



July 2008



The All Americans
*Take the Airborne Van to
 the 82nd Airborne Con-
 vention Page 7*

Things to do in Baraboo

Wheelers Campground
 E11329 Hwy 159
 Prior registration re-
 quired 608-356-4877,
 Web:
 wheelerscampground.
 com
Circus World Museum
 550 Water St. & Hwy
 113
 Acrobat Show at
 11:30

**International Crane
 Foundation**
 E11376 Shady Lane
 Rd.

Tours available 10 to
 3, PH -608-356-9462

**Mid-Continental
 Railway Museum**
 E8948 Diamond Hill
 Rd. N. Freedom
 Steam Train Rides
 Daily
 50 Minutes Roundtrip

Ho Chunk Casino
 (Pay for your trip
 here, heh, heh.)

From 4 Combat Jumps & 505 PIR Medic to Mayor

By Tom Laney
 Do you believe
 in miracles?

There are very,
 very few 82nd Air-
 borne Paratroopers
 who made four com-
 bat jumps and lived
 to tell about it. Add the Medic
 MOS to that and you have a larger
 miracle still. But that's what the
 505's Gordy Starck did in WWII.

"I started out in Africa and
 jumped in Sicily, Italy, Normandy
 and Holland. Our job was to fight
 behind enemy lines. We were
 trained well to adapt to the situation
 and fight independently. We were
 trained for everything. And how!
 We were very good at it while the
 Germans couldn't do anything
 without an order.

"At Normandy, the 505 PIR-
 jumped into Ste. Mere Eglise to cut
 off German counter-attackers and
 keep them from the beaches.



"It was tough to go out there,
 bullets flying everywhere, guys
 yelling 'Medic' but that's what we
 did. We lost so many good men. I
 lost count of how many people I
 saw lost. But we saved a lot of
 them too," says Gordy.

Gordy's grandfather had 54
 grandkids and 36 of them served in
 WWII. His brother Ronald was a
 glider rider with the 17th Airborne.

Prior to the war, Gordy was a
 Local 10 UAW Skilled Tradesman,
 a Tool & Die Maker at Allis
 Chalmers. "I worked there before
 the war and they kept the job open
 for me when I returned."

In the way Airborne Troopers
 seem to become civic and commu-
 nity leaders, Gordy was Mayor of
 Franklin and a fixture volunteer at
 the Milwaukee VA Hospital fol-
 lowing his retirement. He is a long-
 standing officer in the BSC pres-
 ently serving as Trustee and pro-
 moting the Airborne's history. He

has returned to Normandy to honor
 his many friends who didn't make
 it home.

He retired at age 55 in 1975
 following a stroke but has contin-
 ued his Airborne advocacy and his
 leadership in the Badger Chapter.

I was a newby at the Milwau-
 kee VA last Spring when I stopped
 to see Gordy who is there recover-
 ing from a broken leg. It's a BIG
 place but the first nurse I asked for
 directions to Gordy's room knew
 him well. "Gordy keeps us on our
 toes," his floor nurse says. Still the
 Airborne leader, Gordy's sharp as a
 tack at age 86.

The last time I stopped Gordy
 was nowhere to be found. After
 searching the floors the nurse said
 wife Margie probably had him out
 for a ride. "She visits him every
 day."



We're invited: Fond Du Lac Legion will name Post after Maggie July 19

The American Legion Post 75 cordially invites you to attend and
 help us honor James "Maggie" Megellas as we rename our build-
 ing in his honor.



July 19, 2008
 11:00 to 3:00
 500 Fond du Lac Ave.
 Fond du Lac, WI



A Pig Roast @ \$5 a plate and refreshments will be
 available.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at
 920-922-8483. Most Sincerely, Edward P. Barnes



Do it now!

Deadlines for St. Louis 82nd
 Convention Registration:

Millenium Hotel 800-325-
 7353

By July 18 for Group Rate
 Guarantee.
 See Paraglide details

82nd Convention

\$82 fee goes to \$92 after Aug.
 1. Reg. Forms in Paraglide.



Badger State Chapter

82nd Airborne 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

Badger Airborne News

Tom Laney, Editor

E6304 866th Ave.
Colfax, WI 54730
Home: 715-962-4365
Cell: 651-492-9309
tlaney1776@Gmail.com

Message from Iron Mike



Chairman Notes:

Hello to all the members of the greatest Chapter of the 82nd Airborne.

We had a very good meeting at the Steakfire Restaurant in Watertown on May 31, 2008. Thanks to Milt Hapke and Mrs. Hapke for setting up and making the arrangements.

The 82nd Airborne Sky Diving team from Fort Bragg, North Carolina jumped at the Dell/Baraboo airport on the weekend of June 27th. Tom Laney, Tom Gaukel and myself witnessed the event. There were other WWII fighter pilots that put on a wonderful display of precision flying. Good show!

Hope to see you all in Baraboo for the next meeting!

Check the agenda in the box to the left. Remember, it's not the Airborne Family without you!

Airborne All The Way!

Mike Haller
BSC Chairman



Mike Haller; S/Sgt. James Hackett, All American Skydivers, the famous 82nd Airborne Division; Tom Laney & Tom Gaukel at the Baraboo 82nd Jump. The jump was a bit screwed up but Sgt. Hackett was one super Paratrooper! Be assured, the 82nd Airborne Division is in great hands!

**BSC AGENDA
JULY 26, 2008
BARABOO, WISCONSIN**

- I. Call to Order - Quorum
- II. Pledge and Prayer
- III. Approval of 5-31-08 Minutes
- IV. Treasurer Report
- V. Secretary Report
- VI. Vice Chair comments
- VII. Chair comments
- VIII. Project coordinators reports
- IX. Old Business
 - A. Highway 10 Memorial shrubs status
 - B. Ripon College "Maggie" project
 - C. Museum display case status
 - D. King gift picture framing status
 - E. High Ground recommendation
 - F. St. Louis convention van status
 - X. New Business
 - A. Next meeting (when/where)
 - B. New member campaign
 - C. Meeting ideas? (What do members want?)
 - X. Members comments and suggestions
 - XI. Adjourn

Eat, Drink & Be Merry!

Next BSC Meeting!

July 26, 2008

Farm Kitchen

3 miles South of Baraboo on Hwy 123
Baraboo, WI 52913
608-356-5485

Meeting 3:00 to 5:00
Drinks 5:00 to 6:00

Prime Rib Dinner 6:00 PM \$14.95 (plus tax & tip)

Send reservation checks by July 15th

To: Reuben Clark,
5318 Greenbriar Lane,
Madison, WI 53714-3404
608-222-4833

Motel

Spinning Wheel

809 8th St.
Baraboo, WI 53913
608-356-3933

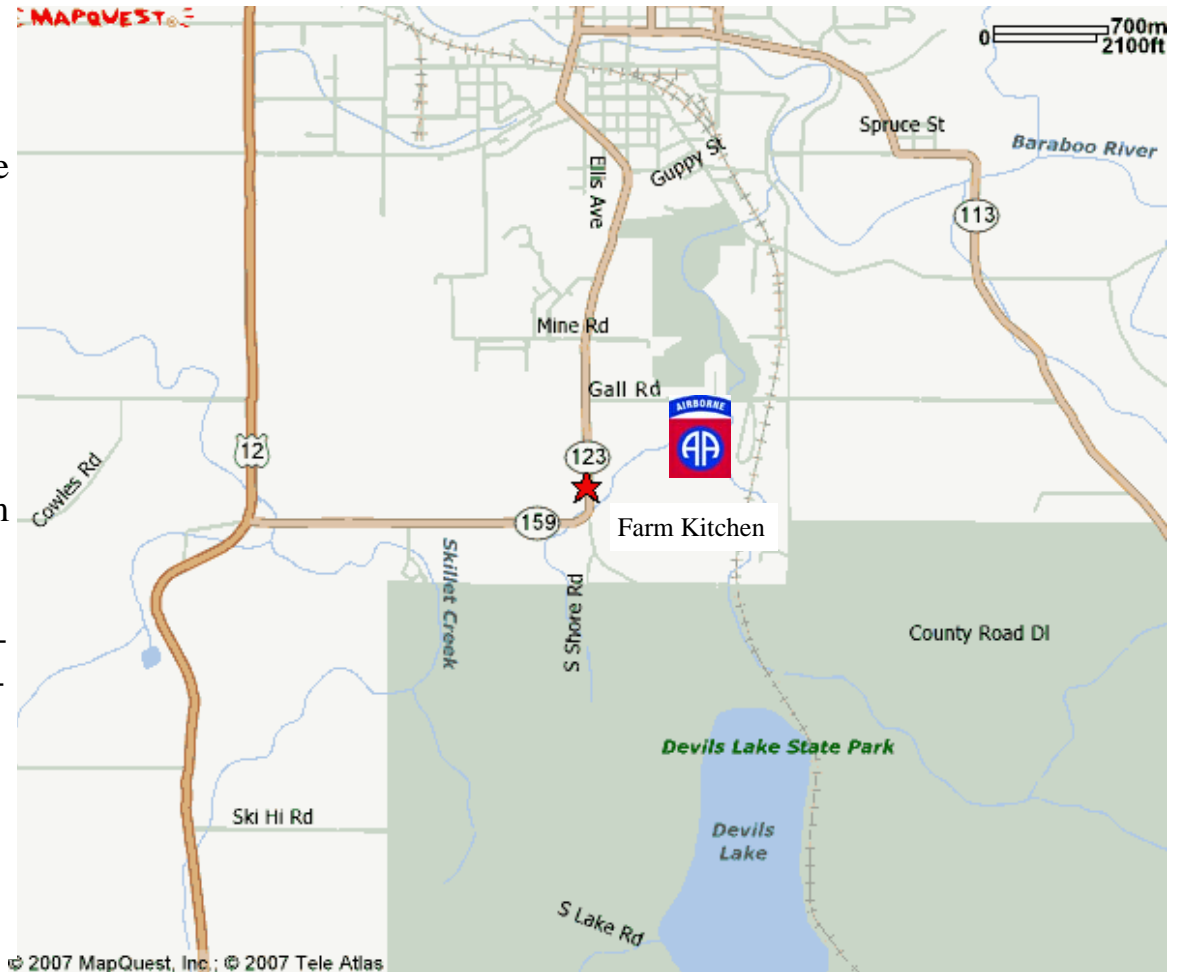
\$65 Rooms plus tax

Call by July 9 and mention 82nd Airborne for rate. Rate goes to \$75 after July, 9.

Do not miss the
 Baraboo BSC
 Meeting
 July 26, 2008
 Farm Kitchen

Terrific Prime
 Rib Dinner ar-
 ranged by Farm
 Kitchen!

Join the discus-
 sion on recruit-
 ing new mem-
 bers for the
 BSC!

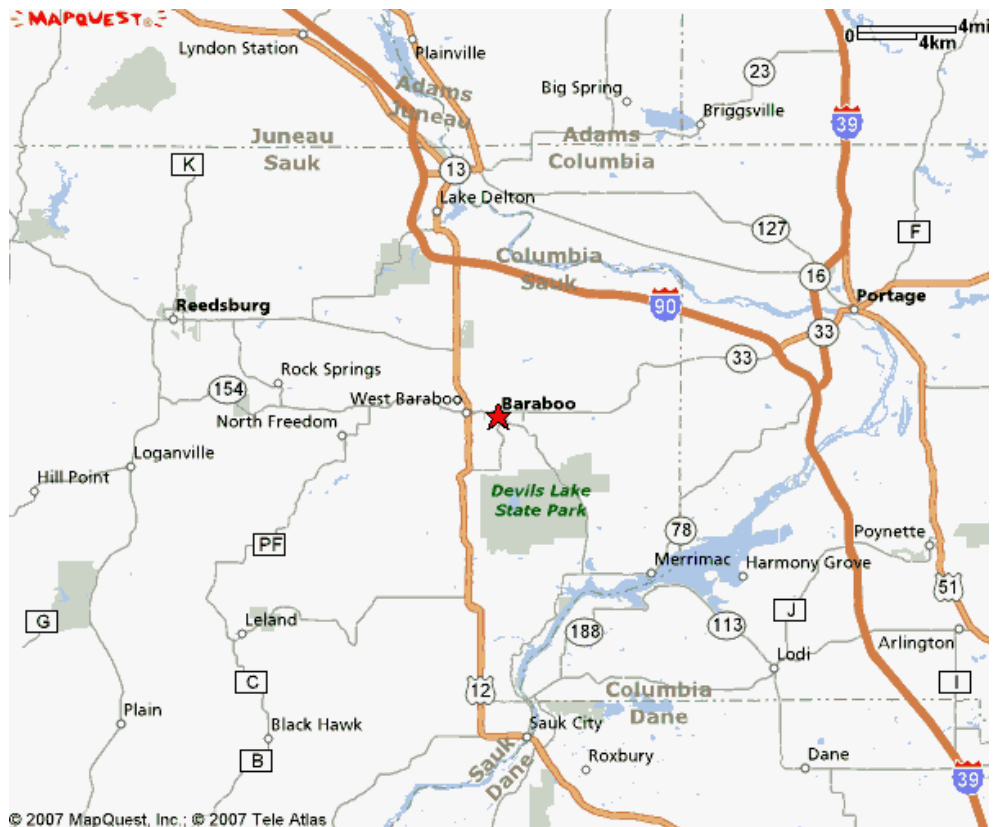


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Partial Map of the Great Airborne State of Wisconsin

Drive Carefully! -
 Some Highway Patrol
 People are NOT
 Airborne!

Fasten Seat Belts
 Cops are now using
 binocs to see if you're
 buckled up!



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Lester Schwarm: 325 GIR Veteran keeps 82nd Airborne Glider history alive

By Tom Laney

Sicily, Burma, Market Garden, The Bulge and Varsity now far behind, one Wisconsin man determines that the memory of all those who rode gliders into the fiercest combat will never die.

"The 82nd Airborne is and was the best Division and the 325 GIR was an equal part of the 82nd," says Lester Schwarm, Wausau. "But we do not expect any special credit for what we did. We just want it to be remembered."

Les has done his part. He has crisscrossed Wisconsin delivering his expert historical views of the 82nd's battles and in particular the 325 and the 101st's 326. He has made the Airborne Memorials in Normandy and Holland. He brought Wisconsin's Glider Riders and Paratroopers together in the Badger Chapter and was instrumental in placing a Memorial in Wausau to the Battlers of The Bulge.

Les is 85 now and has decided to take it easy. He expects others to carry on in his life dedication to and promotion of the Airborne. "You younger guys would have done just what we did if it had fallen to you. Look at the way the Airborne is still performing in combat. They are still the best."

(Hopefully we will soon have a couple of stories about 82nd vets Jared Leable and

Jeff Frawley on their tours of Iraq and Afghanistan. These young warriors confirm Les's view of today's 82nd Airborne - still the best.)

Les gave me some of his notes about his personal combat which included his sentiments about Dallas Griffin a machine gunner, one of his best friends. They read like poetry:

(After The Bulge) "The 325th GIR went to Belgium for a much-needed rest

Here I saw you for the first time since Sissone, France

We each had a tear in his eye, hugged one another and said our usual words

After penetrating the Siegfried Line, E Co. was coming back though where our 81mm mortars were set up

I see a Trooper carrying a light machine gun on his shoulders as you always did

I looked closer and saw it was your second gunner. He spotted me about the same time

His eyes caught my eyes. I motion where you are?

He shook his head and said nothing. He did not have to since I knew what he was saying.

As a General said, 'In heaven there has to be a place for all Airborne Troops.'

I hope to see you there Dallas."

It's been asked now, why would the



Les Schwarm, takes a moment's silence to remember his friends in Holland.

young Paratroopers be interested in our Chapter? The first reason is the opportunity to have friends like Les and the rest of the Glider Riders who fought in WWII. Better than reading about them in books! Point this out when recruiting the young Airborne Warriors. The second reason is to make sure they never die.

Richard Halberstadt

Richard Halberstadt, 85, died at his Racine home April 11, 2008.

He was a founding officer of the BSC.

"He so loved the Airborne," says his wife Elizabeth. "All his years, he just came alive when he talked about his 82nd Airborne service."

He married Elizabeth Towers in England on Aug. 15, 1946 after being assisted by Gen. Jim Gavin, Commander of the famous 82nd Airborne Division who assisted Dick's courtship of Elizabeth. 82nd Troopers were being transferred from England to Berlin but Gen. Gavin, always looking out for "his boys" backed Richard's romantic stay with Elizabeth which led to 62 wonderful years of marriage.

Richard met Elizabeth in 1944, at a "Mess Hall" dance where he waited in line to dance again and again with this lovely girl. (Doc Stolp

22 years ago Richard wrote: "Elizabeth and



82nd's Richard, England, 1944

I have been happily married over 40 years now. Can it be that so much of life and time has slipped away and yet the episodes of the War years are still as clear in our memory as the way they were the day I saluted Gen Gavin on the steps of the Grand Hotel in Leicester, England? There is a lot of war to forget and gladly, although one never fully can, really! But there is also much to remember, fondly and with relish! We have a wonderful family, three great kids and we all give, in our memories, heartfelt thanks to "Gentleman Jim" for the compassionate and loving way he helped us back then. God will surely bless this fine man and give him peace at last. I am proud as hell to have served with him."

Richard worked for the Postal Service. He was a life member of our Badger Chapter, 82nd Airborne Division Association; VFW Post 1391, and National Association of Retired Federal Employees. He was an avid golfer.

He is survived by Elizabeth; children Joy (Jon) Lippman, John (Tara) Halberstadt, and Lesley (Darrell) Zoromski, grandson, Bradley Kousek; sister, Marjorie (William) Jensen; sisters-in-law, Del Mae and Betty Halberstadt; brother-in-law, John Towers; and thousands of 82nd Airborne Division members and veterans.

God bless this great Paratrooper, his wife Elizabeth, their family and friends. *All The Way!*

Friends and Airborne Brotherhood

"These are the things which might conceivably and truly make men forgive their enemies: We can only turn hate to love by understanding what are the things that men have loved...." said the great G.K. Chesterton who loved Soldiers and The Good fight as much as anyone.

It is clear that no one loves the Airborne more than Glider Riders and Paratroopers the most elite soldiers who too often fight each other when there are no other worthy opponents. We can find disputes within the Airborne Family all across our country and within our beloved Wisconsin. Let's remember that amidst all the Army's chickenpoop was the profound bond between Troopers that we all loved and made Airborne life so entertaining. We had and have terrific friends in the Airborne!

The other side of fighting is friendship, mutual respect, the continuance of the Airborne Spirit and the willingness to fight for each other against the common foe.

These days, one common foe is time. We are losing our WWII Airborne Brothers. It is time to patch up the differences and appreciate what they did for all of us.

Let's get together and make the Wisconsin Airborne Family a unit again!

In Memory



S/Sgt. Robert Gregg, Menomonie, setting up for the 11th and 82nd Airbornes in 1944. Thanks to Robert's daughter Lynn Simons for sharing pictures and Robert's wonderful letters home from her Airborne Dad and for her continued interest in the Airborne!

BSC Leaders meet with Ripon College Honchos



Gerry Diemel, Lt. Col. Dan Zimmerman, Mike Haller and Tom Gaukel outside the Ripon ROTC Hdqtrs.

Thanks to Lt. Col. Dan Zimmerman, C.O. of the Ripon R.O.T.C. and Ripon Director Bill Neill, the College will soon have a tribute to their most heroic 82nd Airborne Alum, Jim Megellas. Ripon will add Maggie to it's "Wall of Fame" and possibly a campus plaque.

The BSC will continue discussions with Lt. Col Zimmerman and Mr. Neill as to place-

ment of an Airborne tribute case detailing Maggie's decorations and citations.

Thanks go also to Gerry Diemel, Tom Gaukel and Mike Haller for making the trip to Ripon and conducting a delightful meeting with Mr. Neill and Lt. Col. Zimmerman—great men!

That Col. Zimmerman is a big guy for a Leg, eh?

Airborne Memorial Bridge

BSC Historian & Market Garden Paratrooper, Doc Stolp, says of our Airborne Memorial in Stevens Point. "Remember, it is the job of Paratroopers and Glider Riders to operate behind enemy lines, seizing and holding bridges for the Infantry, thus the Airborne Bridge Memorial," Doc says. You can place your name on this memorial to all our Airborne Brothers and Sisters for only \$100! Contact Tom Gaukel for more info.

Look Airborne!

The BSC has challenge coins, jackets, t-shirts, sweatshirts, ties, caps, flags, pins, patches, medals, cushions, cups, glasses, everything to help you look and feel your

AIRBORNE BEST!

If we don't have it we can get it. Competitive prices and all proceeds go to benefit your Chapter.

AIRBORNE BSC Histories Wanted

Tell us about yourself! We have the book that was done by Doc many years ago but I'm doing this so we will have info on everyone, at least all who submit their history to us. I hope people will look at the outline here and get some idea of how to put it together.

Include Date, Full name, Address, Phone.

Birthday and place of birth

Dad's Name

Mom's Name

Brothers and Sisters

Brief history of grade school thru high school, college, trade school, etc. What was it like growing up?

Graduation dates, Work history

Service dates, drafted or enlisted

Military ID#, MOS

Basic training base, AIT base, Jump School (Bragg or Benning?) If at Bragg, how did your platoon treat you? Other schools—Pathfinder, Jungle, Ranger, etc.—How tough were they?

Unit assignments, Field Operations

Number and place of jumps/glider rides

Combat landings and battles— Try to get this out.

Jump/Glider Stories—Talk about all the close calls and crash landings.

Airborne Friendship Stories—Talk about all the nice things Troopers do for each other, Discharge date & rank.

Life after service—Church/Community/ Civic involvement. Family

Married? Date and spouse's full name and how you met. Children and grandkids names and birthdays and what they do.

Anything else.

Send to: John Givens, 4355 Mariah Dr. S., LaCrosse, WI 54601-2355

BSC Meeting Minutes, May 31, 2008 Steakhouse Restaurant, Watertown, WI.

The meeting was called to order by chairman Mike Haller at 3:05 PM. Jerry Diemel confirmed a quorum. Pledge and Prayer by Reuben Clark. Chairman Haller dedicated the meeting to **Richard Halberstadt**.

Motion by Tom Gaukel to approve the minutes from the last meeting, 2nd by Frank Morris, carried.

Treasurers Report; Reuben Clark. Reuben passed out the financial report to the members. We have 126 life members and 36 regular members for a total of 162. Motion to approve the treasurers report by Jim Morris, 2nd by Herb Huebschen, carried.

Secretary Report; John Givens. BSC membership history book is available to look at. The bulletin from the 82nd Assoc. is stressing that all chapters work at retaining delinquent members. National Convention registration forms are available in the spring Paraglide. Challenge coins are still available.

Vice Chairman's Report; Tom Laney. Tom plans to talk to someone at Ripon College-ROTC about a tribute to James "Maggie" Megellas where he was a graduate. Tom thanked Milt Hapke for his work setting up the meeting place in Watertown.

Chairman's Comments; Mike Haller. Mike mentioned that he is honored to be a member and chairman of the BSC of the 82nd Airborne Div. Assoc. He honors and respects the people who started the chapter and the WWII veterans. We all must work to keep our delinquent members aboard. Mike brought up the Highground. He, Tom Gaukel, and John Givens visited the Highground at Neilsville. Mike feels we should as members, visit and support it to Honor our Veterans. Mike then requested that the project coordinators give their reports. Tom Gaukel's personal observations were less than positive. They have you listen to a 15 minute earphone CD telling

about the area. The 12" X 12" meditation stones consist of 3 printed lines of 20 letters each. No 82nd patch can be used, letters only. The cost is \$575.00. The 24" X 24" stones cost \$3,500.00. A bronze type statue will cost a minimum of \$100,000.00 and would take approx. 2 years to be OK'd and built. Tom thinks it may be a good idea to donate, or pay \$200.00 per year for 5 years, to pay for a bus to transport 5th and 6th graders to visit the Highground. Pamphlets about the BSC and the 82nd Airborne could be handed out to all of the kids. Howard Rennhack is familiar with the bus trips for kids, and thinks they are very educational. They have taken kids from his area, and one of the things covered is flag care. Frank Morris thinks perhaps we could get some other chapters to contribute toward a plaque to display. Tom Gaukel mentioned that they will not display anything in the building that houses the offices and the sales of items to the public. Rick Whalen was curious as to just what is taught or explained to the kids. It was decided to table any decisions until the next meeting.

Tom Laney mentioned that work is being done to get the **Medal of Honor** for James "Maggie" Megellas. Get in touch with the governor and congressman to push this through. Tom has heard from Doc Stolp. Doc would like to have the chapter put in some shrubs around the area of the Stevens Point Bridge Memorial. Jerry Diemel is working on finding the best and cheapest way to attach the nameplates to the Memorial stone at Stevens Point. He will report further at the next meeting.

Old Business; Tom Gaukel read the letter to chapter members about the \$500.00 donated to the Glider Project. They thanked us, and we will be recognized by a plaque in the museum in about 2 years. Tom Gaukel and Mike Haller picked up the 2 display cases for use at a museum for Airborne Memorabilia. Would like to set one up at a veterans museum and one possibly at Maggie's college, Ripon. Tom Gaukel showed the members the "Airborne" artist print that will be displayed at the King Veterans

Home.

New Business; Saint Louis Convention, Tom Gaukel made a motion that the chapter pay for 2 delegates, the chairman and the vice chairman at \$85.00 each, 2nd by Frank Morris, carried. Tom G. checked on renting a 15 passenger van, est. cost, \$940.00. If 13 people go, the est. cost per person would be \$72.31 from Baraboo. People interested, Frank Morris and wife, Jim Morris and wife, Jerry Diemel and wife, Tom Laney and wife, Tom Gaukel and wife, Rick Whalen, and possibly John Givens and wife. Next BSC meeting. July 26, 2008 at the Farm Kitchen Restaurant, just south of Baraboo at 3:00 PM.

Members comments; Frank Morris asked about Steve and Eric Helms. Howard Rennhack mentioned Steve was visiting a Vets hospital, no details, and that Eric should be coming home pretty soon. Howard mentioned about a care package for Eric. Member, Mike Bresnahan attended his first BSC meeting, along with a guest and potential new member, Walt Voegeli.

Motion to adjourn by Tom Laney, 2nd by Jim Morris, carried. Adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Secretary, John Givens and Ann Gaukel

Delinquents:

The following Troopers are presently delinquent with their membership dues:

Arvanitis, Andrew
Bankert, Les
Baumann, Gary W.
Comeau, Rodney
Dogans, Acie
Edgerly, Millard
Jeziarski, Daniel
Lisowski, Kevin
Ouellette, William C.
Schneider, Joseph
Smith, Gregory
Welch, Ervin
Williamson, Robert R.



These are the Hyper Cool BSC Airborne Challenge Coins designed by John and Marsha Given's son Jeff and now available for prestige and fundraising. Every Badger Glider Rider and Paratrooper should have lots of these! All proceeds will benefit the BSC. Prices: Non-Members & Legs: \$10 each. BSC Members: \$8 each for one to five; \$7 each for six or more. (Plus shipping.) Order from John Givens, 4355 Mariah Dr. S., LaCrosse, WI 54601-2355 Ph. 608-788-3651. Email: johngivens996@centurytel.net

Recruit Recruit Recruit!

There are not many Airborne units left. Paratroopers are more elite and scarce than ever. BSC members must get out and look for 82nd Airborne Division and 173rd Airborne Brigade members serving today as well as older members from all the Airborne units. This includes the Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and Navy.

Check with your local NG and Reserve outfits for current leapers and those headed for Jump School.

Write a letter to your local newspaper promoting BSC membership. Pound on your Airborne friends to get into the BSC! We're talking free dinners for anyone signing up three new members!

Badger Airborne News
82nd Airborne Division Assoc.
E6304 866th Ave.
Colfax, WI 54730



Special Forces Mike Bresnahan, 325 Leaper and 2000+ sky diver Howard Renhack and 307th Engineer Jumping Cook Frank Morris enjoy a drink & jump stories at the BSC meeting in Watertown. You can hang out with Hang out with Airborne guys like these at the 82nd's Convention in St. Louis! Sign up now for the travel deal of your life! (Much better than a C-119!)

Check your dues! Keep Badger Airborne News Dropping/Gliding in! RE-UP BSC today!

RECRUIT YOUR SOCKS OFF!

Gen. Gavin observed that more than 60,000 men went through the elite 82nd Airborne Division alone in WWII. We had five Airborne Divisions then, more than 100,000 Airborne Glider Riders & Paratroopers. The 82nd Association was organized to continue the unity of these fierce Sky Soldiers in social chapters throughout America; and, to insure that what these great men did would always be remembered. But the Airborne recruiting pool has shrunk drastically.

Today, we are down to a single Airborne Division, the 82nd and the 173rd Airborne Brigade. We have Paratroopers fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, every bit as valiantly as the Airborne vets of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.

We need to find ways to let them know they are welcome and needed in our Chapter and the 82nd Association. How can we do that? John Givens suggests watching your local newspapers. When you see a story on a Trooper, follow it up by contacting him or the family. Tom Gaukel suggests another news campaign. Start by asking your local newspaper to run blurbs about our Chapter inviting Airborne vets to join us. And, we should have a website. Laney's working on this and needs *LOTS OF Help from anyone experienced in website design.*

Thanks to Tom Gaukel, we have started connecting with CVSO's and that is paying off. We now email BAN to the CVSO's and many have been good enough to pass it on to their Airborne Vets. And one, Paratrooper Doug Stubbe, even arranged a BAN meeting with 507th Warrior John Hinchcliff from Webster. (More on John later.)

Tom started this by getting the Sauk County VSO to add this invite to the VSO newsletter. Personalize it with your phone number and your local newspaper will probably print something like this for free:



Normandy 507th, 82nd and 17th Airborne Vet John Hinchcliff with fellow Paratrooper Burnett County VSO, Lt. Col. Doug Stubbe in Doug's office.

The Badger State Chapter, 82nd Airborne Division Assoc. is a fraternal, social organization of Airborne Veterans that covers the entire State of Wisconsin. Any Veteran who was Airborne qualified (Paratrooper or Gliderman) is eligible to join regardless of your unit. The 82nd Airborne Association welcomes Paratroopers and Glider Riders who served in the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard. (Sorry, no "Air Assault".)

Remember, you do not have to be a Vet of one of those crazy Airborne outfits. You just need Wings!