



# MESTENGO

*Volume 11 Issue 1*

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*Winter 2011*

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## **MUSTER – TAMPA BAY, FLORIDA 29 SEPTEMBER – 2 OCTOBER 2011 “THE SUNSHINE STATE”**

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**Great opportunity for the following neighboring States of Florida....(137 Members); Alabama....12; Georgia....40; Louisiana....12; Mississippi....8; North Carolina....150; South Carolina....46; Tennessee....22; to take advantage of their close proximity to this year’s Muster.**

### **Sheraton Sand Key Resort**



# **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Post San Diego, Muster-Message

The Del Mar muster overall was very good. All the events were on time and well planned. The guest speaker at the Banquet was exceptional. His talk was about his team's action in Afghanistan last year. The hotel accommodations were excellent and the hospitality room was large and very comfortable. I thank the Camp Pendleton Chapter for all their hard work.

Both of our day trips were exceptional. The first was to Camp Pendleton at the San Onofre training and staging area. We were able to see some of the equipment the Marines currently have. I talked to a young Sergeant who came up to my shoulder and maybe weighed 160 lbs. We discussed what he would carry in combat. His combat protective vest weights 55lbs. The must take equipment in his back pack weighed 45lbs and then his sleeping bag and personal gear would be another 30-40 lbs. This didn't include ammo, rations and his weapon. The end result was he would carry more than he weighed. Today's Marines are well trained and as always upholding the honor of the Corps.

The next day we were off to San Diego to MCRD and the Recruit Graduation parade. The parade is nothing like I remember back in 1952. Each time it seems to get more significant.

Due to illness, the 2011 muster location has been changed to Florida. The Florida Chapter will be the host. It will be held at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort, in Clearwater Beach, by the water. Just outside of Tampa. The Dates will be September 29 to October 2, 2011. I hope to see you all next year at the Muster.

Semper Fidelis

Sid Spurgeon

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## **Mestengo** ©

Editor Roger V. Speeg  
Historian John Darracott

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**HOTEL MUSTER RATES AVAILABLE**  
**3 DAYS BEFORE AND 3 DAYS AFTER - SEE YOU THERE!**

Hitting the beach will be non-stressful for Mustangs in September as the Sheraton Sand Key Resort, Clearwater Beach, FL. will host the annual Muster. The beautiful Starwood facility has hosted the Florida Marine Corps League and the USMC Combat Correspondents Association with great success.

Muster Chairman Bob McEwen was involved in both of the mentioned meetings and volunteered the site in November when the Florida Chapter announced it had agreed to host the 2011 event. Committee members and national officers agreed after terms were studied.

The resort is directly on the Gulf of Mexico, sporting a wide, white sand beach for loafing and swimming. Magnificent sunsets, mild fall weather and un-crowded roads and tourist attractions add to the natural beauty. Large swimming pool, tennis courts and exercise facilities available at no cost.

Dates of the Muster are September 29 to October 2, with discounted room rates (\$119, single or double) available for three nights before and after the Muster. Reservations may be made on our website, by toll-free telephone call or via mail. Registration and reservation forms will be available shortly.

The Pinellas County, FL, visitor's bureau is providing free maps and brochures of attractions in the Tampa Bay area for those who will extend their stay or prefer exploring on their own. Planned off site as part of the Muster are shopping/lunch at newly reconstructed John's Pass Village, Madeira Beach, lunchtime visit to Armed Forces Military Museum in Largo and a lunch, sight-seeing cruise for guests and spouses during meetings of members on Saturday, Oct. 1.

Brand new Dali Museum in St. Petersburg (moved to new facility this winter), Chihuly Collection of glass art, deep sea fishing, great restaurants, Tarpon Springs sponge divers...are available by car or "trolley" (\$4 all day). For scheduled off-site events, the trolley service stops on resort property and covers much of the county, including the Marina for the lunch cruise and John's Pass trip. Of course locals and others with cars will help for other venues.

Discounted room reservations will be available until August 29. No charge for parking; RV parking permitted, but not for sleeping; accommodations for disabled available. Hotel address: 1160 Gulf Blvd., Clearwater Beach, FL 33767. Phone: (727) 595-1161, (800) 456-7263.

INTERESTING PLACES... [www.VisitStPeteClearwater.com](http://www.VisitStPeteClearwater.com)

2011 Mustang Muster  
Clearwater Beach, Florida  
29 September – 2 October 2011

**MUSTER REGISTRATION**

Registration Cutoff is 15 September 2011

Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Does anyone in your party have any needs requiring special attention? If so, what are they?

Please Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**Registration Fees:**

Member \$ 40.00

Spouse/Guest (\$20.00 each) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount for Events Listed \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(from next page Events Form)

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send this Form and the Events Form (next page) with check or money order payable to:  
"Florida Mustangs"

Mail to:

G. Lee Radford – Treasurer  
2011 Mustang Muster  
1203 Estill Avenue  
The Villages, FL 32162

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**NOTES:**

- (1) The Hospitality Suite will be open from Wednesday through Saturday with the exception of scheduled Muster Activities Hosted by The Florida Mustangs Chapter. Complimentary Beverages and Snacks.
- (2) NO MUSTER MONEY WILL BE REFUNDED AFTER 20 SEPTEMBER 2011.
- (3) Parking is Free of Charge
- (4) RV's can be parked free of charge but THERE CAN BE NO LIVING OUT OF SAME. The Hotel needs to know if you need RV Parking.
- (5) Restaurants Open at 0600. There are no complimentary Breakfasts.

# EVENTS FORM

Time/Date	Event	Cost/Person	# Attending	Sub Total Cost
WED Sep 28 1200-1600	Registration in Lobby			
1700-1900	<b>Early Bird Gathering</b> at the Beach <b>Tiki Hut</b> on your own for sunset, sand and sea stories.			
THUR Sep 29 0900-1600	Registration in Lobby			
1000-1430	<b>Armed Forces Museum, Largo, Florida. We will use a Buddy Transport System. Signup Sheets will be in the ready room::: Museum Entry Costs: Retirees free; Spouse/Guest \$9.95 each out of pocket. Deli lunch in the Museum Officers Club. Select side below dish:</b>			
		\$8.00 (____) \$ _____ (LUNCH)	Number Needing Transport (____)	I can offer (____) people a ride
1700-1930	<b>Official Welcome Aboard</b> Buffet – No Host Bar		\$35.00 (____) \$ _____	
FRI Sep 30 0800-1200	Registration in Lobby			
0800-1000	Old Board Meeting			
1030-1500	<b>A trip to John's Pass.</b> A unique Boardwalk on the beach with mucho watering holes and unique shopping. Catch the trolley at the Hotel \$2.00 out of pocket			
			Great opportunity to reminisce youthful times at the Beach and enjoy some sun and sand with friends and old acquaintances, shop, water down and relax.	
1700-1930	<b>Caribbean Buffet.</b> Muster's Signature event with special exotic menu unique to the Caribbean and Complimentary Live Steel Drum Entertainment. Bring your colorful shirts and clothes		\$58.00 (____) \$ _____	
SAT Oct 1 0700-0830	<b>SOS Breakfast</b>		\$24.00 (____) \$ _____	
1030-1400	<b>Spouses/Guests Luncheon, Sightseeing Cruise</b> on the Intra Coastal Waterway. Trolley Transportation \$2.00 out of pocket		\$27.00 (____) \$ _____	
0900-1130	General Membership Meeting			
1300-1500	New Board of Directors Meeting			
1700-1745	<b>Banquet Social Hour-No Host Bar</b>			
1800	<b>Officers Call-Post Colors-Formal Banquet</b> MEAL SELECTIONS <b>Prime Rib</b> ____ <b>Chicken Roulade</b> ____ <b>Salmon</b> ____		\$55.00 (____) \$ _____	
2000	<b>Retire Colors</b> – Dancing-Entertainment No Host Bar			

**TOTAL COST FOR EVENTS \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Hotel Reservation Request**  
Marine Corps Mustang Association  
"2011 Mustang Muster"  
29 September – 2 October

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE:**

**BY PHONE** Sheraton Sand Key Resort / Clearwater Beach, FL

**Phone:** 1-800-456-7263 ....or **FAX:** (727) 596-1117

**BY MAIL:** Sheraton Sand Key Resort  
1160 Gulf Blvd  
Clearwater Beach, FL 33767

When Making Reservations by  
phone ask for the  
**Marine Corps Mustang Muster**  
Group Rate

**BY INTERNET:** SheratonSandKeyResort.com

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone** (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Arrival** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Departure** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **Single** or \_\_\_ **Double** (circle one bed or two beds) @\$119.00 per night (Plus Tax 12%)

\_\_\_ **Smoking** \_\_\_ **Non Smoking** \_\_\_ **No Preference**

To guarantee this reservation, include one night's room rent. Payment can be made by check, money order or credit card. Those making reservations by phone need not send in this reservation form.

Checks / Money Orders to be received no later than 30 days prior to arrival (28 August)  
(if not received, reservations will be cancelled)

Check or money order enclosed in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**OR Major Credit Card** (circle one) American Express - Diners Club – Discovery – Master Card – Visa

**Credit Card #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Expiration Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address (if applicable)** \_\_\_\_\_

**GROUP RATES WILL BE HONORED FOR THE ATTENDEES THREE DAYS BEFORE GROUP ARRIVAL AND THREE DAYS AFTER GROUP DEPARTURE, BASED ON AVAILABILITY (per contract) dated 29 November 2010**

# *Sea Stories*

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THE CORPS KNEW WHAT IT WAS DOING !!

“Sea Story“

GOD BLESS the Marine Corps !! The Corps ISSUED ME A WIFE !!

I wasn't in the Marine Corps very long when I began to hear “ If the Marine Corps wanted you to have a wife, they would have issued you one.”

It was the summer of 1956. Camp Lejeune North Carolina. ...Marine Corps Base...Base Radio Station....I was a 2533 assigned to the Radio Station. We had a Ship to Shore Circuit and a Minor Relay Teletype Section. We were in a tidy, roomy brick building, surrounded by three 125 foot Radio Towers. We worked there....slept there and ate chow at the nearby 6<sup>th</sup> Marines Mess Hall. We climbed the Towers for exercise.

I had been in the Corps a year and a half. I was a Corporal. My Sergeant (Watch Commander) told me that we were going to Host a Woman Marine Reserve Unit for two weeks. 2<sup>nd</sup> Comm Company of Brooklyn New York. I had scheduled home leave but the Sergeant said it would be a good experience. I rescheduled my leave dates. I am glad I did....Really Really glad I did !!

I met PFC Mildred (Millie) Torres (USMCR). We dated, kept in touch, and married in January 1957. She was an AT&T Long Distance Operator in New York and though her I&I SSgt Barbara Jean Dulinski wanted her to go Regular, Millie chose to follow me and my 25 Year Career. SSgt Dulinski was the 1<sup>st</sup> WM to enter a combat zone in RVN in 1967...Millie idolized her.

Numbers-wise...I graduated HS in 1954...Enlisted in the Corps in 1954 and Millie and I have been married 54 Years. The Corps really knew what they were doing when they Issued Her to Me.

\*\* True Sea-Story.... Roger V. Speeg MCMA Business Manager \*\*

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## Mustang Logo PX Items

As a reminder, the provider for Marine Corps Mustang Association logo items is the Sgt Grit organization in Oklahoma City. We have been under contract with them since January 2008. Our association shares the revenue from these sales and purchases which helps to augment our General Fund. Your board of directors believes that some reinforcement is in order to help inform you of the range of items available for sale and help you more easily get to Sgt Grit with orders or questions. We have come up with several ideas to be considered. The most effective is to give you the following contact information:

Direct web site link to the Mustang material is <http://marinecorpsmustang.org/postexchange.php> on the Mustang website.

The direct link to Sgt Grit for updated information and sale items is: <http://usmcshop.grunt.com/Search.aspx?search=mustang+association>

Both addresses can be copied and pasted into your browser for convenience.

You can easily speak with a representative at 1-(866)-776-2607 (Toll Free) and their email is [info@grunt.com](mailto:info@grunt.com) Orders should still be placed over the secure web site or by phone to protect financial information. Be sure to identify yourself as a Marine Corps Mustang Association member when placing your order.

*National Headquarters  
Marine Corps Mustang Association, Inc  
Bunker 127  
Mountain City, GA 30562*

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Mountain City, GA  
Permit No. 17

**Moving? Retiring? Address Wrong?**  
*Please let us know your new address. Your date of Retirement. Any required corrections. And, don't forget to let us know your new telephone number and email address. Please include all nine (9) digits of your zip code.*

**MUSTANG MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING**



**RECRUIT RETIRED AND ACTIVE DUTY MUSTANGS**



**2011 MUSTER NEWS  
FOR YOUR TRAVEL PLANNING VISIT TAMPA, FL  
ARRIVE 29 SEPT – DEPART 2 OCT**