

The Centennial



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July 2013

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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

As I'm writing this July article fires are raging within our District. The two of most concern are the Black Forest and the Canon City fires. When I left the house this morning, the Canon City fire was 20% contained and the Black Forest fire was 30%. My prayer is that by the time you read this article, they will both be 100% out! As with the Waldo Canyon fire last year, I am in awe of our community, especially our American Legion family. I have been burning up the phone lines trying to get status and updates on our members affected by these devastating fires. In many cases, I learned that our Legionnaires stepped up to do what they do best; help others in need. I won't even try to identify all of you who have reached out to neighbors and friends and opened your home and wallet to assist. I know there were many because I have spoken with several. There are a few from our Legion family I believe is worth mentioning; Eddie Davis, and the Baxter family.

Like last year, as soon as the fire got out of control and families were evacuated, Eddie mobilized. He set up outside the Commissary at Peterson Air Force Base and other stores around town collecting food items. He made frequent trips to the Care and Share and our local Fire Departments delivering food and drinks. In one trip alone to Care and Share, Eddie delivered 6 boxes of food, 9 cases of Gatorade, and 7 cases of water. That same day he collected and delivered 39 cases of water, and 5 boxes of quick fix food items to a Fire Department; all in the name of The American Legion, Centennial Post 209.

Bill and Patti Baxter volunteer and work at the El Paso County Sheriff's Department. During emergencies such as with this fire, Patti trains and helps manage the Emergency Operations Center. Bill served as the Chief of Operations on the night shift for the duration. Both logged hundreds of tireless hours. Daughter Julie sin-



gle handily directed over 50 volunteers in the care and feeding of many large animals at the Norris-Penrose Animal Shelter. She arranged for the permanent placing of animals owned by people who lost their homes and reunited people who had to abandon their animals. Julie was also a 2012 Red Cross Hometown Hero for her support doing this same thing during the Waldo Canyon fire last year.

So far, there have been two deaths from the Black Forest fire. An evacuated couple felt they HAD to return to their home and retrieve more STUFF. Do you remember my article last year after the Waldo Canyon fire (August 2012)? Folks, it's just STUFF! Looking back, was it worth it? I just don't get it, and probably will never understand.

I am proud to be a member of the greatest Veterans organization in the world and an active member of this community. And I'm even more proud when I see how everyone comes together to help in times such as this. I don't know if it's because there are so many Veterans living here and that's what we've always done, or if it's because there are so many people from across the country who have migrated to this community, or maybe it's a combination of all of the above. Whatever the reason, it is great to watch and be a part of the coming together. I pray we never have another disaster. But if I am living in a city when/if another man-made or natural disaster of this magnitude hits, I want to be here in Colorado Springs and a part of Centennial Post 209. I know my chance of survival will be increased significantly.

I don't and can't say it enough; I am very proud of our Legion family and consider it an honor to have my name associated with this amazing team. Thank you for what you do, and may God continue to bless you, The American Legion, Colorado Springs, and our great Country.

For God and Country,
Jay



Auxiliary President Jackie Bowen

We had a great meeting in June and gained another new member, Donna Testorff. Donna and her husband, Eric, visited with us Memorial Day and joined our Legion family June 8th. We love adding to our Legion family with such great people.

Since taking on the position as President of Unit 209 I have wanted to establish a Jr. Auxiliary at our Post. This may come to fruition now that we have a young lady willing to join and be the President of the Jr. Auxiliary. While we have a few Jr. Members, they are located mostly outside Colorado. This being said, we are hoping you will sign your daughters or granddaughters up for our Jr. Auxiliary. The dues for Jr. Auxiliary is \$6.50 annually.

Mark your calendars for the following dates. **August 10** – not only will we have a guest speaker, Janna Schaefer, from the Blue Star Mothers of Durango but we will also be going to McCandless nursing home in Florence for the annual Ice Cream Social. **September 14th** we will be attending the annual All Activities Day at the Pueblo Nursing Home, 2600 Oakshire Ln. The Auxiliary will NOT meet in September. If you haven't attended either of these events in the past, you have missed a wonderful opportunity to visit with some of our Veterans.

Please keep the families affected by the Black Forest and Royal Gorge fires in your prayers.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly,

Rusty Bower's new column to bring a little "Salt" to the Post

Origin of NAVY Terminology



BOKOO

Often an old salt will boast that he has had bokoo this or has done something bokoo times during his seafaring years. The picturesque sound of the word "bokoo" may cause one to wonder how it came to mean "many" or "a lot."

Actually, bokoo is a legitimate French word, "beaucoup," meaning "very many." Americanization changed the spelling and pronunciation but the meaning remains unchanged. Like many foreign terms that have crept into our nautical lingo, "bokoo" is the inevitable product of generations of American seamen meeting peoples of other nations and adopting bokoo phrases from their languages for everyday shipboard use.

Rusty Bower

NAVY Senior Chief Retired



Bill Baxter (left) reviewing the latest fire status board in the Emergency Operations Center during the Black Forest Fire. Patty Baxter (right) giving a briefing to EOC crew during the Black Forest Fire.





Chaplain's Corner

Volume IV



Know your season:

**He said be like a tree planted by the rivers of water,
That bring forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.**

Psalm 1:3

What is your favorite season? Spring, Summer, Fall, or Winter? Every season is distinct. Spring marks new life. Summer displays steady growth. Fall, is busy harvest. Winter, is a time of retreat and rest before the cycle of seasons begins again. Depending on where you live, the seasons may change with significant difference from each other. Have you taken the time to think about what season your own life is in?

Sometimes the speed of your life is connected to the season in your life. There are seasons of busyness. There are seasons of transition. There are seasons of celebration when a new wedding is performed, and also when that union brings a new life, a milestone is achieved. Then there are seasons of rest when you take time to retreat, vacation, or just sit on the front porch and drink ice tea or a cold beer. Just as every season has its own beauty and distinction, every season of life does too!

Some seasons are naturally longer than others. You may be in a season of being single, a newlywed, a parent, or even great-grandparent. You may be in a season of immediate deadlines or a slower season when you can catch your breath. Whatever season you are in, it is important to not only recognize but celebrate the season you are in!

In this time of unrest among the people, and the government, it is always better to trust in God, from where our strength comes! For this earth and this body is only temporary! Eternity is forever!! I look forward to seeing all of you there!

Keep all who are sick, or shut-in, or for those who have just lost a loved one in your prayers.

Chet Dean

Remember, the Chaplain is available 24-7 for emergencies, for any member, or family member.



Julie "Baxter" Woods (left) caring for one of MANY left in her care at the Norris-Penrose Center during the Black Forest Fire.

(Right) Just one of MANY loads collected by Eddie Davis to take to Care and Share and our Fire Fighters in support of the Black Forest Fire.



From the desk of our Senior Vice Commander, Greg Smith

Reference to the Honor Guard's Presentation of the Colors at Sky Sox Stadium on Memorial Day.

I wanted you to know I was proud of the Post today and how they represented our involvement in the community. Our Honor Guard looked sharp and they did us proud.

Thank you for letting me be part of this organization.

Greg Smith
Sr. Vice Commander



Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209 Young Guns

American Legion "YOUNG GUNS" of Centennial Post 209, will be sponsoring a Basic Rifle Safety and Marksmanship course starting on September 12th 2013. This is an American Legion sponsored program that is open to boys and girls through age 18. All participants and a parent, guardian or other responsible adult will be required to attend all sessions.

The Basic Rifle Safety Course will be taught by NRA trained and Certified Instructors. All books supplies and equipment will be covered by a registration fee of \$10. The course will last for 8 to 9 evening sessions held on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Classes will be held at the Post and Air Rifles, safety glasses and all needed equipment will be provided.

The Junior Shooting Committee will be accepting registrations for up to 15 students for our September 12th class. For more information, please contact any member of the Junior Shooting Committee. Plan now to attend and learn proper gun safety and handling.

Junior Shooting Committee:

Rick Kettering	813-967-6680	commandersal209@gmail.com
Ken Taylor (Chairman)	719-495-8190	adjutantsal209@gmail.com
Rusty Bower	682-478-9122	financesal209@yahoo.com
Chuck Ford	719-597-1019	historiansal209@yahoo.com
Gunny Raines	719-597-4766	gunnyr1@yahoo.com
Bill Weeks	719-597-4670	(No Email)
Chuck Sorrels	719-694-9151	(No Email)



Post Annual Potluck Picnic 13 July, beginning 12:00 noon



Please come out and join us for our annual Potluck Picnic! The Post will provide the Burgers, Hotdogs, Buns, and condiments. We need you to bring a side dish large enough to feed your family plus a couple others. Great fun, food, and fellowship!



Centennial 209 Family Calendar of Events

8 Aug	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
9 Aug	Hamdogger 6:30 pm
10 Aug	Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary Meetings 10:00 am SAL Mtg 11:30 am
10 Aug	Ice Cream Social McCandless Nursing Home, Florence, CO 2:00 pm
16 Aug	Steak Night 6:30 pm RSVP REQUIRED
23 Aug	Fish Fry 6:30 pm RSVP REQUIRED
23-29 Aug	The American Legion National Convention Houston, TX
5 Sep	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
6 Sep	Hamdogger 6:30 pm
14 Sep	Breakfast 9:00 am Legion Meeting 10:00 am SAL Mtg 11:30 am <u>AUXILIARY MEETING CANCELLED!</u>
14 Sep	All Activities Day (formerly All Patient's Day) VA Nursing Home, Pueblo, CO 12:00 pm
20 Sep	Steak Night 6:30 pm RSVP REQUIRED
27 Sep	Fish Fry 6:30 pm RSVP REQUIRED
3 Oct	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
4 Oct	Hamdogger 6:30 pm
12 Oct	Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary Meetings 10:00 am SAL Mtg 11:30 am
18 Oct	Early Bird Dinner! 6:30 pm (No Steak Night this month) RSVP REQUIRED and Restrictions Apply
25 Oct	Fish Fry 6:30 pm RSVP REQUIRED
26 Oct	Halloween Party! 6:00 pm RSVP REQUIRED



Post Officers 2012-2013

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Jay Bowen	719-574-1223
Sr. Vice Cdr	Greg Smith	520-784-3555
Jr. Vice Cdr	Lyle Hagelberg	719-594-4039
Adjutant	Larry Johnson	719-622-0344
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	682-478-9122
Chaplain	Chet Dean	719-244-2442
Sergeant-at-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Historian	Rob Johnson	719-421-9201
Post Executive Committeeman	Neal Thomas	719-392-1510
Service Officer	C. "Gunny" Raines	719-597-4766
Judge Advocate	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610



Auxiliary Officers

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Jackie Bowen	719-574-1223
Vice President	Linda O'Riley	719-597-5673
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Mary Grier	719-536-0438
Chaplain	Marion Daugherty	719-637-9555
Sergeant-At-Arms	Lois Wooton	719-599-8683
Historian	Kari Ann Smith	520-784-7193



Sons of The American Legion 2012-2013

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
1st Vice Commander		
Adjutant	Ken Taylor	719-495-8190
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-478-9122
Sgt-At-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Chaplain	Chet Dean	719-244-2442
Historian	Chuck Ford	719-597-1019

THE AMERICAN LEGION
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NON-PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
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 COLORADO SPGS, CO
 PERMIT NO. 192

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

~ July 2013 ~						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Woodland Park at Post 209 Wolfpack (Vista Ridge HS) Double-Header 3-5pm 	2	3 Post 209 Wolfpack at Sand Creek HS Double-Header 3-5pm 	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY! 	5 Hamdogger Nite! 6:30pm 	6
7	8	9 Post 209 Wolfpack at Falcon HS Double-Header 3-5pm 	10	11 Post 209 Wolfpack at Liberty HS Double-Header 3-5pm 	12	13 Annual Picnic 12:00 noon Potluck 
14	15	16	17	18 	19 Steak Night! 6:30pm RSVP! 	20 
21 	22 	23	24	25	26 Fish Fry! 6:30pm RSVP! 	27
28	29	30	31	Notes:		

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com, or Lynn Thomas at 439-6268