



For God and Country

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

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American Legion Seward Post 5
E-mail: americanlegionpost5@gci.net
sewardpost5@gmail.com (new)
website: www.americanlegionpost5.com



Facebook: www.facebook.com/americanlegionpostfive.sewardalaska
Phone: (907) 224-5440

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



Well this summer so far has been pretty good, a little more rain than I like but that makes you appreciate the sunny stretches we have been getting lately.

I am still so impressed with all our outstanding volunteers that made things happen in our Post 5 family. We're still providing support and good nightly food for our membership and those in need; we couldn't do it without our reliable and amazingly dedicated volunteers. Whether they were serving dinner upstairs, helping out in the social area or cooking breakfasts, maintaining our cemetery (on a near weekly basis), supporting the Scouts or getting ready for future events - our volunteers are amazing!

July is normally is one of busier months and with the 4th of July activities broken up this year due to Covid precautions we had a bit of interruption with all our summer activities. Gladly we were still up and running on the 4th and participated in the Independence Day Parade and of course we had our ribs for those who stopped by the post. Sometimes, as the saying goes, when life sends you lemons you just got to make lemonade! And, we made some good lemonade!!!! 😊



I'd like to thank all who have consistently supported our post and our American Legion Family by coming to the "social area", and those who take the time to help out during or official functions and come to monthly meetings. Simply put, we wouldn't be here without your support at whatever level you choose to do so. As you know, the American Legion is a multifaceted organization with the mission of "mutual helpfulness," and that is what we strive to do in Seward. We try to help not only our membership where we can but the greater community in the many programs that the American Legion has to offer. You can see the functioning of the post every day including our complementary dinner meals six nights a week and other activities, all of which are designed to support and entertain our membership and help our community. Essentially, all you do from stopping by to socialize with other members, to participating in a fundraising auction or carrying a flag in one of our celebrations all helps in what we do and why we are here, and have been doing since the chartering of Post 5 in December 1919.

I also want to thank all of our **volunteer** cooks and bartenders; with only one paid employee who essentially works seven days a week, your help has most definitely lightened the Club Manager's load. 😊 And, for that I am very thankful for thinking of Mike's workload and our organization by taking time out of your lives to help and support your post.



Some folks have said, *I really don't do much, I only come during this event or that, or wash dishes, etc.* - believe me, anything you do even with a small contribution of support goes a long way. You know the saying - "Many hands make light work"; and for your participation I am extremely grateful. Your efforts assist us in service to our veterans and our community. **THANK YOU!!!!**

On a more somber note we have lost one of our members who was a amazing man and a wonderful supporter of our our organization. Joe Owens, a PUFL member, passed to Post Everlasting in March 2021 and we interred him in our Cemetery on July 24th with family and



friends. At age 17, he joined the United States Air Force and began work as an aircraft electrician. His last duty station was the Elmendorf Air Force Base Battery Shop. In 1970, he met and married the love of his life, Diane Kay Schmidt, in Anchorage, Alaska. Together with their three sons, John, Jason and Nathan, they lived in various areas through the Anchorage area before retiring to Seward, Alaska, in 2000. Joe - a fine man, a wonderful Legionnaire... rest easy now until we see you at the final posting for us all.



This month has the Silver Salmon Derby going on in town and it will be busy with all those wanting to catch the big monied fish, which is good for our town and everyone who has a business. The long winter months with slower business traffic and higher operating costs put a burden on them as well as all of us who call Seward our home. With that in mind, think about buying locally at the shops and good restaurants that stay here and stay open for us even in the slower (and colder) times of year. But back to the Derby, good luck to all who participate, there are some good prizes to be won and not just good fish!

House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice!

What a busy summer for everyone. Weather has been pretty good and Post 5 has enjoyed getting to meet visitors from all over the country and to see our members that snowbird elsewhere.

I want to thank all our members for supporting the Post and Club through this busy time. You are all awesome and many visiting members and guests have commented on how they have enjoyed their visit to Post 5 and how friendly everyone has been to them. Thank You All!!

I would like to thank all the great volunteers that continue to support the Post 5 Family in its mission of service to the veterans and the community of Seward. Without those volunteers Post 5 would not be able to provide everything we do for our members and the community. You are truly the backbone of the organization. The Club and Kitchen volunteers have been amazing and continue to provide good food and service for our membership.

thank you!



This month the Post will take part in the memorial service and celebration of life for Don Sutherland on August 14th. The Post will also have our community breakfast on August 15th and will host the visiting USCGC Healy which will be in port on August 19-22. Cemetery maintenance a regular basis. If you would like to assist with any of these events please contact us and we will put you to work.

The next gun raffle is underway. It is for a European American Armory/Girsan MC1911 Government Optic. Tickets are \$20.00 with 120 to be sold and the drawing will be held on August 14th at 7:00pm.

The 2022 Membership year has begun and you can renew online at mylegion.org, by mail, or in person at the post. Membership is the backbone of your organization and we need to keep that backbone strong to continue to carry the load we do for our veterans and the community of Seward.

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.

A good summer marches on with decent weather and busy times in Seward.

I want to thank the Squadron members who continue to support the Post 5 Family and all the activities offered to the membership and the community.



Kudos to all volunteers who helped in the short notice fish acquisition. David Osborn did a great job organizing gathering, cleaning, and distributing the red salmon from the weir. Great benefit to the community.

This month the Post will have a raffle for a **M1911 45 caliber pistol** with the drawing on August 14th. The memorial service for Don Sutherland will be on August 14th, community breakfast is on the 15th, USCGC Healy will be in port on August 19-22. Let us know if you can help with any of these events.



Thanks to everyone who has renewed their dues this year. The Squadron did reach its 100% goal for 2021 and the 2022 Membership year has begun. Remember the dues are \$35.00 this year. Membership is foundation for all the SAL programs so please consider renewing your dues if you have not done so.



If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 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.

Good luck to all the anglers for this year's Silver Salmon Derby!!!



From the President's Desk

By Debbie VanTassel, Unit 5



Wow- it is hard to believe it is August already- this summer is flying by. I hope everyone has been able to get out and enjoy this summer.

July again was a busy month for the Post Family. Of course we had all of the activities celebrating the 4th of July. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped support the activities and make it another successful event. Another big thank you to everyone who volunteers every week to help with Bingo. This is one of the best fund raisers that the Auxiliary has so it is very important to keep it going on a weekly basis. They can always use help so if you have some free time on Monday nights come on down to the Post.

July marked the beginning of the new membership year so you will be getting those renewal messages in the mail. Please remember to renew your membership. The membership dues support the mission of the ALA at the local, state and national levels. Please note the dues increased this year for both Jr and Sr members. You may renew online at the Auxiliary website or you can mail in your renewal and we will get the new cards out to you.

The middle of July again saw the Post family join together for a great cause. The Bear Creek Fish Weir donated fish to the Legion.

Several volunteers showed up on short notice with sharp knives and a great volunteer attitude to fillet and vacuum seal the fish which will be donated to



veterans, active duty military, senior citizens and others in the community that are in need. A special thank you to the Seward Military Resort for allowing us to use their vacuum sealers- it made the process so much easier and faster.

The National American Legion Auxiliary will be in Phoenix the end of August for the National Convention. The Fall workshop will be held in October in Ketchikan.

August 4th is **National Coast Guard Day**. U.S. Coast Guard Day honors the military branch that protects our waters and shorelines. This day is largely an internal celebration for all Coast Guard personnel and their families. But, I'd like to encourage everyone to honor these service members of this branch of the military.

The USCG Mustang is stationed in Seward and the crew of the Mustang have always been great supporters of the Post 5 Family. We would like to thank them and their families for their service and recognize the sacrifices they have made to serve. Also, thank you for your support to the American Legion Post and the community.



I hope everyone has a great August- enjoy the Salmon Derby and the last full month of summer!



August 7, 2021 - 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 14th - Japan surrendered

August 15th - 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.

Director's Notes

By Bobby Dunno



I gotta say our July 2021 has been interesting! I know I have enjoyed our first relatively free summer after having a considerable amount of our personal freedoms challenged during the year or more with COVID. In Department's ALR Chapters July was busy and seemingly things are back to normal although we are still missing the Kenai River Asso. Wounded Hero Fishing Tournament. The Escort the ALRA provides to this other than our always outstanding ROMP's and now the Southern Peninsula ABATE Salute to Vets, the Wounded Hero Escort was a well-attended, fun and everything the American Legion Riders should be doing. Looking forward into August, there is a big hole although there are activities the ALR will be riding and showing The Flag in the coming month.

As always our July started out with Seward's 4th of July Parade; remember last year it was canceled and we made a ride around Seward showing Our Country's Flag. This year everything seemed to be back to normal, with the notable exception of the extended route, which I for one would happily vote to return to the old route that ended at the post. The extended length at parade pace had bikes overheating and interior leg parts getting very uncomfortable ☹️. The turnout all along the parade route was amazing, so many familiar faces from our community together again was awesome to witness. The very end of our section Rick & April carrying the National Colors and Our State Flag and I with my Flags mounted bypassed the escort and returned to the Post as our bikes and my thighs had had enough, rolling back at 20 mph, flags all waving got a great reaction as we rolled past happy to be moving air over our handlebars☺️.



First arrivals for Bill Bishop escort

That was followed up with Terry Moon and I riding up to join the motorcycle escort the ALRA provided for the funeral and honors for the passing of Past Department Commander Bill Bishop. The ride was coordinated by Mark Berg of Chapter 1 on a rainy and solemn day, and we were joined by riders from Chapter 35. The return ride Terry and I tempted fate and rode back without raingear and made it back to Seward having just gotten lightly sprinkled on which turned the return home a whole lot of fun.



2021 Salute to Vets C-46 flyover and Quilt of Valor recipients

The ALRA attended the South Peninsula ABATE Rally from the 22nd to 25th of July. Larry Gentry, Terry Moon and I rode over and enjoyed the activities on Saturday the 24th. Weather was perfect and we rolled onto the airstrip where the weekend activities took place and to see motorcycles lined up nearly the entire length of the airstrip! At the front, on the bike carrying Our National Colors was "Tinker" the Director of Chapter 20 and an active member of South Peninsula ABATE; behind him were the other ABATE riders, and as we slowly rolled pass them in the next group we found the assembled ALRA riders with our National Colors and ALR & POW/MIA flag at the front with bikes all arrayed, we then were ready to ride. There we found we were just in time to join in on the ride around through Soldotna & Kenai. So we moved to the back and merged in from of the trike ridden by the ALRA and I found a smiling Alaska Department Adjutant Sharron Cherrette on the back of Don Ridl's trike! I barely had time to get off give them a hug and greet several other ALR members before I had to get back in the saddle get my helmet on and fall in line as the mass of machines rolled out on a ride. Behind me was another long line of motorcycles most of which were the riders of the Combat Vets Motorcycle Asso. (CVMA). How many bikes were in attendance I never got an exact count but I believe those estimating the "just over 60" numbers were close while numbers in the 70's were not unrealistic. The ride moved down the Sterling Hwy, made the turn onto the Kenai Spur and rolled through Kenai, left down the road crossing the Kenai River and then back east on K-Beach Road, then left returning to the Sterling - riding until the entire procession rolled into the parking next to the Harley Davidson Shop. There I was able to say hello to all the American Legion Family and CVMP members; it was great to see everyone doing well and enjoying being together.

On a whim I went inside the ever so crowded Harley Shop and found Daryl who I had ordered the brake-line parts and fluids from to fix rear brake causality forcing my sidecar out of action. Found that the brake parts have been received that morning but he had not put my order together. So they delivered them to the rally sight in Sterling later that day at the Harley Davidson tent, Awesome! After many of the bikes returned to the airstrip piecemeal, I rode back with members of Chapters 1 and 30; it was great to see Jan Scott riding with Scotty again.

Con't Next Page



Recipients of Quilts of Valor at Salute to Vets

After most had returned to the airstrip the bike games began and I am excited to say that Brad Phelps and Andrea Huyck of Chapter 16 won the day and were the overall champions having won in a "Honey I'm Home" play-off. Following the games, the 18 Quilts of Valor were presented, and the ceremony was attended by two WWII veterans one of which is 100 years old and another approaching his 100 year birthday! That veteran who was approaching his 100 year birthday requested 100 motorcycles to ride by his home in Soldotna on August 7th. The current plan is to gather at Donnie and Jill's Airstrip in Soldotna and make an organized ride past a deserving hero of our country. After the Quilts of Valor we enjoyed visit from another type of veteran with several flyovers by an ancient C-46 cargo aircraft still operated by Everts Air. Following the flyby, the ALRA recovered & retired the American Flag flown for the past year over the Johnson estate and then Members of the American Legion and VFW raised a new National Ensign, POW/MIA and State flags to fly for the next year.



Everts Air C-46

Looking forward to August, there will be a ride for our 100 year old WWII veteran and double Purple Heart winner on the 7th. On the 14th there will be the Celebration of Life for our own **Don Sutherland**, I think that we may see several riders from outside Seward. Please join the Post and Chapter 5 in remembering Don. So, it has been another exciting July in Alaska and not just for Chapter 5 but for the ALR Alaska as a whole. So when you get an itch to ride or you see that the sunshine's is out, or you find yourself bored, and get a few moments for an opportunity, there usually is some excuse you can find...**Get On Your Bike and Ride!**



National Airborne Day

Excerpt from - www.army.mil

FORT BENNING, Ga. - Eighty years ago here, on August 16, 1940, while World War II was raging but before the United States had entered the war, a platoon of Soldiers completed four days of parachute jumps in a test that led to creation of the Army's elite paratrooper units, known as the Airborne.

Russia and Germany already had parachute forces, and now the United States, not yet in the war, sought to build such a force of its own.

It established the U.S. Army Parachute Test Platoon, which began that first series of test jumps that ran from Aug. 13 through Aug. 16. Soon, U.S. Army Airborne units were formed.

Later, with the nation in the war on both sides of the globe, it was some of those same units that made history parachuting into the darkness over Nazi-occupied France on D-Day, June 6, 1944. They seized key terrain and disrupted German communications ahead of the massive Allied amphibious landings that began hours later on the Normandy coast.

August 16 is **National Airborne Day**, which President George W. Bush in 2001 established to commemorate the Test Platoon's foundational efforts.

The day holds additional importance for Fort Benning, which, because of the test platoon, counts itself proudly as "the birthplace" of America's Airborne. Moreover, it's also home of the U.S. Army Airborne School, which trains paratroopers for the Army and for the other armed services.

"First and foremost, Fort Benning is the birthplace of the Airborne," said Command Sgt. Maj. Robert K. Fortenberry, senior enlisted leader of the prestigious U.S. Army Infantry School here, and himself a veteran paratrooper and Infantry Soldier. The Airborne School is part of the Infantry School.




In past years, Fort Benning has marked National Airborne Day with spectator events in which historical re-enactors in World War II paratrooper uniforms jump onto Fryar Drop Zone from a World War II-vintage C-47 transport plane.

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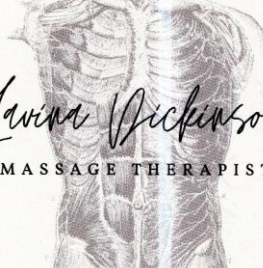
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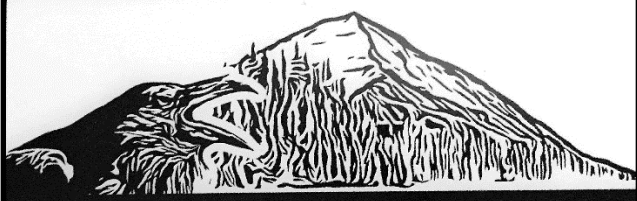
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Karla J. Newitz
Artist/Illustrator

559-936-6691
art_by_karla@yahoo.com
[Facebook@TheSeaWitch1990](https://www.facebook.com/TheSeaWitch1990)
[Instagram@art.by.karla](https://www.instagram.com/art.by.karla)



Ranting Raven

Alaskan Arts, Gifts and Espresso
228 Fourth Ave
rantingravenak@gmail.com


August 2021


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p><u>Luscious Leftovers</u></p>	<p>BINGO 6:30PM</p>  <p><u>Chili Dog Monday</u></p>		 <p>231 Years Young!</p>	<p>ALR Meeting 5:30pm</p>  <p>B, B, M&C Pioneers Igloo #9 Meeting 6:30pm</p>	 <p>Steak Night</p>	<p>Purple Heart Day</p> 
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<p><u>Luscious Leftovers</u></p>	<p>BINGO!!! 6:30PM</p>  <p><u>Chili Dog Monday</u></p>	<p>Post Meeting 5:30pm</p> 	<p>Auxiliary Meeting 6pm</p> 	<p>SAL Meeting 7pm</p>  <p>B, B, M&C</p>	 <p>Steak Night</p>	<p>Seward Silver Salmon Derby Festival</p> <p>★★★</p> <p>Don Sutherland Memorial and Celebration of Life 12:00pm</p>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<p><u>Luscious Leftovers</u></p> <p>3rd Sunday of the Month Breakfast</p>	<p><u>Chili Dog Monday</u></p> <p>BINGO!!!! 6:30PM</p>  <p>National Airborne Day</p>	<p>Mexican Martes</p> 	<p>SSD</p>	<p>SSD</p>  <p>B, B, M&C</p> <p>National Aviation Day</p>	<p>SSD</p>  <p>Steak Night</p>	<p>SSD</p>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<p>End of Silver Salmon Derby</p> <p><u>Luscious Leftovers</u></p>	<p>BINGO!!! 6:30PM</p>  <p><u>Chili Dog Monday</u></p>	<p>Mexican Martes</p> 	<p>SSD</p>	<p>SSD</p>  <p>B, B, M&C</p>	<p>SSD</p>  <p>Steak Night</p>	<p>SSD</p>
29	30	31				
<p><u>Luscious Leftovers</u></p>	<p>BINGO!!! 6:30PM</p>  <p><u>Chili Dog Monday</u></p>	<p>Operation Iraqi Freedom Ends</p> 				

Have Fun at the Silver Salmon Derby in Seward!!
 14-22 August 2021

Food Served Every Night at the Post!!!!