

The Centennial



VOLUME VIII EDITION 2

February 2018

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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Mike Barger

Well, January has come and gone, and we're beginning to get busy again. I'd like to thank all those that have volunteered their time doing what they do. Without our volunteers, we would not be a successful Post. We can always use more, so please don't hesitate to come down and help. Even if it's just an hour a month.

February is Americanism month. Americanism is one of the 4 pillars the American Legion is built on. As Legionnaires, we have an obligation to promote an understanding the simple principles of republic government, give sound practical service to our communities, encourage education and youth development programs and work for the youth of America, sponsoring both school and legion programs. Americanism programs are high visibility programs like American Legion Baseball, High School Oratorical, Boys State, Boys Nation, Boy Scouts and Youth Shooting. We do a great job supporting these, and I see us continuing this year.

Can you believe the Riders are in their fifth year of existence? Boy how time flies. Congratulations goes out to the newly elected board members of the American Legion Riders. Grady Mitchell - President, Marvin Palmer - Vice President, Amy Mitchell - Secretary, Rusty Bower - Treasure, John Hanchek - Road Captain and Tim McDowell - Sergeant-at-Arms. Keep up all the good work. I'd like to thank Bob Caddell (Big Sexy), Steve Hayes (Hands) and Cathy Barger (9mm Mama) for your dedicated time of service with the Riders last year. You're handing off the reigns to a new group that will continue do what we do best, and that is supporting our Veteran's in our community.

We've done a phenomenal job with our renewal of memberships and getting new members signed up for 2018. We're ahead of where we were at this time last year, so please do not slow down. The light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter, so let's see if we can't make our goal of 1037 members by end of March. We have until the end of May, but let's not take it out that far. If you know a member that is struggling and is considering not renewing their membership this year because of that, consider sponsoring them this year. That way they keep their membership active, and we continue to keep our membership numbers where they need to be.

Reminder, if you'd like to know what is happening with this Post or at the Post, you can get all this information from our website legion209.org. Our Senior Vice Commander has worked diligently to complete some new changes that will help you find out exactly what's happening. We'll continue to send out emails letting you know also, but the website will be the most current, so don't hesitate to check it out.

Another reminder. When you come down on Friday nights to our dinners at the Post, you need to RSVP for them, so those that cook, will have an idea on how much food to have available. The only dinner that is not required for RSVP is the first Friday of the month (Hamdogger). If you don't RSVP and do show up, you will have to wait till all those that did RSVP gets their dinner before you will be served and there will be an extra \$2 charge. We are not looking to punish anyone. We are trying to encourage you to RSVP.

Can you believe elections are coming up in April again? I've asked Bill Burd to chair the nominating committee again this year. If you're interested in running for a position, please contact Bill Burd at advisor1colo@yahoo.com or (719)330-1279. Let him know what position you're seeking. Feel free to put your name in for multiple positions, for if you don't get elected for one, you may get elected for another. All positions to include Commander are up for nominations. Don't be afraid to run for a position, for we won't let you fail. We all start with very little knowledge of the Legion, but when we're done with your term, you're a lot more knowledgeable. To get more knowledgeable about the Legion, you can go to <https://www.legion.org/alei> and take the free basic training course. At the end of the course, there's a 40 question test you can take. All you need to do is get 31/40 correct. Once you complete the test, you will receive a certificate plus an opportunity to purchase a pin for only \$5.00. You'll be surprised how much you can learn from this.

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com



From the Unit 209 President
Cathy Barger

Wow, how quickly February is upon us.

Just a quick note on membership, our Unit is doing well on membership, but we still need 30 more members (renewals and new members) to reach our 2018 goal. If you haven't already renewed for 2018, please send in your check for \$30.

I want to thank everyone that donated to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund, our Unit raised \$783.08 for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. The total donations made to Department was \$3,001.86, this was a combination of 14 Districts.

We'll be having our regular monthly meeting February 10th. Please join us for a great breakfast and stay for the meeting at 10 a.m.

If you are available to volunteer for any of our dinners or breakfasts, please contact me via email catbarger@comcast.net or by phone (719) 290-3163. If you can't carry the trays to the tables maybe you could help with the dishes, sweeping, or washing off the tables. Your support would also be appreciated by attending these events.

Election of new officers will be here before you know it. If you would like to run for a position, please let myself or any other officers know.

We would like to wish the following ladies a HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Erica Billiard, Joanne Bramble, Shirley Chapman, Karen Cross, Hannah Dreher, Heidi Dreher, Holly Dreher, Bonnie Lloyd, Luella Nell, Donna Ribisi, and Dawn Schubert. Make sure to wish these ladies Happy Birthday when you see them.
Serving Our Veterans Proudly!

The Auxiliary dinner for February will be a Pasta Dinner, cost for dinner is \$9.00. Please come down and support Auxiliary, and make sure to RSVP.



From the Adjutant
Marvin Weaver, Jr.

We will be having an American Legion Initiation Ceremony on March 16th. This ceremony is not just for new members but for anyone who has not already been thru a formal American Legion Initiation. The ceremony will be conducted just prior to our dinner that night. More information about the ceremony will be coming so keep an eye out in the newsletter and on the website.

We are doing well with membership this year but we still need about 120 more members (renewals and new) to reach our goal. If you have a friend that is not a member yet talk with them and see about getting them signed up. Most people when asked why they have not joined simply state that they have never been asked. Department still has the recruiting drive going that for every new member you recruit you and the new member are entered into a drawing for \$100 to be drawn on the membership target dates. Also, the Commander still has his offer on the table, that if you bring in a new member, he will buy you a dinner of your choosing. Can't beat that.

The Annual Report is submitted each year in May to tell our story and let National know what we have done for the past year. This report to Congress is compiled from across the American legion to showcase our volunteerism for our Veterans and Children. Please send me the hours, mileage and money you have volunteered for year, from July 2017 to the end of January 2018. I will ask for this information again to capture your volunteer hours, mileage, and donations from the end of January 2018 through June, so please start tracking this to make it easier to remember.

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com



From the Sr. Vice Commander Eric Testorff

If you haven't visited the Post 209 Web page legion209.org in recent days, there have been a few changes. One in particular promises to be most helpful. It is the addition of a new section called, "COMING UP:"

"COMING UP:" is found in the center section of our home page, and features the most immediate Post 209 events that we have coming up. Think of it as a conveyor belt of future events, moving ever upward, until they occur. Once an event date comes and goes, the event drops off the list.

To see the ENTIRE list of our scheduled events, click the [more...] button found at the bottom. This gives you the complete list for the rest of the year. Of course, things can change, and you should check our web page on a regular basis. We will be adding new events as they are scheduled.

I would also like to bring our readers' attention to the "News and Photos" buttons on the left side of our web page. Clicking these links now gives you a "synopsis" of our Legion Family Facebook timelines. With one click, you can now scan the Facebook posts for Legion 209, Aux Unit 209, SAL 209, ALR 209, Young Guns Junior Shooting, or District 7. No Facebook login is required to quickly get a feel for what is being posted by our various Legion Family members on Facebook. So, be a little nosy and check it out!

Of course, I've got to get a plug in about our Letters to the Editor feature that has been added to the Centennial newsletter. Whether you have a beef, kudos or just a plain observation, you can submit a Letter to the Editor from our web site's Newsletter page.

Again, if you haven't been to our award-winning web site in a while, it might be time for a visit just to take it out for a spin. Now, what was that address again??... legion209.org !



From Squadron 209 By Commander Ken Taylor

We are off to a good running start for 2018! As of this writing, we have 80 members new or renewed for 2018. Let's keep it going.

As a reminder, SAL Memberships run through the calendar year, so your membership expires on December 31, 2017. If your membership card says 2017, please renew now for 2018. The cost is \$10 for those under 18 and \$20 for those who are 18 and older. Thanks for your past support of our Squadron and we look forward to everyone's support in 2018.



From the Junior Shooting Sports Chairman Ken Taylor

The next NRA Marksmanship Class starts at 6:30 PM on Wednesday February 14, 2018. The new shooters class starts on Thursday February 15, 2018 at 6:30 PM. At this time, we have 8 shooters enrolled in our class of 12. Please contact the Junior Shooting Sports Chairman, Ken Taylor, at 719-761-4047 for more information or to enroll. You can also send an email to jssp209@gmail.com. Our Facebook page can be located by going to legion209.org and clicking on the Young Guns icon. The Facebook page has a video and you can also follow the links to download our brochure and a registration form.



From the Sergeant-at-Arms
Stan "Sgt. Ski" Kransinski

Good day all Legion Post 209 family members,
If you read my offerings in the last two Newsletters or if you were present at the last General Membership Meeting you will recall that I spoke of what it means to be a "MVP" in the Legion.



MEMBER-VOLUNTEER-PARTICIPANT!



As you know I have initiated a new Legion Post 209 program... "The MVP Collection!" A presentation was made at the January General Membership Meeting announcing the program with all positive feedback. Again, this will be a recognition opportunity for all Post members to nominate another Post member for their contribution to our cause. Americanism, Children and Youth, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Membership and Post Activities, Public Relations and Legislative. This could be an effort huge in scale, their first involvement in a Post activity, made a positive difference in a child's or veterans' life, showed up to share a smile, whatever. Any Post member...for any reason...Legion related.

There is now a "MVP Collection" nomination box available at the front counter for nominations. You can use the index cards located on the box, type it out at home and then slip it into the box or send an email to the Post email address at centennialtwozeronine@yahoo.com.

The Post Executive Committee will review all the nominations and select the recipient during their meeting on the first Thursday of February. The recipient will be recognized during the February General Membership Meeting that following Saturday. The Sergeant-at-Arms will then arrange to interview the recipient for an offering under their title in the next monthly Newsletter.

This will repeat monthly ongoing! Please become an American Legion Post 209 "MVP Collection" member...step up and help and/or nominate someone who has. Assistance is needed throughout our efforts! 'We can only make a difference if we are involved...participants not spectators.'

Thank you and please have a great day!



Rusty Bower's column to bring a little "salt" to the post.

Origin of NAVY Terminology
Rusty Bower



The Goat Locker

In the NAVY, the "Goat Locker" is a lounge, sleeping area, and galley aboard a NAVY ship which is reserved for the exclusive use of Chief Petty Officers.

By tradition, all other personnel, including Officers and even the Commanding Officer must request permission to enter the "Goat Locker." The term "Goat Locker" takes its origins from wooden ship sailing times, when goats were kept aboard ships. The goat was used for its ability to consume nearly all forms of refuse, and produce milk for the crew. The quarters for the goat were traditionally in the Chief Petty Officer mess, which inherited the moniker "GOAT LOCKER."

AUXILIARY UNIT 209
PRESENTS
ITALIAN PASTA DINNER

February 9, 2018 at 6 pm
Chicken Fettuccini Alfredo
Salad, garlic bread, dessert
Please RSVP to jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com





Motorcycle Minute

Bob "Big Sexy" Caddell; President

Hello Legion family, I would like to say thanks for the great year as President of your Riders. When you read this there will be new leadership in the Riders. I know that I leave with the group in good hands.

It was a great year starting with the Bikers Ball in March. We raised funds for McCandless Veterans home. Then in April we made a ride to "Bents Fort" down in La Junta where we met up with Post 9 and shared the ride and lunch.

In May we went to Fountain and saw the "Run for the Wall" riders come thru and I went to Post 2008 and stood with them as the RFTW came through there. We rode with the other ALR's to show support for our fallen brothers and sisters. We went to three Cemetery's and paid tribute. Some 60 bikes.

In June we supported Post 2008 in their annual Freedom run. We weren't able to do our "High Country" run but some of the riders did make a ride that day. We supported Post 5 and their Poker run. Some riders went to Tejon bike fest in downtown Colorado Springs.

July we rode to the top of Pikes Peak with post 2008 and back. That was an awesome ride! Our Road captain and those that could make it met up with Post 209 out of Moses, Washington, as they came thru the state and had lunch in Canon City. We supported Post 38 and their poker run. We won some great prizes at that one. The end of July saw us hosting the McCandless Veterans home BBQ. It's always a pleasure to go there. The Veterans really love all the bikes and attention.

August was the "Cripple Creek" run. Some 3000 plus or more bikes thundered into Cripple Creek to pay respect to all Veterans. Myself, "Hands", and "Cactus" stood guard on the Vietnam Traveling Wall and we saw a meteor in the night sky. You really need to go with "Hands" as he stocks the pantry for a night of watch standing. Then we had our Poker run. We raised funds for our program and had an anonymous donor come to the Post and we were blessed with a nice donation that we spread among our Legion family. We had non-members that had an accident during the run, both riders were hurt but recovered. We asked for a donation from the riders that were present and we presented that to them. Thanks Forest for getting that to them.

September weather wasn't nice to us; we were going to ride to Steamboat for an overnight get together but mother nature had other ideas. It got canceled due to forest fires in the area. Then for our Neal Thomas Jr. memorial run we got rained out but the riders stepped up and still raised funds for the Veterans assistance fund. YOU GUYS ROCK!!

October saw the "Toys for Tots" toy run in the city. We had a great turnout by all Posts and rider groups in the city. The kids were well supplied in toys this year. Then there was our annual Veterans Stand Down. We provided security and our Legion family provided the basic items for homeless Veterans. Within the Stand Down there is the Temporary Housing Initiative. Our Auxiliary provided meals for the families and we provided Security.

December saw us again at McCandless to hand out Christmas cards; with gift cards inside, to all the Veterans. That was an awesome time. The ride was near perfect. Clear and comfortable for December weather.

Other events included Honor Guard duties for a WWII Veteran that did not have any family to lay him to rest. VSO's from around the area showed up at Evergreen cemetery and paid honors to him and showed that you are never alone. We road to DIA twice to escort the bodies of our fallen brothers home to Colorado Springs. The Honor Guard performed a rifle salute on Memorial Day and Veterans Day at the DAV Post 26. We stood the flag line for the Honor Flight when they returned from Washington DC. We stood the flag line for CWO Quist, a Vietnam Veteran at her funeral when she had just her brother and niece to stand for her. For our final event of 2017, we escorted the body of Lt Col Randy Velasquez, USMC, from Colorado Springs to the rest stop outside of Pueblo for dignified transfer to Post 2 and they escorted him to Walsenburg and he was finally taken to Durango where he was laid to rest. We rode at 70 miles an hour, in 25 degrees, for 40 miles round trip. You really needed your foul weather gear on that one.

Motorcycle Minute continued from previous page.

As I look back on the events and achievements we had as Post 209 Riders I see a brotherhood and sisterhood that really cares for the Veteran community. If you didn't make some of our events last year please do this year. You won't be disappointed. I want to give a big Thanks to all who volunteered this year. You people are the reason we have been successful in our endeavors. You know who you are. THANKS!

We [my bride of 38 years and I] will be retiring this December [if you haven't already heard] and we will be moving back to her home state. I'll be leaving Post 209 riders but you guys will never be far from my heart. I hope to hook up with Post 166 riders out of Goose Creek, SC. Amazingly, there are 11 AL's in the Charleston area but only one riders group. So I'll stay involved with the Riders, if they'll have me. LOL!

My last thoughts. We wear the Patch of the AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS and it comes with a responsibility to Veterans, community and country. To me, when you agree to the bylaws of the Riders and are accepted into this group you more than volunteer, you commit your time. You make time to participate. Yes, family comes first but when you place that back patch on your vest you have a new family and they need your time too.

Thanks for the great year. Einstein, [Big Sexy] Past President 209 Riders.



The American Legion National Headquarters and the Department of Colorado Presents
"The Eagle Scout of the Year"

By Legionnaire and Scout Chairman Jerry Lollar

The American Legion Life Insurance Committee provides annually for a national scholarship to be awarded to the Eagle Scout who is selected "The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year." The winner is eligible to receive a \$10,000 scholarship to be awarded over a four-year period. Three additional scholarships of \$2,500 each are also awarded.

Eligibility requirements specify say that a nominee must be currently registered, active member of a Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew chartered to an American Legion Post, American Legion Auxiliary Unit, or Sons of the American Legion Squadron, **OR** be registered, active member of a duly chartered Boy Scout troop, Varsity Scout team, Venturing crew **AND BE** the son or grandson of a Legionnaire or Auxiliary member, and have received the Eagle Scout Award already and be an active member of his religious institution and have received the current appropriate Boy Scouting religious emblem award; have demonstrated practical citizenship in church, school, scouting, and their community; have reached his 15th birthday; and be currently enrolled in a high school at the time of selection.

Note: Eagle Scouts who are still in high school who reached their 18th birthday during the nomination year remain eligible if otherwise qualified.

The current application can be found on line at: legion.org

Further information please contact our local Department Headquarters, or the Scouting Committee Chairman:

The American Legion Department of Colorado

ATTN: The Scouting Committee Chairman, MR. Jerry Lollar

7465 East Avenue, #D

Denver, Colorado 80230

Or

The American Legion Department of Colorado

The Scouting Committee Chairman

ATTN: MR. Jerry Lollar

6456B West Hawthorn Drive

USAF Academy, Colorado 80840

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BEFORE MARCH 1st DEADLINE



From the Historian

Chris Earley

The month of February is blessed in that for many wars, the winter months were a time of rest and regrouping during the harsher weather. That is not to say that February is without any significant military history.

On February 9th of 1943, United States Naval, and Marine forces claimed victory over the Japanese in the Battle of Guadalcanal. After an initial successful invasion of the islands on August of 1942 (taking what would later be known as Henderson field), the battle dragged on for an additional 6 months before final victory was achieved in our first engagement in the Pacific Arena. Our losses were 7,000 dead, 7789+ wounded, compared to the Japanese losses of 8,500 killed, and an additional 10,700 dead from disease and malnutrition.

The bombing of Dresden during World War II took place largely over 3 days, February 13 thru February 15. Some 527 bombers of the USAAF along with 722 from the RAF dropped a combination of incendiary and high-explosive bombs totally 3900 tons! The resulting devastation covered 2.5 square miles with a death toll of approximately 25,000. German propaganda claims put the death tolls much higher but were later disproven.

On February 15, 1898 the Battleship Maine blew up in Havana Harbor while at anchor. It sank taking 260 crew members with it. It was believed at the time that a mine sunk the ship and the American public blamed Spain. Coupled with Spain's reaction to the Cuban rebellion, the Spanish-American War began in April 1898. The actual war lasted 2 months. In 1976 investigators determined that the explosion was actually caused by a fire on-board which ignited the ammunition stocks. No mine or act of sabotage by Spain was to blame.

And that's history!



Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

In my January newsletter article about Wreaths Across America, I mistakenly reported that it was Stan Krasinski who placed the wreath honoring our departed Air Force veterans. The wreath was actually placed by Bill Weeks, Air Force Veteran from Post 209.

--Eric Testorff

From the Editor:

I received a letter from Legionnaire Bob McClaran. He pointed out that there were several dates in the February Calendar mislabeled. He said he wanted to apologize if it seemed a little nit-picky. I told him to please continue to be nit-picky with *The Centennial*. I welcome ALL comments, especially when they fix mistakes.

Thanks again Bob!

Do you have an issue or recommendation? Something you want to get off your chest? Is there someone or something you want to highlight? Maybe you have a comment about an article in the newsletter. If so, we invite you to send a "Letter To The Editor." The ground rules:

- Send it via email to letters@legion209.org, or;
- Send it via "snail mail to: Letters to the Editor, C/O American Legion Post 209 at our P.O. Box address
- It must have your name. No letters will be published without that information
- It cannot be about a political party or candidate (this is an American Legion publication)
- If the letter exceeds 250 words, we may condense or not publish the letter
- The Editor (Commander) and Publisher (Jay Bowen) reserves the right to edit and/or not publish the letter

AmeriPlan Update

By Legionnaire Bernard Harris

American Legion Post 209 members, family and business owners, effective Friday, 12/22/2017, the Affordable Care Act – Individual Mandate, has been totally rescinded!

What does this mean in simple language! You get to decide what specific healthcare coverages you want or need for yourself, family and/or household members. The “old” IRS penalty is gone!

If you have traditional medical insurance please make a concerted effort to totally evaluate what you and your household member’s needs are with regard to medical coverage. Consider your family history, current and future medical needs. What about braces, required vaccinations, unforeseen issues! If you have any form of the Tricare Healthcare system, ensure your status is active.

If you have household members residing with you or need medical services not currently available to you, then visit “your” website: <https://alp209.savewithdiscounthealthcare.com> and sign up for the very best discount healthcare plan in the nation. With this initiative, ALP-209 members save money, have access to proactive healthcare coverage and keep the “Post” financially solvent for years. Invite businesses to enroll their workers, invite your friends, relatives to join. You can even invite members from other Posts to join. In simple terms, a membership level of a mere 455 (According to Rusty, this is half of the current membership of 910) results in a monthly income of \$7,270.90 or \$87,250.80 a year. Our Post would never be in the red again!!

If you are sure that medical insurance is not needed or you want to reduce your coverage level, then please allow the premier discount healthcare plan in the nation cover your needs. Coverage includes the following benefits: Telemedicine, dental, vision, prescription needs, chiropractic services, MRIs, CAT Scans, virtually every blood test imaginable, diabetic supplies, hearing aids, and LASIK just to name a few benefits. These benefits are totally backed by the AmeriPlan Corporation, the senior discount healthcare provider in America.

If you currently have previous medical bills that require a lower monthly payment, please allow this service to help you access an awesome agency, The Karis Group. This benefit alone will help you get those bills reduced to a more manageable payment plan.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are and have been here to help you gain access to these benefits and services for a mere \$39.95 monthly membership fee (or \$1.33 a day)!! If you are retired military and have Tricare medical coverage, all you need is the \$24.95 Dental-Plus plan. I strongly recommend not using Delta Dental as it is extremely expensive, especially for retirees. Again, your entire household will receive coverage!

If anyone has questions or concerns, please feel free to call or email me at

Bernard M. Harris

719-650-6174

Bmharris2@comcast.net



Help Support Girls State

Girls State Chair Kellie Hayes (hayeskelliej@yahoo.com / 719-494-7167)

Have you ever wondered what American Legion Auxiliary Colorado Girls State was all about? Well...here is their mission statement: *"To provide an outstanding, unique, and coveted educational opportunity for the young women of our nation that instills the basic ideals and principles of American government through the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation citizenship training programs."* Ok, so basically it is a group of exceptional young ladies that will attend a week long civics class, forming the 51st state. We will be at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley from June 10 to 16. The girls build life-long friendships during this week also. If you know of a girl in her Junior year in High School who would be interested in attending, please pass them my contact information so I can get them the necessary information. Last year our Auxiliary District 7 worked to send 62 young ladies to Girls State. This year we would like to send at least that many or more!! If you would like to help send a young lady to Girls State this year, the sponsorship is \$200 per girl. Please make checks payable to "ALA 209".



JEWELRY POTTERY BAKE SALE AND LOTS MORE!!



You're invited to the 1st annual

AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR.
AUXILIARY UNIT 209
CRAFT FAIR

Where: American Legion Neal Thomas Jr Post 209
3613 Jeannine Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO

When: April 7, 2018

Time: 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Entry Fee: \$2.00 at the door = 1 door prize ticket
Can goods donation for Care and Share = additional ticket

All proceeds will be going to the
American Legion Auxiliary Colorado Girls State Program

If you have any questions or would like to rent a booth, contact
Kellie Hayes at hayeskelliej@yahoo.com

Bringing a Little South to the West

By Past Post Commander Jay Bowen

Growing up in Memphis, we didn't get a lot of snow during the winter. We had some cold weather, or at least cold for the south and at sea level. Temperatures would dip into the low 30's or high 20's at times and for a very short while, but mainly we saw highs in the 40's throughout the winter months.

Something we did have during the winter that was more common than snow was ice. Unlike living here in Colorado, Memphis and the southern Metro area would get ice storms. It would typically start with rain with temperatures in the low 40's. As the rain continued, so did the drop in temperature. By the time temps reached the low 30's, the rain turned to ice. And the fun began.

People in the south aren't known for their driving skills. Contrary to what they would like to believe, they weren't all like Smoky expertly traversing the highways from Georgia to Arkansas in a Trans Am on the way to Texarkana, or Bo Duke driving "The General" avoiding Boss Hogg. While most of these "good ole boys" did a pretty good job on gravel roads, for some reason they had problems driving on blacktop. And if we got some weather that made the asphalt a little slick, then "Katy Bar the Door!"

Not only are their driving skills suspect, some are lacking in gray matter reasoning. I can recall seeing guys driving down our two lane ice-covered street with about a 15 foot chain attached to the bumper and attached on the other end to an inter-tube or something resembling a sled. The mental giant riding in the sled would be careening from curb to curb just laughing his butt off. I never saw the car come to a stop, but I can imagine how that ride must have ended with the rider using the car's bumper as a brake. Man, I love Rednecks! I am one, and proud of it! J

I also recall one year in which we had a huge ice storm. It shut down the city schools and many businesses. My Mom had the day off from work, I assume it was because of the weather or maybe because we were home and she knew the mischief we would get into unsupervised on an icy day such as this. Even though we weren't old enough to have a driver's license, there were still plenty of ways for us to get into trouble.

At one point during the late morning or early afternoon, Mom, my brother (Bubba), my two sisters, me, and some of the neighborhood kids gathered in the street to play "Crack the Whip!" This is a fun game where someone is designated the "Whip" (Mom was always the "Whip") and is the pivot person on a 5, 6, or 7 person whip. The number of people were solely dependent on the width of the street and the number of people playing.

The "Whip" would take the hands of someone while facing them. The next person would wrap their hands around the waist of the person next to the "Whip." Everyone else in turn would grab the waist of the person next to them creating an unbroken line. The "Whip" would start to slowly swing everyone around in a circular motion. One-by-one, as the "Whip" sped up, we would lose our grip and get slung to the curb. Ideally, it would be the last person in line because that person would be experiencing the most force, but that was not always the case. However, many who broke away from the whip would normally wind up into the curb, but sometimes they would just go skating down the street. I think the "Crack" part of "Crack the Whip" was when one or more people flew into the curb and tumbled two or three times across the icy ground. Thinking back, I'm amazed no one ever got seriously hurt.

Not too many years ago while living in Western Tennessee, I went hunting with Bubba on his 1,000 acre property. On this particular day, we reached our tree stands before daylight, which was the norm. As the sun came up, the weather turned VERY cold, the clouds darkened, and the rain started. I was sitting on a bench in a tree stand about 15 feet off the ground and in pouring rain. After about 15 minutes, the rain turned to ice. About 30 minutes after that, it turned to snow. Being the Redneck that I am, I sat there for about an hour in a driving snowstorm before I finally decided the deer was smarter than I was because they had apparently taken cover. As I attempted to get up from the chair, I noticed my butt was frozen to the seat. I had to rock back and forth in the seat to get unstuck. When I finally freed myself from the chair, I almost fell out of the stand.



Post Officers 2017-2018

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Mike Barger	719-290-3218
Sr. Vice Cdr	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Jr. Vice Cdr	Jerry Lollar	719-641-2778
Adjutant	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	719-244-3535
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Chaplain	Paul R. Darrow	719-237-4461
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasin-ski	719-373-7814
Historian	Chris Earley	719-338-1398
Post Exec. Cmtee	Bill Burd	719-330-1279
Service Officer	Lyle Hagelberg	719-231-2364
Judge Advocate	Marvin Weaver, Sr.	719-638-4763
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610
Honor Guard Capt.	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177



ALR Officers 2018-2019

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Grady Mitchell	719-201-3353
Vice President	Marvin Palmer	719-287-7047
Secretary	Amy Mitchell	719-321-8291
Treasurer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Tim McDowell	719-510-9907
Road Captain	John Hanchek	719-648-5415



Auxiliary Officers 2017-2018

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Vice President	Donna Rae Smith	815-973-0073
Secretary	Pat Weaver	719-638-4763
Treasurer	Kellie Hayes	719-494-7167
Chaplain	Jackie Burd	719-590-6615
Sergeant-At-Arms	Donna Testorff	719-510-4567
Historian	Nancy LaFayette	719-594-6806



Sons of The American Legion 2017-2018

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Ken Taylor	719-761-4047
Sr. Vice Com-mander	Marv Weaver Jr.	719-244-3535
Jr. Vice Com-mander	Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasinski	719-373-7814
Adjutant	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Steve P. Cox	970-580-8191
Assistant S-a-Arms	Stanten Krasinski	719-373-7814
Chaplain	Shelten Krasinski	719-373-7814
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	2 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	3
4	5 Pikes Peak Honor Gd. Meeting 6:00pm Honor Guard Mtg/Tng CANCELLED! 	6	7	8	9 \$9.00 Meal Auxiliary Dinner - RSVP Required! 	10 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am
11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day Marksmanship 6:30pm 	15 Fundraising Cmtee 7pm Young Guns 6:30pm 	16 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	17
18	19 Presidents Day Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm ALR Executive Board 6:00pm 	20	21 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	22 Young Guns 6:30pm 	23 \$10.50 Meal Chef's Choice! - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	24
25	26	27 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm 	28 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	Notes:		

March 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Young Guns 6:30pm Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	2 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	3
4	5 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm 	6	7 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	8 Intl. Women's Day Young Guns 6:30pm 	9 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	10 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am  
11 Daylight Saving Begins	12	13	14 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	15 Fundraising Cmtee 7pm Young Guns 6:30pm 	16 \$14.50 Meal New Member Initiation! 6:00pm Corned Beef Dinner 6:30pm RSVP Required! 	17 Saint Patrick's Day
18	19 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm ALR Executive Board 6:00pm  	20 Spring Begins	21 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	22 Young Guns 6:30pm 	23 \$10.50 Meal Chef's Choice! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	24 World Tuberculosis Day
25	26	27 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm  	28 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	29 Young Guns 6:30pm 	30 Good Friday	31

April 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter	2	3	4 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	5 Young Guns 6:30pm Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	6 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	7
8	9	10	11 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	12 Young Guns 6:30pm 	13 \$9.00 Meal Auxiliary Dinner - RSVP Required! 	14 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am  
15	16 ALR Executive Board 6:00pm 	17 Tax Day (Taxes Due)	18	19 Fundraising Committee Meeting 7:00pm	20 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	21
22 Earth Day	23 World Immunization Week	24 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm  	25 Administrative Professionals	26	27 \$10.50 Meal Chef's Choice! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	28
29	30	Notes:				

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com