

Spring 2023

# 84th Railsplitters Association

## Bugler



Fellow Railsplitters,

Spring is in the air! Soon enough Mother Nature will allow us to enjoy some warm and sunny days.

As we move into 2023, I regret to inform you for logistical reasons we cancelled our 2023 Dining Out. But, fear not, plans are already underway for hosting the event in 2024 at the newly renovated Western Racquet Club in Elm Grove. More information will be forthcoming. On February 11<sup>th</sup>, we hosted our Annual Valentine's Dinner at Alioto's Restaurant in Wauwatosa. Event was well attended. Everyone agreed the food was tasty and the time spent with our military friends was priceless!

The Annual Meeting and Army Birthday celebration will be conducted on Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the Brookfield Highlands, 20825 George Hunt Circle, Waukesha. Appetizers and beverages will be provided. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Mick Gillitzer of Sierra Delta. Mr. Gillitzer is a retired Marine and is the Director of Veteran Programs for Sierra Delta. Sierra Delta's mission is to empower every Veteran, disabled and non-disabled, with access to approved dog training that provides purpose, innovation, and community through the love of dogs. It is critical you RSVP to the forthcoming invite!!! Headcount is necessary to ensure sufficient food is ordered.

Elections will also be conducted on June 14<sup>th</sup> for director positions. If you or someone you know are interested in becoming a director on our board, please let us know.

The Annual Steak/Chicken Fry will be held on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the Brookfield Highlands. This is our annual fundraiser, so come prepared to bid high, bid often on the silent auction items. Your donations to the silent auction and door prizes are greatly appreciated. Uniform for the day is casual attire, jeans, or shorts.

Watch your mailbox and/or inbox. We are working on a day at the ballpark with the Milwaukee Milkmen. More details to follow!

Like other veteran organizations, the Railsplitters Association is facing declining membership. We are in desperate need of your assistance!!! Help us recruit new members by opening your phone books, email directories or dig out those old alert rosters you have taking up space. Membership forms can be found on our website: [www.84thrailsplitters.com](http://www.84thrailsplitters.com). Any questions or inquiries can be addressed by any board member.

We are looking for an Assistant Webmaster. If you know of someone with experience in websites that may be interested in the job, please have them reach out to me.

Thank you for your continuing support and dedication to the 84<sup>th</sup> Railsplitters Association. Our members are what make us a strong and resilient organization! We are looking forward to you joining us at one or more of our events this year! Until then, stay safe; stay healthy and enjoy the spring weather (when it finally gets here)!

Goldie M. Schuh, MSG (Retired)  
President, 84<sup>th</sup> Railsplitters Association, LTD

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### Upcoming Events:

Dining Out  
Cancelled for 2023

Annual Meeting  
14 June 2023

Milwaukee Milkmen Game  
TBD

## Please Join Us!

# VETERANS DAY AT THE CAPITOL

**APRIL 26, 2023**

## FREE ATTENDEE LUNCH

10:00 COFFEE 11:00 LUNCH  
MONONA TERRACE

1 JOHN NOLAN DRIVE, MADISON  
FREE PARKING

## VETERANS PROCESSION TO CAPITOL

**11:40**

## RALLY AT CAPITOL

12:00/1:00 PM  
1ST FLOOR ROTUNDA

**REGISTER AT**  
**BIT.LY/VDATC**



For more information visit **WILEGION.ORG/LEGISLATIVE-COMMITTEE**

**ALL VETERANS  
& SUPPORTERS ARE  
WELCOME!**

**NO MEMBERSHIP IN ANY  
ORGANIZATION REQUIRED.**



### Topics Include:

- WI Vet Property Tax Credit Eligibility Expansion
- Funding for UW MIA Recovery Project
- Lower 5 year residency requirement for tuition remission program
- Reduce fees on all DNR sporting licenses





Greetings from the Post COVID Trail.

In the month of October, my navigator and I took a Space A trip to Germany and England. We were originally planning on flying out of Wright Patterson AFB in Ohio. As we stopped for lunch in Indiana, we found out that the flight to Dover AFB, DE, was off the board. We decided to continue to Dover, after bedding down in Ohio. The next night we were able to catch the second of two C-17 cargo flights to Ramstein Air Base in Germany.

The last two years have seen military lodging rates skyrocket (per diem must be pretty good). But catching a military C-17 cargo flight mitigates the sting. AF lodging can vary, season dependent, from \$89 to \$161 per night. We stayed one night at the big Air Force Inn. Military lodging locations usually will store your luggage, should you arrive prior to check in, or after checking out. Ramstein is a large multi-national base, with various non US eateries from which to dine. Most Status of Forces Agreements (SOFA) don't allow retirees to use AAFES exchanges, but you can use clubs, restaurants, bars and kiosks in the Malls.

The following morning, we taxied to the local Hauptbahnhof (train station) in Landstuhl, and took the 9 am dbann train to Trier, Germany (after 9am, local trains discount tickets). Trier, on the Mosel River, is the oldest Roman city in Germany. We were not sure of the local bus schedule, so we hoofed it 1/3 of a mile to our small, but very nice, lodging, which was directly across the street from the Port Nigra (Black Gate) and market. Trier is rich in Roman history, and well worth a brief stay. Before he was crowned Roman Emperor, Constantine spent time there.



The following morning, after taking the city bus (which stopped outside our door), we chose to sightsee on a train ride along the Mosel Valley to Koblenz, and the Rhine Valley up to Bingen/Rudesheim. From there you can take a day cruise downstream on the Rhine, but we did that on a previous excursion. After lunch, we trained back to Landstuhl and stayed at the AF Inn.

Ramstein had another C-17 headed to Mildenhall Air Base in England (our intended destination), so we rode along with the cargo. After a night at Mildenhall AB, we taxied into Mildenhall proper and took the bus to historic Cambridge. The standard country wide bus system is the

National Express, which we have previously used. Our very nice small hotel was on the opposite side of the park, a short walk from the bus stop. At some lodging sites, you might choose to or not to include breakfast with your reservation. This lodging used a code to get inside.

Old Town streets can be confusing, so even though we had walked Cambridge before, we picked up a map and used GPS on our cell phones. Our cell phone sim cards don't work in Europe, so check your plan; and if they don't work, purchase a cheap sim card at a kiosk on base or in town to call



from your phone, or use FaceTime or Skype on WIFI. European countries use a 220 volt system with one type of electrical adapter, and the UK uses a separate type. Most of your portable devices will work with both adapters.

We debated whether or not to train up to Edinburgh, Scotland (maybe this fall?). Train fares can be expensive, but there are ways of cutting the cost. By using sites such as Train Tickets, Trainline, and TrainSplit, you ride the same routes.



Another bus ride took us down to Heathrow International Airport, west of London, where we stayed for three nights. If you have time constraints, you should plan on staying closer to the center of London. We spent two nights back in Westminster, London, as with a previous trip, to give us more time to sightsee venues. If you are used to large rooms and bathrooms, adjust your expectations.

With so many things to see, you have to prioritize your list. This trip we used a one day London Pass to see some sights. The pass lets you view many places without paying for admission. You can purchase one, two, or multiple days, with a hop on/hop off double decker bus. Previously, you purchased a touch less Oyster Card to use the subways and buses. If you have a credit card with a chip, they suggest you use that to swipe to get on the bus, or on and off the subways, or with an Oyster Card.

From London we saw St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Westminster







Westminster  
Cathedral

Cathedral, British Museum, British Library, National Gallery, Prime Meridian at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, Buckingham Palace, Abbey Road (the Beatles), along with many special sights. On our last full day in London, we took a tour of Windsor Palace, Stonehenge, and Bath (Roman Baths). Try to avoid seeing St. Paul's and Westminster Cathedrals on Sundays, and the Chapel at Windsor, because of church services.

After busing up to Mildenhall Air Base, we stayed one more night in the UK. The Military provides a service known as Patriot Express flights. These are for moving families and their pets on PCS assignments, and people on leave status. The planes are large chartered commercial aircraft, with extra leg room, movies, food, and drinks. Flights from Baltimore Washington International (BWI) to Ramstein Air Base (RMS) are typically one to three times per week, and every other week to Mildenhall Air Base (MHZ). Also there is NAS Norfolk to Southern Europe; and Seattle SEATAC and Travis AFB to Japan and South Korea.



Prime Meridian



Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of those who recently passed away:

MAJ (Ret) Zane Zander

Chaplain Jon Leider

Matthew LeFever

(son of LTC Ron LeFever)

Get Well Wishes for:

COL Kaufmann

COL Dean Orley

COL William Ridgely

MAJ Steve Kassens

1SG John Recklies

Remember to send any information, or correspondence for Get Well, Encouragement, Sympathy, etc. to:

Mary Orley at (414) 425-0256 or email, maryo\_44@yahoo.com

### A New Flag for the Brookfield Library

Your 84th Railsplitters Association board meets regularly at the Brookfield Library. Of course, we start each meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. But the old flag at the library lost it's red, white and blue and was more pink, dingy and miserable.

Last month, Goldie Schuh, your board president, presented the head librarian with a new flag on behalf of the Association. They were grateful for the donation!





## CSM CLARK GETS A DEER

Last October, CSM (Ret) Chuck Clark sat in a shelter for three hours watching a few doe out in the woods. He was waiting for a buck. He learned how to hunt with his grandfather when he was seven years old. He had been going out to the Prucha's hunting club for three years and hadn't gotten a deer. But last October was different—after the three hour wait, he was rewarded when an 8-point buck crossed his sight. Chuck says he knew he would get it as soon as he saw it. Mark and Chris Prucha made sure Chuck was safely in position and Chuck put the

buck in the crosshairs and shot. After a few hours, the guys in the camp found the buck and brought it back for butchering.

Father and son, Eddie and Mark Prucha, started the Bass Lake Hunting Club 35 years ago. Eddie had spent 35 years with the Army serving with the Special Forces. Shortly after retiring as a CSM, he went back to teach special forces training—the man loves his job! Mark had 22 years of services and like his dad, was in the Special Forces. He took care of the Drill Sergeant School and retired as a First Sergeant. Both of them have always lived in Kewaunee, Wisconsin.

At the hunting club, they teach hunter safety to kids who have no one that hunts in their families. They finished a class in February with 33 students—a few more than their average class size. Most of the class scored 100% or only missed a couple on the test. The class is DNR approved.

Eddie's grandsons are also instructors and a great grandson is a junior instructor. It's definitely in their blood lines!

Mark's son built the first house for our disabled vets to hunt out of. It was a project to earn his Eagle Badge for scouts. It still stands out in the woods and is very useful. The Pruchas own a lot of hunting ground around Kewaunee. They take the children turkey and deer hunting. They say it's so rewarding just to see the joy in their faces. Chuck, his wife Karen, and her nephew, Chris, have been going up to the Prucha's for the last three years. It's a special ten days for the disabled veterans. They go up for a weekend as Mark and his wife, Brenda, open their home up to the Clarks. They have a group of volunteers who help out with anything and everything for friends, family and DNR buddies.

This was a great year for Chuck as he got his 8 pointer! He is still sharing his story. Everyone is so proud of him. Mark and his buddies went out to find the deer, cleaned it and cut it up for the butcher.

The Clarks feel truly blessed to have the Pruchas in their lives for over 40 years and consider them family!



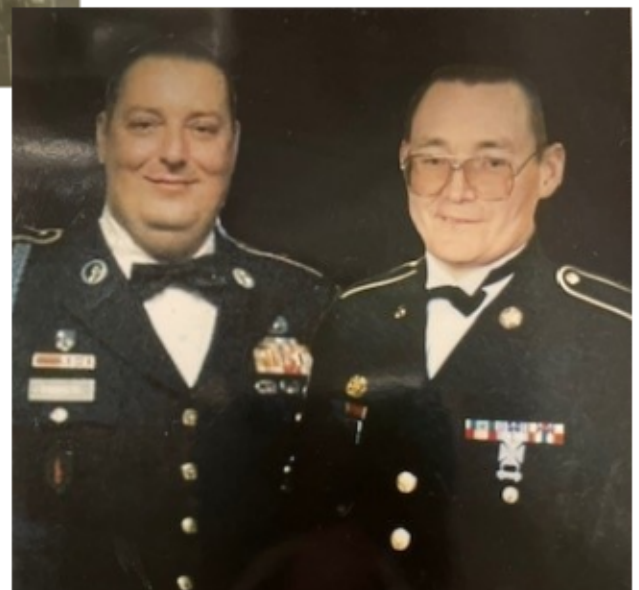


Thanks for your service on the Board!

Col Skip Pochowski and LTC Lori Kunstman receive gifts for their time on the 84th Railsplitters board.

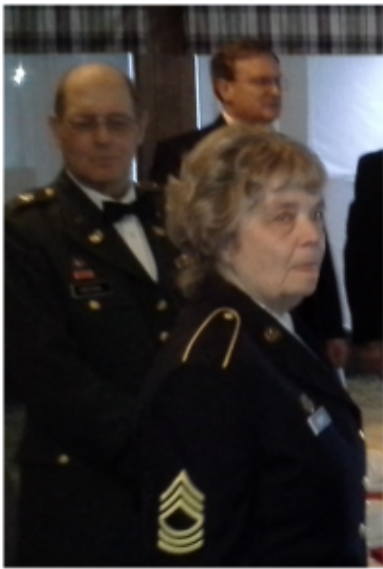


Some of you may recognize the cook's white uniform from the past! You can feel the camaraderie from past annual trainings! Thanks, SFC Robert Kaminsky for the memories!

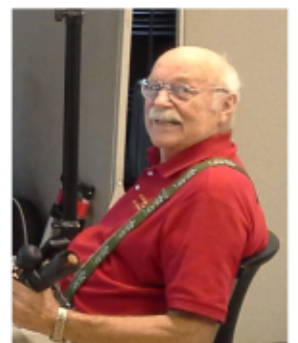


Father and son Kaminsky





*Smiling Faces from the Past!*



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PLEASE  
PLACE  
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#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## Humor noun

hu·mor| \ 'hyü-mər, 'yü- \

#### Definition of *humor*

**1a:** that quality which appeals to a sense of the ludicrous or absurdly incongruous : a funny or amusing quality // Try to appreciate the *humor* of the situation.



"How else are we going to pay for the war?"