Airborne Kirk Douglas in Spartacus. (Laney photo, More Pics inside)



Badger State Chapter
82nd Airborne Division Association

Officers

Mike Haller, Chairman

608-356-3235

Tom Laney, Vice-Chair

715-962-4365

John Givens, Secretary

608-788-3651

Reuben Clark, Treasurer

608-222-4833

Gerald Diemel, Sgt. at Arms

715-758-8365

Steve Helms, Adjutant

920-832-9090

Trustees

Tom Gaukel - thru 2010

608-355-2382

Gordy Starck- thru 2008

414-425-3908

Frank Morris- thru 2009

715-693-6161

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Message from Iron Mike



Mike greeting Sgt. Mathew Staab, S/Sgt Gregory Funk & 2nd Lt. James Fine, 321st Abn Arty, 508th Brigade, 82nd Abn, Ft. Bragg. (Laney photo)

Greetings:

To All BSC members, spouses, girlfriends and families. Our last meeting was held in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Three paratroopers from Fort Bragg North Carolina were the highlight of the day. They gave us some first hand information about their deployment in Afghanistan. It was very enlightening.

Les Schwarm gave us a very inspiring personal story of his trials and tribulations fighting the Germans in World War II. Les was a survivor of the Battle of the Bulge. We should all stand up and salute him and the rest of the veterans who

fought for our freedom during this conflict.

On November 15th we are planning a BSC meeting at King, Wisconsin. Important business will be election of officers for 2009. Every member should bring his comments and suggestions. We need your input to keep our Badger Chapter of the 82nd Airborne healthy. Please refer to newsletter for projects for 2009. Go Airborne

Mike Haller
 Chairman - BSC

Apache Smoke (Editorial)

The sight of my BSC 82nd WWII heroes Perry Hurlburt, Les Schwarm and Bill Hannigan with our 82nd guests gave me some goosebumps at the last meeting! All the years between Anzio, Normandy, Market Garden, The Bulge and Baghdad and Afghanistan did not diminish the mutual respect and honor you could feel between the oldest and newest generation of 82nd Airborne scrappers. I wish everyone could have been there for this magnificent moment! The 82nd is in great hands!

I will not be at the King meeting because we'll be watching the Badgers kick the Goofers with our grandkids. But, I'd like to be included on the Airborne Days Committee if someone will volunteer me.

It looks like we will be doing a BAN for



January and we probably should do monthly bulletins for the runup to Airborne Days. We should spruce up an email list to enhance comms and get the BSC web site *Airborne!*

The Tribute Case for Ripon should be ready to go in the Spring. I am working on citations now and waiting for Ripon to agree with the Thompson.

New member M/Sgt Sean Beaudette has invited us all to come to see Ft. McCoy on Sunday the 26th for an informal brunch at Denny's Hwy 21 & 94, Tomah at noon. Call Sean at 785-307-0296 or me at 715-962-4365 for info.

This concludes my Vice Chair tour. It's been fun working with Gerry, Mike, Tom, Reuben, John, the Morris's and everyone else but I really need to just focus on BAN now.

ATW,
 Tom Laney, Editor

BSC Minutes

9-27-08

**Badger State Chapter
82nd Airborne Division Assoc.**

American Legion Post #53, Eau Claire

I. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Haller at 3:15 PM. The meeting was dedicated to Len Allard and Daniel Hoye.

II. The pledge was led by Mike Haller and the prayer by Tom Gaukel. Mike then introduced the active duty 82nd Airborne Troopers from Fort Bragg who were our guests for the meeting. 2nd Lt. Fine, from North Carolina, has been with the 82nd about 4 months. Staff Sgt. Funk has 7 years behind him and is from Columbus, Ohio. He has served in Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Sgt. Mathew Staab is from Pennsylvania, and was originally with the Coast Guard, then joined the Army. He ended up serving in Afghanistan with the 508. All three each spoke for about 5 minutes about some of their experiences with the 82nd. Mike Haller then presented each of them with a book written by James "Maggie" Megellas, a box of Wisconsin cheese, and a challenge coin from the BSC.

III. Approval of the 7-26-08 minutes, motion by Doug Rasmussen to approve, 2nd by Tom Laney, passed.

IV. Treasurers Report by Tom Gaukel for Reuben Clark. Motion to approve by Tom Gaukel, 2nd by Laney passed.

V. Secretaries Report by John Givens.

1) Certificate of achievement awarded to the BSC from the 82nd Assoc. for 2008 membership. 2) 82nd Airborne Div. Assoc. Bulletin, dated 9-5-08. (a) 2008 annual convention went very well. (b) During July the "Devils in Baggy Pants", 505 PIR redeployed to Fort Bragg after 13 months in Iraq. Approx. 200 troopers attended the convention.

(c) On July 21st MG David K. Rodriguez relinquished command of the division to become the senior advisor to the Secretary of Defense and was promoted to LTG. BG Rodney O. Anderson (DCG-S) will be the acting commander. (d) In Oct. 08, MG Curtis M. Scaparrotti will assume command of the division. He is a former commander of the 325 AIR. (e) Future National Con-

vention sites are, 2009, Indianapolis, Ind., 2010, Charleston, WV. (f) Oldest members on chapter rosters, #1, Nicholas Stozic, age 103, 325 GIR, #31, Herb Huebschen, BSC, age 88, 325 GIR. 3) A veteran skydiver of 30 years was killed in Southern Wis. when his parachute failed to open. He was William Doherty, 53, of Janesville, Wis.

4) We have 22 challenge coins still available for purchase, and have taken in \$1301.00 in sales for the BSC. 5) Anyone interested in becoming an officer of the BSC or nominating someone should contact one of the Trustees, or come to the next meeting at the King Veterans Home, where the election of officers will take place.

VI. Vice Chairman's Comments, Tom Laney. Introduced future member, Leonard "Lenny" Shier, new member, M/Sgt. Sean Beaudette, (who signed up at the meeting), and Dave from Eau Claire. Tom L. mentioned purchasing a replica machine gun for the display case for James "Maggie" Megellas.

VII. Chairman's Comments, Mike Haller. Mike thanked all who attended the meeting.

VIII. Project coordinators report. Tom Gaukel talked briefly about the gift packages for children of KIA'S. Bert Schmitz, via email to John Givens, questioned how much money was still available in the care package fund account. Doug Rasmussen suggested getting together with his American Legion to send out care packages. Tom Gaukel suggested that care packages be sent to Wisconsin Airborne Troops, or to members kids or grandkids that are serving our country, and some guidelines be incorporated so we are all on the same page. Other state chapters are probably sending care packages to their state troops, some perhaps are sending them to anyone and everyone wherever they are from. Tom G. made a motion that we hold 5 meetings in 2009, March, May, July, Sept., and Nov., exact time and date to be determined. Laney second. Motion passed. The November meeting this year will be held at the King Vets Home, in King, WI. on Nov. 15th. John Givens suggested we publish a newsletter in late Dec. or early Jan. because there are no meetings in that time frame and a newsletter would keep everyone informed and up to date.

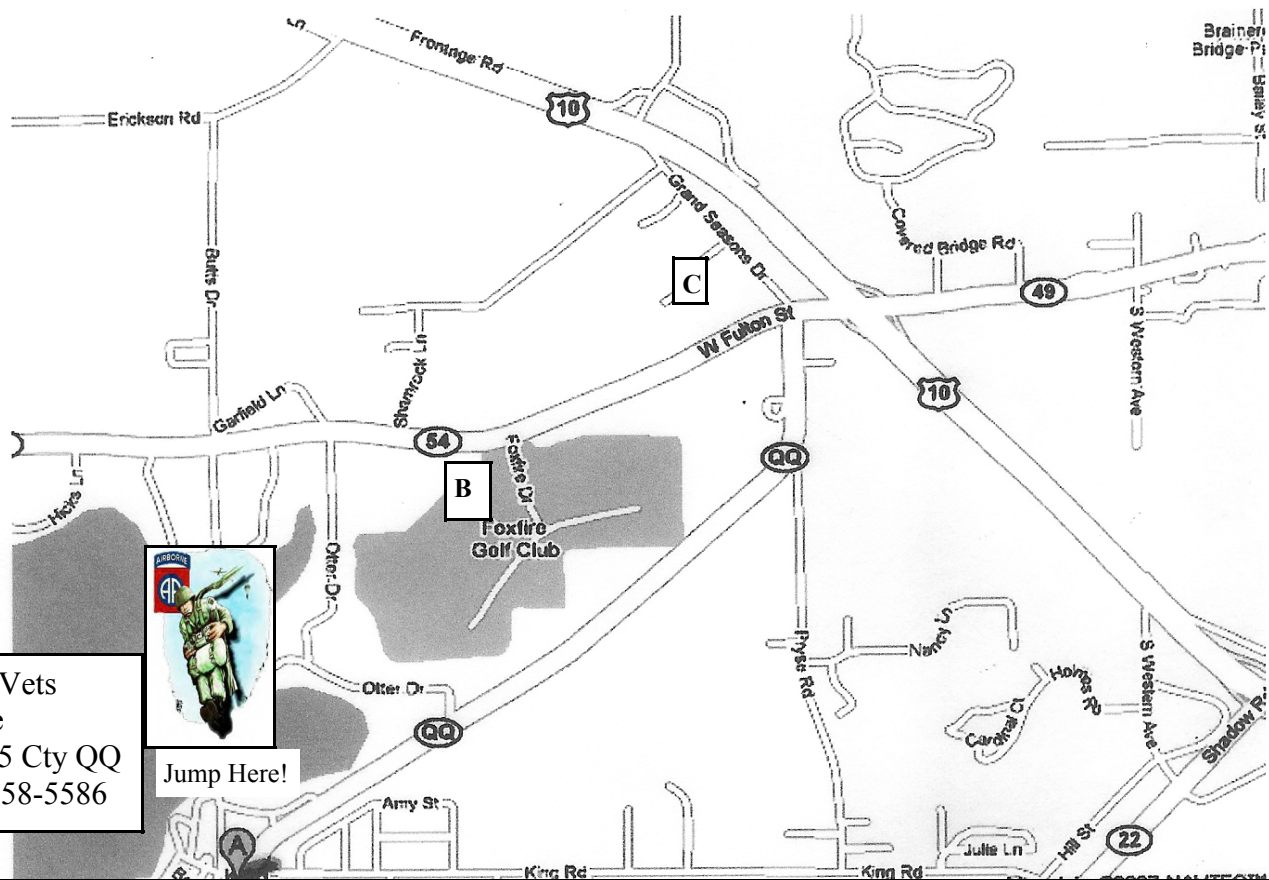
AIRBORNE DAY, 2009. Tom Gaukel handed out a suggestion sheet of things that the BSC may want to consider checking out. Motion by Tom G., 2nd by Kipp Hartman, to explore further a July date, motion passed. Motion by Bob Phillips, 2nd by Kipp Hartman, to hold our BSC meeting on the same day as Airborne Day. Tom Schoettler suggested we meet early at the King meeting, before the regular meeting in Nov. to discuss this project. Also discussed was holding an executive meeting prior to the King meeting, possibly at Fort McCoy. Kipp Hartman introduced Fort McCoy PEO, M/Sgt Chris. She is on active duty and may be able to help out with publicity and help get things started. Kipp mentioned the need for ideas to raise funds to cover some of the expenses for this project. Les Schwarm will provide pictures of the glider being built. Motion to reimburse Tom Laney for the Megellas books by Tom Gaukel, 2nd by Doug Rasmussen, passed. Motion by Tom Gaukel to reimburse for the cost of the boxes of cheese, 2nd by Tom Scheottler, passed. Tom Laney made a motion to purchase a replica Thompson Machine Gun for the James "Maggie" Megellas display case to be placed at Ripon College. Tom Gaukel questioned acceptance by the college for a weapon in the case. Discussion followed. Tom G. suggested to add to the motion to get approval in writing from Ripon before we make the purchase, if the motion passes. Tom Laney will follow up.

X. Members Comments. Tom Gaukel mentioned the Chairman's Pin should be obtained from Steve Helms, and given to Mike Haller. The Past Chairman's Pin should be sent to or picked up at the next meeting by Steve. Secretary, John Givens was asked to contact Steve. Tom G. also thanked the three 82nd Paratroopers for their visit to our chapter. Les Schwarm was a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge. He talked about his personal time there and how a Thompson Machine Gun played such a huge part in the action. Very touching story, Thank You Les.

XI. Motion to adjourn by Tom Gaukel, 2nd by Bob Phillips, passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM. Sec. John Givens and Ann Gaukel

The Road to King

A. State of Wisconsin: Central Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery-King
 N2665 County Road QQ, King, WI
 (715) 258-5586



King Vets Home
 N2665 Cty QQ
 715-258-5586



Jump Here!

Please Join Us for the Veterans Day Meeting of the 82nd Airborne Badger State Chapter at the King Veterans Home Saturday Nov. 15

BSC Agenda:

- I. Call to Order at 2PM
- II. Pledge and Prayer
- III. Presentation of Dietz print to King Commandant
- IV. Approve 9/27/08 minutes
- V. Treas. Report
- VI. Sec. Report
- VII. Vice Chair Report
- VIII. Chair Report
- IX. Project coordinators Reports
- X. Old Business
 - A. Status of Wisconsin Airborne Days
 - B. New Members Project
 - C. Ripon show case status
 - D. 2008 Convention delegates report
- Break

- XI. New Business
 - A. Nomination/Election/ Swearing in of Officers
 - B. Future Fund Raiser Project
 - C. Jan. 2009 BAN
- XII. Members Comments/Suggestions
- XIII. Adjourn

Getting to King Vets Home:

Look for the "A" in the lower left corner of the map above, just below the jumper. From the hotels, take Country Road QQ SW to Marden and turn right. It is the center driveway. The meeting is in the Marden Center. The Veterans Cemetery is across the street.

Hotels:
Comfort Suites
 \$64.00 +tax
 199 Foxfire Dr.

715-942-0500
 Reserve as 82nd Airborne. Look for the "B" on the map above just to the right and above King near the Foxfire Golf Club. It is just off Hwy 54 and a short distance West of Hwy 10. Getting to King, go SW on QQ.

Grand Seasons Best Western
 \$69.00 +tax
 110 Grand Seasons Dr.
 (NW corner of Intersection of Hwy 54 & Hwy 10)
 715-258-9212 Reserve as 82nd Airborne. Look for the "C" on the right side of the map above. Getting to King, go SW on QQ. Turn right on Marden.
Dinner: See box on next page.

We need you!

Hook up for Airborne Days

There will be a committee set up at the Nov. 15 BSC meeting at King to organize Airborne Days next July. Tom Gaukel suggested something like this organizing framework at our Sept. 27 meeting:

Purpose: To promote the legacy of Wisconsin's Airborne Troopers; to honor Wisconsin's WWII Airborne Veterans; to recruit new members to the BSC.

Who: All BSC members. Send letters to BSC WWII Vets and all special guests.

When: July 2009, 3rd or 4th Saturday, possible gathering on Friday.

Where: Dells, Volk, McCoy?

Sub Committees-

Hotel & Banquet: Ho Chunk, VFW or Legion, Date, Meeting areas, rooms, food

Invitations: Personal letters to all BSC Vets, Special guests from 82nd Airborne Division and Association, Old Abe Chapter, etc.

Publicity: Write copy and send to newspapers, TV, Radio, Paraglide, VFW, Legion, AMVETS, DAV

Program: When, MC, Speakers, Slide/Video, Presentations, music

Decorations: Posters, flags, displays

Tailgate: Possible tailgate party for Friday night



Activities: Possible Golden Knights drop on Sat., Glider Re-enactors from Madison, Wisconsin's Flying Trees Exhibit, Circus World, Dells Fun Parks, etc.

Tom says, "If the participating members of the BSC decide to go ahead with a plan, we should make every effort to do it right and that will take some planning!" Remember—It is easy to have an idea. To plan and organize the idea is hard work!

BSC Airborne Dinner
 5pm Social Hour, 6pm Dinner (Chicken & Beef Tips)
Saturday Nov. 15
King's Table
 About a block NW of King Vets Home , \$14.50 per person
 (Includes tax and tip)
Make dinner reservations by Nov. 8, 2008 by sending your check to:
Reuben Clark, Treasurer
BSC 82nd Airborne Assoc.
5318 Greenbriar Lane
Madison, WI 53714-3404

AIRBORNE SHOP

We have *AIRBORNE* Challenge Coins, jackets, flags, patches, pillows, pillow covers, T's, aprons, posters, books, CD's etc.

We can get just about everything you need except lower taxes.

All profits go to the BSC.

82nd Heroes From The Bulge to Baghdad

67 years of the 82nd Airborne Division pumping out the most lethal Paratroopers and Glider Riders in the world!



BSC Chair Mike Haller looks on as 325 GIR Mortar Man Les Schwarm, Wausau , tells us how vital the Thompson Sub-Machine Gun was to 82nd Paratroopers and Glider Riders in WWII. Les rode a WACO Glider into Market/ Garden and fought at The Bulge.



504 PIR machine gunner Perry Hurlburt, Durand, shares a story from The Battle of the Bulge with Iraq/Afghanistan combat vet S/Sgt. Gregory Funk., Les Schwarm and 2nd Lt. James Fine.



Ann Gaukel, Les Schwarm and Tom wondering how Les ever got into his old uniform. Note the Glider Rider Wings and the Airborne cap!
Can you get into your uniform?



Airborne Ranger 2nd Lt. James Fine talked about the Global War On Terror. With the 82nd for four months he said he was very impressed with the spirit and discipline of the world's finest , the 82nd Airborne Divisions. Lt. Fine igraduated from Appalchain State last year and we thnakked him for the stomping of Michigan.

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82nd Airborne Division Assoc.
E6304 866th Ave.
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Check your dues! Keep Badger Airborne News dropping in! RE-UP BSC today!

World's Most Lethal Paratroopers

L-R front, Les Schwarm, Perry Hurlburt and newest member Bill Hannigan, St. Paul. Bill went All The Way thru WWII, from N. Africa to Berlin with the 82nd. He was a squad leader in Maggie's platoon.

Iraq vet, Sgt, Mathew Staab, 2nd Lt. James Fine, Mike Haller and Iraq/ Afghan vet S/Sgt. Gregory Funk are backing the old boys up. We had a great time with these Paratroopers from Ft. Bragg at the Eau Claire meeting.

This photo and the front page shot have been sent to the Packers with a request they run them on the Lambeau big screen in honor of all our troops.

