



# Veterans Strengthening America

## Seward Post 5 Newsletter

August 2024  
Volume 21, Issue 08



American Legion Seward Post 5  
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### COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



I'd like to thank the ALR Chapter 5 for leading the parade again this year as the American Legion has been, for decades, leading the parade with the US Flag and bolding demonstrating and celebrating our independence!

Well, this summer has been super busy with lots of new visitors where we've been able to "showcase" what the Legion is and does. I think we've been successful recruiting for the American Legion, not necessarily for Seward as we encourage people to join back home in their states. I hope their good experiences at Post 5 will carry back to their home states and increases the membership there.

We've had a great summer so far weather-wise, with some good pockets of sun and necessary rain and we've managed to keep things going and going well. Thankfully on the event days the weather cooperated!

July was so busy, and I am amazed how all our outstanding volunteers make things happen in our Post, even with their busy lives! We're still providing support and good nightly food for our membership; we couldn't do it without our reliable and amazingly dedicated volunteers. Whether cooking and serving dinner upstairs, helping in the social area or cooking breakfasts or the grass and garden around our post, our volunteers are amazing! THANK YOU!!! 🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻

The 4th was wonderful, and weather was awesome, and we still put out amazing BBQ ribs for all to enjoy. The town was packed and the racers on the mountain made some amazing times. Congrats Seward for putting on, year after year, the 4th of July event that draws so many people to Seward!!



For the third year we had another "return" to the old 4th of July activities where there were many kids' things to do, and the Post sponsored the Sawdust Pile Coin Search where the kids dove in to hunt down 50 cent pieces. Huge kudos to Cody Gilmore and the Seward HS Football Team for running the "Pile!"

This month has the 69th Silver Salmon Derby going on from Saturday, August 10th through Sunday August 18th. It will be busy with all those wanting to catch the big monied fish. It is good for our town and everyone who has a business. Good luck to all the derby participants, there are some good prizes to be won and not just good fish!! 🐟🐟🐟



As we're in the new membership year, get your renewals in and bring someone along to join the post, unit or squadron! And, as you can see, as I have been reporting in our newsletters, we have a lot going on that will appeal to nearly everyone who is eligible for membership in one of our "outstanding" organizations!!! And, we'll be planning our Early Bird Dinner sometime in September - so stay tuned! That is always an "exercise" in deliciousness!!!!



## House and Vice Report...

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice and Adjutant!

We have been enjoying a good summer so far and I hope you are all taking advantage of the weather. Hopefully the silvers will show up soon.

July was a busy month for the Post 5 Family with the 4th of July being the showcase event for us. I appreciate all the great volunteers who stepped up to help, especially for the 4th of July. There are so many volunteers that I will not try to name everyone. I just want to thank all of you who helped with bartending, nightly food prep, Friday nights, maintaining the grass around the post. You are all amazing and I thank you.

This month, we will be hosting the **ALR breakfast on Saturday, August 10th** and the **community breakfast on Sunday, August 18th**. Also, the **Silver Salmon Derby starts on August 10th** and we will see what that brings our way. If you can help with these activities, please let us know.

thank you!

It is getting busier at the Post, so I would like to ask everyone to be considerate of others when you come to enjoy the food here. We provide these meals as a benefit to our membership and would like to see as many members have had the opportunity to eat as possible. Please limit yourselves to one helping until it is apparent that most folks who want to have eaten. Thank you for your consideration.

The 2025 membership year is underway. You can still renew for 2024 to keep continuous years. To renew for 2025, you can go to [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org) to renew online, you can mail your renewal in when you receive it in the mail, or you can stop by the post, and we will get to see your smiling face. The dues have remained \$60.00 for Post members, \$40.00 for Auxiliary members, and \$35.00 for SAL members.



Thanks to all of you who continue to support your Post and all the activities designed to support our membership, our veterans, and the community. We look forward to seeing you all and please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns.



## Sounding Off from the Sons...

By Mike Calhoon

Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Pretty nice summer so far!! Have to see how August rolls in. Hope you are all having a great summer.

A big thank you to everyone who continues to support the Squadron and Post activities. July was a busy time at the Post, particularly leading up to and including the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. Your great volunteer spirit continues to support everything the Post 5 Family does.



This month the Post will host the ALR breakfast on August 10<sup>th</sup>, which is also the beginning of the Silver Salmon Derby. The community breakfast is on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Please let us know if you can lend a hand with any of these activities.

**Thanks to Mike Mooter, Randy Kockritz and Squadron 5** for working on repair and installation of a new flagpole at the Legion Cemetery to replace the small one which broker over the winter.

The 2025 membership year has kicked off and the rollout of the new cards is coming soon. Dues are \$35.00. I think the online issue has been resolved but if you try to renew online and it says the dues are only \$16.00, please let me know and come into the Post to renew or mail in your \$35.00 to PO Box 3091. Remember, your membership helps us support the mission and goals of the Sons of American Legion and the Post 5 Family.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 907-224-5440. Thanks again for all your support of the Post 5 family and I look forward to seeing you all around the Post when possible.

## Notes from the Road...

By Bobby Dunno, Chapter 5 ALR Director

Hope everyone is having as good a summer as I have been. These past few months has seen me covering Alaska's road system from Trappers Creek south and the entire Kenai Peninsula. I am going to have to replace the tires on my Victory when the season is over because I have been wearing the tread off of them. Plus, I still have to go to Fairbanks in early August; gotta love a great riding season!

Just to give y'all an update since my last article was written in May for the Post 5 Newsletter in June.



The ROMP hosted by Post and Chapter 15 was a whole lot of fun and those of us who attended had an Awesome time. In fact, the only real disappointment was that it wasn't well attended by most of the ALR, but that did not stop the ROMP from logging well over 400 miles and I believe we covered every back road in the Valley and the Parks Highway all the way to Byers Lake and back. Yea, Bobby had a great time. The rides were well lead and organized and went off with only one hiccup but then who could have predicted Anchorage having 6 road sweepers lined up on the Seward Highway and all move at a dead crawl.

The following weekend found the me in Homer attending the fundraiser for the **Last Frontier Honor Flight** (LFHF) as Brad Phelps of Chapter 16 was preparing for his ordeal in completing in the **Hoka-Hey Motorcycle Challenge**. If you are wonder what the "Hoka Hey" is, it's an incredible long distance motorcycle rally that takes place in August. The challenge is the rally from Key West Florida to the Homer Spit here at home. Brad has been fundraising to pay for the requirements of the trip, such as fuel, oil and tires. He is also seeking to use the event as a fundraiser for the Last Frontier Honor Flight with a goal of raising \$25,000 dollars to be donated to the LFHF. There are all kind of rules governing his progress they will be monitoring his speed, and the assigned route is tracked, this one disqualifies me ..... No Hotels. 🙄🙄🙄 Riding from one extreme point to another across the entire North American Continent with no bed, not my cup of tea without a doubt. Anyway, he should be crossing the AK border

sometime after the 15<sup>th</sup> and I believe our Alaska Legion Riders should see us support him and ***I would propose our ALRA Chapters work on putting together a small contingent to ride with Brad over a section of his route through our glorious state.*** At least if it is allowed, still awaiting word on that issue. We have some obstacles to accomplish that, but with determination and modern tech we can overcome, and we have Andrea "Sweet Cheeks" who will be tracking her fella as he traverses Our Great Nation and Canada.

Hoka-Hey Riders do not see their route or schedule and complete the ride in stages getting their new route and instructions at the beginning of each stage. But there are only so many roads in Alaska and we know them all. As for me I want to follow him all the way from Tok to Homer although if they send him down the Tok Cutoff I may ride the Richardson and meet him in Glenallen 😊!



The **Salute to Vets** was a wonderful event and Don and Jill Johnson do a fantastic job hosting it each year and this year was no exception. There was a ton of beautiful bikes on display, and the big day was Saturday when we had a long line of custom and restored hotrod show up for everyone to drool over. As always during the event was the Flag retirement ceremony, Quilts of Valor presentations, food and of course the Bike Rodeo complete with the Master of Ceremonies dressed up as a rodeo clown and keeping everyone entertained and focus on the purpose of the event, honor our Veterans and raise monies to support veteran needs on the Kenai Peninsula.

ALR Chapter 5 is still preparing breakfast on the Second Saturday of the Month. We have Pancakes, Bacon or Sausage, Biscuits and Gravy, we are seriously considering adding scrambled eggs as it seems most who are showing up are looking for a breakfast similar to what the Post puts together for the Third Sunday Breakfast. Also, we still have not managed to have a "after breakfast ice cream run" as weather has not cooperated. Here is an amazing fact this summer I have ridden with every Chapter in Alaska except 57 & 30 which are in Fairbanks and ready for this Chapter 5 so before the season ends, we are going to get our stuff together and have a nice day with no other plans in the way and ***Get on Our Bikes and Ride!***

## From the President's Desk

By Debbie VanTassel



Happy August! Hard to believe that we are already in August. Hope everyone is having a great summer.

First a huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July events. I know I say it over and over again, but we would not accomplish any of the projects and events without our great volunteers.

Congratulations to Sharyl Seese who won the Auxiliary split the pot raffle. The Auxiliary won't be doing a raffle this month, but we are planning a Silent Auction on August 16<sup>th</sup> at the Legion Post #5. Come on down and see what great items we have up for bid.

Reminder that now is a great time to renew your memberships. The 2025 membership year started July 1, so why not renew early? You can go online or go to the Post and renew. Go online at <https://www.legion.org/auxiliary>.

Remember BINGO every Monday night. Doors open at 6 PM and games start at 6:30 PM. Must be 19 to play. Come join in on the fun. This is one of the Auxiliary's main fund raisers that support our programs like Santa Parade, Scholarships and community donations.

Community breakfast every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday.

I think sometimes it is good for us to remind ourselves why we are Auxiliary members, what made us join and what our purpose is. So here is a reminder taken from the American Legion Auxiliary website:

### Mission Statement

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

### Vision Statement

The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.

### Purposes

In fulfillment of our Mission, the American Legion Auxiliary adheres to the following purposes:

- To support and advocate for veterans, active military and their families
- To support the initiatives and programs of The American Legion
- To foster patriotism and responsible citizenship
- To award scholarships and promote quality education and literacy
- To provide educational and leadership opportunities that uphold the ideals of freedom and democracy and encourage good citizenship and patriotism in government
- To increase our capacity to deliver our Mission by providing meaningful volunteer opportunities within our communities
- To empower our membership to achieve personal fulfillment through Service Not Self

### Values

Our statement of values is predicated on the founding purposes:

- Commitment to the four founding principles: Justice, Freedom, Democracy, Loyalty
- Service to God, our country, its veterans and their families
- Tradition of patriotism and citizenship
- Personal integrity and family values
- Respect for the uniqueness of individual members
- Truthful open communication in dealing the public and our members
- Adherence to the adopted policies and rules (credit: American Legion Auxiliary)

Take some time and reflect on the Mission statement, Vision statement, Purpose and Values and how you as an Auxiliary member fulfill each of those.

Hope everyone has a great August. Enjoy some sunshine and what is left of summer

## For God and Country



## August 7, 2024 - Purple Heart Day



**National Purple Heart Day** honors the men and women who have been wounded or killed in military service. An important day for us to all remember those who have served to keep us free and the many who have made the ultimate sacrifice.



Please visit the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor for more information: <https://www.thepurpleheart.com/>



Also, another important day in the history of the U.S is **VJ Day** (Victory over Japan Day). Exactly what day it is celebrated is a little confusing:



**August 14<sup>th</sup>** - Japan surrendered

**August 15<sup>th</sup>** - the surrender is announced to the world. The day that is most commonly recognized and celebrated in modern days.

**September 2** - the formal surrender ceremony was held in Tokyo Bay aboard the **USS Missouri** and formal signing of the surrender occurred. At that time President Truman declared September 2nd to be VJ Day.

VJ Day marks the end of WWII and the end of fighting against Japan. It is called Victory in Japan Day or Victory over Japan Day. Regardless of what day it is celebrated it marked the end of WWII and the fighting between the US and Japan.

It is important to remember these days in history and remember the men and women who served during this time. Many of them making the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

## August 4, 2024 US Coast Guard Birthday

Excerpt from [Military.com](https://www.military.com)

Each August 4, the U.S. [Coast Guard](https://www.military.com) celebrates its birthday.

The Coast Guard is one of America's six armed forces and traces its founding to Aug. 4, 1790. That's when the first Congress authorized construction of 10 vessels to enforce tariff and trade laws, prevent smuggling, and protect the collection of federal revenue. Responsibilities added over the years include humanitarian duties such as aiding mariners in distress.

The service received its current name in 1915 when the Revenue Cutter Service merged with the U.S. Life-Saving Service to form a single maritime service dedicated to the safety of life at sea and enforcing the nation's maritime laws.



The Coast Guard is a multi-mission maritime military service. Its mission is to protect the public, the environment and U.S. economic interests in the nation's waterways, along the coast, on international waters or in any maritime region as required to support national security.

While other branches of the Armed Forces have a good time joking about whether their "Coastie" brethren are actually a branch of the military (they are), the Coast Guard continues to quietly straddle the dual mission of serving as a military force abroad and a law enforcement agency at home.


For more than 230 years, the first line of American coastal defense has been the United States [Coast Guard](https://www.military.com) in some way, shape or form. Whether protecting the nation's waterways, rescuing sailors at sea or enforcing maritime law, the Coast Guard was there.

With all the Coast Guard does to serve this nation, help us celebrate this service's **234<sup>th</sup> birthday** on Aug. 4, 2024. And thank a "Coastie" for their service in both peace and war.



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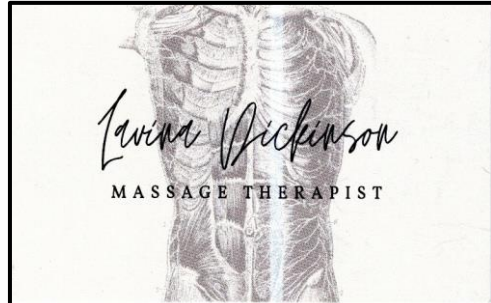
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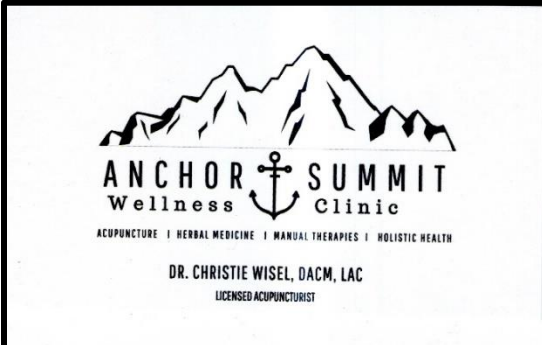
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August 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				B, B, M&C 1	Steak Night 2	3
<p>234 Years Young! Happy B-Day USCG!!!</p>				ALR Meeting 5:30pm  Pioneers Igloo #9 Meeting 6:30pm		
4	5	6	Purple Heart Day 7	B, B, M&C 8	Steak Night 9	SSD  10
<b>USCG Birthday</b> 	<b>BINGO!!! 6:30PM</b>  <i>Chili Dog Monday</i>	 Tuesday		<b>SAL Meeting</b> 7pm 		Seward Silver Salmon Derby Regatta!  ALR 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Month Breakfast 9-11 am
SSD  11	SSD  12	Mexican Martes 13	SSD  14	SSD  15	Steak Night 16	SSD  17
<i>Luscious Leftovers</i>	<i>Chili Dog Monday</i>  <b>BINGO!!!! 6:30PM</b> 	Post Meeting 5:30pm 	Auxiliary Meeting 6pm 	  B, B, M&C		
SSD  18	19	Mexican Martes 20	21	B, B, M&C 22	Steak Night 23	24
End of Silver Salmon Derby  <i>Luscious Leftovers</i>  3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month Breakfast	<b>BINGO!!! 6:30PM</b>  <i>Chili Dog Monday</i>					
25	26	Mexican Martes 27	28	B, B, M&C 29	Steak Night 30	31
<i>Luscious Leftovers</i>	<b>BINGO!!! 6:30PM</b>  <i>Chili Dog Monday</i>			SOULMATES 		

Have Fun at the Silver Salmon Derby!!  
 10-18 August 2024

Food Served Every Night at the Post!!!!