

Spring 2024

# 84th Railsplitters Association

## Bugler



Fellow Railsplitters,

The calendar says spring has arrived, but Mother Nature has other plans. Before you know it, we will be enjoying some warm and sunny days.

On February 10<sup>th</sup>, we hosted our Annual Valentine's Dinner at Meyer's Restaurant in Greenfield. This was our first time here and we had a considerable number in attendance. Everyone agreed the food was delicious, and the staff and facilities were very accommodating. But best of all the time spent with our military family was priceless!

I'm pleased to say we will be hosting a **Dining Out** this year at the Western Racquet Club, Elm Grove on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The evening's entertainment is provided by "**Zeroed-In**" from the **484<sup>th</sup> Army Band**, Milwaukee, WI. So, be prepared to kick up your heels and dance the night away. Enclosed is the flyer for the event.

The **Annual Meeting** and Army Birthday celebration will be conducted on Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the VFW Post #5716, 17980 W. Beloit Rd., New Berlin, WI. Appetizers and beverages are provided. More information forthcoming.

Elections for director positions are to be conducted on June 13<sup>th</sup>. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a director on our board, please let us know.

The **Annual Steak/Chicken Fry** will be on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the VFW Post #5716, New Berlin. This is our annual fundraiser, so come prepared to bid high, bid often on silent auction items. Your donations to the silent auction and door prizes are appreciated. Uniform for the day is casual attire, jeans, or shorts.

Last year, we coordinated a group event at a **Milwaukee Milkmen game**. The feedback was incredibly positive (other than the rain), so we will be doing it again this year. Join us for a day at the ballpark on Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup> for a 1:00pm game. Attached is a flyer with the details for securing your tickets.

Step back in time to when you were a commander or a first sergeant. Unit strength was always your #1 priority. Well, that holds true for our organization as well. **Membership** is critical for us to remain relevant. Help us recruit new members, reach out to your military friends in your phone/email directories or dig out those old alert rosters you have lying around. Membership forms are found on our website: [www.84thrailsplitters.com](http://www.84thrailsplitters.com). Any questions or inquiries can be answered 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



### Inside this issue:

<i>Calling Honor Flight Honorees</i>	2
<i>Dryhooch</i>	2
<i>Battle Cross</i>	3
<i>Memories</i>	4-5
<i>84th TC News</i>	6-7
<i>Sunshine Club</i>	7
<i>Humor</i>	8

### Upcoming Events:

<b>Dining-Out</b>	18 May 2024
<b>Annual Meeting</b>	13 June 2024
<b>Milkmen Baseball Game</b>	14 July 2024
<b>Annual Steak Fry</b>	14 September 2024

## Please Join Us!



Many members of the 84th Railsplitters Association have been escorted to Washington D.C. to visit the war memorials by the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight—one of the 124 hubs of the Honor Flight Network.

We're calling on all the members who have been on an Honor Flight to let us know and send us two things: A picture or two of you from the trip and your best memory of the trip. We'll be featuring the Honor Flight honorees in an upcoming Railsplitter Newsletter.

Please email the information to: [railsplitters84th@yahoo.com](mailto:railsplitters84th@yahoo.com)

---

## 84TH RAILSPLITTERS' CHARITABLE GIVING

---

One component of the 84th Railsplitters Association mission is to support charitable organizations which benefit current or former members of the United States military. At a recent 84th Railsplitter Association board meeting, a donation to Dryhootch was approved. Dryhootch is a place where Veterans can gather informally in a coffee house; a safe, comfortable, drug- and alcohol-free environment. There are two located in Milwaukee; 1030 E. Brady Street and 4801 W. National Avenue. There's also one located in Madison at 1324 E. Washington Avenue. They offer a wide variety of programs for veterans:

### **PEER SUPPORT**

The brothers and sisters that had your back while in service are now here at Dryhootch, providing you with that same support in "the real world."

### **READJUSTMENT**

It's normal to feel confused, depressed, alone when returning "home". Our veterans peer, who have been in your boots, can show you how to adjust to a place you've been away from for awhile.

### **LEGAL HELP**

Unfortunately coming home can cause legal issues; both civil & criminal. Our programs with Veteran Courts and supportive lawyers can help you put the pieces back together.

### **FAMILIES**

You don't have to be alone. Family peers can help you find and understand the programs you may be looking for.

### **BATTLEPEER**

Our mobile tools are designed to get you in touch with peer support when & where you need it.

### **ADDICTION**

Unfortunately, addiction is all too often a reality for those who served, have PTSD, or are a stressed family member. Dryhootch has numerous groups that can address your issues respectfully.

### **MUSIC, ART, WRITING**

Dryhootch brings in actors, artists, and great music with instructions on guitar or banjo to help you loosen up, have some fun, and heal a little!

### **AND GREAT COFFEE**

Dryhootch provides a great social space where veterans, their family, and the community can gather to share conversation, offer help, and relax over a great cup of coffee, tea, and more.



ARMY BUNKER BREW

*Roasted in the helmet  
in our bunker*

Check out their website to find out about the many programs (and coffee) that they offer at [dryhootch.org](http://dryhootch.org).



# Battle Field Cross at Union Grove Cemetery

The Battlefield Cross, also known as the Fallen Soldier Memorial, Soldier's Cross or just Battle Cross, has gone from having a functional purpose to providing symbolic meaning for mourning the loss of comrades. Its imagery is powerful.

The history is a little vague, but it appears the first use of the Battlefield Cross began during the Civil War. During the battles, fallen soldiers were removed and buried in temporary graves. They were marked with simple wooden plaques – the first iteration of the Battlefield Cross. Then, during World War I, helmets and rifles were issued and replaced the wooden plaques – the rifle stuck upside down in the ground with the helmet on top. During the second World War, soldiers were issued dog tags which quickly became the new method for marking the graves and making them identifiable for the Graves Registration Service personnel. As it served this function for the military, it became a symbol of memorialization for those who gave their lives serving their country. During the Korean War, they started moving the deceased to staging sites rather than burying them on the battlefield. But during conflict, soldiers couldn't attend services for their fallen comrades, so they created memorials at their base camps to pay their respects. After each battle, the unit would hold a service. As a symbol for each soldier lost, a weapon would be placed in sandbags, and they would hang his dog tags on it. Each soldier would come forward and either kneel or touch the helmet. It was a symbol of closure. It was during the Gulf War that the battlefield cross took its current form – rifle, helmet, dog tags and boots.



Some of the components' meanings have developed various interpretations over time. The US Army Field Manual describes each, suggesting the standard, but some have deviated from this. The manual states that the helmet and dog tags signify the dead soldier, while the inverted rifle signifies a time to pay tribute, and the combat boots, their final march.

Other interpretations include the upside-down rifle, which indicates the soldier was killed in action (KIA), while a rifle with its bayonet in the ground means they went down fighting. Additionally, some interpret the dog tags as a symbol that the serviceman is “never to be forgotten.”

The Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Union Grove, Wisconsin was without a Battlefield Cross memorial until the 84th Railsplitters Association got involved. An organization, the Battle Cross Ltd, was formed to raise funds for such a memorial. Thanks to MG Michael Berzowski, COL Peter Pochowski, SGT Robert Hunt and MSGT Thomas Cobb, the memorial was dedicated in 2012.

It was a long overdue tribute to our fallen soldiers.

Thanks to CW4 Mike Malloy







Bonus points if you know what that machine is!



Retirement after a long career!



A Blast from the Past—1991



Nice HOT meal in the field!



Fort Sill, OK 2/334th FA Regiment, 11 March 1991





I have no idea what this machine does!



Is that a SAW?



We didn't work ALL the time!



Land Nav!



Nice tight shot group!



Are they lost?  
Maybe they should have been in the Land Nav class!



# The 84th Training Command Year in Review

FORT KNOX, Ky. - The 84th Training Command has executed a series of mission exercises in 2023 critical to sustained force projection and operational readiness across the U.S. Army Reserve. With a mission to provide realistic and relevant training, these exercises condition soldiers with invaluable hands-on experience, ensuring they are well-prepared for any future challenges on the modern battlefield.



LTC Taylor, OIC TF Stormbreaker

Key exercises and programs, like Combat Support Training Exercises, Command Staff Exercises, Situational Training Exercises, Postal Warrior, Diamond Saber, Observer Coach and Trainer program, and Task Force Stormbreaker focus on core competencies all culminating in capstone events like the Best Warrior Competition or the Warrior Exercise.



MSG Karen Willis Reenlistment

Some of this year's key highlights; the CSTX hosted by the 91st Training Division simulated sustainment operations in a Large-Scale Combat Operations (LSCO) environment. The training was designed to enhance the lethality and survivability of participating units and prepare them to assume real-world missions. As a part of that training, units were subjected to sporadic simulated attacks by mock enemy forces. These "injects" tested the unit's basic soldier skills.



Maj Gen Merrigan briefs key leaders

The upcoming WAREX, hosted by the 87th Training Division, is a large-scale training exercise that replicates real-world mission sets. Under the guidance of the commander, Brigadier General Kelly Hagenbeck, WAREX takes an innovative approach to modernized combat support training. Referred to informally as the "gym/personal trainer" model, it provides commanders with tailored support to enhance their units' readiness.

Brigadier General Peter Whalen, the 84<sup>th</sup> Deputy Commanding General, spearheaded this year's MOBEX II. Operating under the Fort Knox Mobilization Force Generation Installation (MFGI) in collaboration with 4<sup>th</sup> Cav, MOBEX II focused on preparing units reception, staging, onward movement, and integration (RSOI), weapons and systems

validation, command staff training and operations, small team exercises and logistical support for troop and equipment movement.

This year's Best Warrior Competition, in collaboration with the 108th Training Command (IET), Army Careers Group, Army Reserve Aviation Command, and the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations



Range Days



Range Days



Land Navigation



## Sunshine Club

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

COL Terry Lerch, Luisa (Wife of COL Michael Andrae), CW4 Eugene Hintz,

And SFC Clifford Hayes

Get Well Wishes for:

LTC Tom Abts, LTC Ron Moe, CW2 Scott Griffith, 1SG Chuck Rotramel, Vicki (wife of COL John Allen), Arlene (wife of CSM Don Dennett) and Opal (wife of CSM Mike Simmons)

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

## The 84th Training Command Year in Review, continued



**Stormbreaker Weapons Training**

Command (Airborne), will test the physical and mental limits of its competitors with the ACFT, shooting matches, land navigation day and night, River assaults, ruck marches, obstacle courses and team building events.

In addition to combat-focused exercises, the 84th Training Command also prioritized community focused support events and key leader engagements with events like the Zachary Taylor Wreath laying, Commanders Ready and Resilient Council initiatives for families, Equal Opportunity seminars, and many retreats hosted by the unit Chaplains office to name a few.

The 84th Training Command's mission exercises moving into 2024 are focused on supporting Army Reserve initiatives for maintaining readiness and developing conditions for success in tomorrow's battlefield. Through realistic and relevant training, Soldiers are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to modernize and enhance unit capabilities that strengthen the collective readiness of the Army Reserve. The 84th Training Command continues to prioritize training excellence and supporting Reserve units across the country ensuring we are, "ready today, shaping tomorrow."



**MSG Shiree Dillion, EO Advisor**

"Strike Hard"



**Zach Taylor Wreath Laying**

**84th Railsplitters Association, LTD**  
1160 Apple Tree Lane  
Brookfield, WI 53005-6804  
Phone: 262.782.5645  
Email: railsplitters84th@yahoo.com

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

##### *President:*

Goldie Schuh, MSG USA Retired

##### *VP Events/Activities:*

Michael Simmons, CSM USA Retired

##### *VP Communications:*

Kim Michalowski, CSM USA Retired

##### *Secretary:*

Tim Vanderboom, SFC USA Retired

##### *Treasurer:*

David Gramins, CSM USA Retired

##### *Assistant Treasurer:*

William Krieger, SFC USA Retired

##### *Past President:*

Dean Orley, COL USA Retired

##### *Directors:*

Thomas Abts, LTC USA Retired

Clarence F. Brunner, CSM USA Retired

Michelle Grabowski, SFC USA Retired

James Kasun, SSG USA Retired

Steve Kassens, MAJ USA Retired

William Paulin, CSM USA Retired

William Ridgely, COL USA Retired

James Schuler, MAJ USA Retired

##### *Legal Advisor:*

Michael Berzowski, MG USA Retired

##### *Newsletter Editor:*

Mary Oppliger, MAJ USA Retired

## 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*.



"Pressing this one makes me giggle."