

The Centennial



VOLUME 27 EDITION 9 September 2013
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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Jay Bowen

When I was a kid (seems like only yesterday and some would say it was), we owned 3 horses. We kept them at my maternal grandparents home on a farm in rural Arkansas (I know, rural and Arkansas is redundant). My paternal grandparents lived on another farm about 7 miles away and we would periodically ride from one farm house to the other, more to ride and exercise our horses than to see our grandparents. The one thing consistent with the three ponies (a Shetland, a Pinto, and a Shetland/Welsh mix) was that on the ride back to their barn, they would know they are headed home and would break into a dead run about ¼ mile from the farm. No amount of whipping, kicking, or screaming mattered; they were going home and couldn't wait to get there.

I have discovered that as I get older, I'm much the same way. I LOVE to travel, but it seems I no sooner get to wherever I'm going that I start itching to get back home. And the closer I get to the barn, the more heavily my right foot presses on the gas pedal (fortunately, Jackie is good about reminding me of the speed limit). I am constantly perplexed by that. Normally when I plan a trip, whether for business or pleasure, I get pretty excited about the journey. And most of the time, when I arrive at my destination I'm like a kid in a candy store. I want to see everything and take in the sights associated with this new land. But that feeling all too quickly fades. Very quickly, I start thinking about cutting the trip short so I can get back to my recliner.

I haven't discounted the fact that I live in one of most envied cities in America. Frequently, there are polls published that identify the best places in the country to live, and most of those will have Colorado Springs in the top 5. The categories and reasons will vary, but the end results are the same;



we live every day in an area that many people chose as a vacation destination. Whether it is golf, ski, mountains, hiking, clean air, low crime, good jobs, mild summers and winters, and on and on, it's like being on a continuous vacation here in Colorado.

A buddy of mine gave me some great advice about 35 years ago that I have tried to remember and live by even today. He needed a ride to work one morning so I picked him up. As we were going to our missile site, he noticed I was driving about 10 miles over the speed limit. He asked, "Why are you in such a hurry to get to work? Because we live relatively close to the site, the most amount of time we will save is about 3 minutes. What do you plan to do with that saved time? You can't even drink a cup of coffee in 3 minutes. And you are taking a big chance of getting a speeding ticket. For what? If you are going to speed, at least do it going home, not going to work." I wanted to argue, but I did the math, and he was right. If I drive 10 miles to work and the average speed limit is 40 mph between my house and the office, it should take me about 15 minutes. If I drive 50 mph, I may save 3 minutes but I take a chance of getting a \$100 speeding ticket. It may have been that conversation that turned me into the horse that breaks out when I head home. If I get a speeding ticket going home, I can at least tell Jackie it was because I was so anxious to see her. She wouldn't believe it, but I could give it a shot. And speaking of shots, I could have one in the 3 minutes I saved by getting home sooner.

Pace yourself. We will all get where we are going sooner or later. Take a little extra time and enjoy the journey. If you don't, what will you do with the time you saved?

For God and Country,
Jay



Auxiliary President Jackie Bowen

We have two new members, Theresa Wiederspahn and Judy Moore. Theresa has visited our Post home and given us information concerning her employer, Dignity Memorial. Judy Moore is Donna Ribisi's Mother.

We had a wonderful turnout for the Ice Cream Social at McCandless VA Nursing Home. Unit and Post 209 alone had 10 people volunteer. We sang & danced; oh yeah, and ate ice cream.

Just before Thanksgiving we will be conducting another Butter Braids fundraiser. The exact dates will be listed later probably in our October newsletter.

For those that couldn't attend the meeting, I want to let you know we have a new membership committee. Linda O'Riley is the chairwoman.

I have received several names for our adopted troops so we will continue to send packages for the length of their tour. When they come home in November, I will request names of other troops and Units that will be stationed in Afghanistan and we will continue to mail packages.

Thank you to all that supported our "Macy's Shop for A Cause" fundraiser. We sold 28 of the 50 tickets. As you may know, the only cost to us is the time of selling the tickets.

Remember the Auxiliary will NOT have a meeting in September. We will be at the Pueblo VA Senior Living Center for "All Activities Day." Hope to see you there.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly,

Jackie Bowen

From the Historian

I feel blessed to have become a part of this great organization and have enjoyed meeting the members that I have had the opportunity to talk with. Each individual brings a unique history and I would like to document some part of that history, witticism, or wisdom that members would like to bestow. I would like to do whatever is comfortable for each member, be it a questionnaire or an interview. I understand personal schedules and the need to avoid sensitive subjects. I only want what you would like to disclose about yourself, experiences, historical military articles, or any story that you feel accentuates those values of your era.

Robert Johnson
719-421-9201 rrhsjohnson1@comcast.net



Air Force Birthday Celebration

On Wednesday, 18 September our Air Force will celebrate it's 66th birthday. In honor of this, we will have a Birthday dinner, Friday, 20 September. Although the dinner is to celebrate our brethren in Blue, everyone is invited and encouraged to attend and celebrate with us. The festivities will begin at 6:30 pm at the Post and reservations are required so we can again ensure that we have food for everyone to enjoy. I hope that everyone will come on down and enjoy the celebration.

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

Prospector's Sertoma Club

The Prospector's Sertoma Club sponsors 8 Gun Shows each year. At every Gun Show, they provide a table free to our Post for the purpose of recruiting new members and providing information about The American Legion. The dates of the next three Gun Shows are September 14 & 15, October 26 & 27 and Nov 29 - 1 December. I could use some help at these Gun Shows recruiting new members and providing information to Veterans about what The American Legion does for soldiers, children and youth, and our community. If you have some time and would like to help, please give me a call at the Post, 719-599-8624 and let me know when you would be able to help.

Larry Johnson
Adjutant

All Activities Day

Every year the Post 209 Family participates in the "All Activities Day" at the Pueblo VA Hospital. This is a day to visit with hospitalized veterans and enjoy a day of Carnival fun with the patients. We do a "Penny Pitch" and provide gifts like, t-shirts, shorts and socks. Our American Legion Auxiliary will not be hosting their meeting on Saturday, 14 September as they will be at the Pueblo VA Hospital setting up and getting ready for the fun day. The patients will eat at 11:00 pm the volunteers eat at 11:45 pm. After the meal, the festivities will begin. If you would like to be part of this activity please call the Post at 719-599-8624 or Jackie Bowen. Her telephone number is at the bottom of the page.

Flu Vaccine Clinic

The clinic will be 16 Oct from 0800-1500 at the Spruce St clinic (the one by I-25). It is a walk in clinic. Also the "Colorado Springs Acupuncture for Veterans Project" offers free acupuncture for Vets, AD and family members. It is every Wed evening from 6pm-8pm at the VFW 101, 702 S Tejon St.



****A message from Carol S. Kennedy, Commander, Department of Colorado****

Legionnaires,

Now is the time to get your renewals done for our membership year 2014. Call everyone in your Post and get them going. Call everyone that didn't renew last year, or better yet, have the Post pay for everyone's membership and then you can collect their dues as the year goes by. Be the **FIRST** Post to obtain 100%.

Colorado has a new program "**Make my day. .the Legion way.**" We need 357 more members this year. So we have purchased a new Strum Ruger 357- 5 inch barrel- stainless steel, custom grips, etc. retail value \$800. You can't buy a chance to win this beautiful one of a kind gun, BUT for every new member you recruit, your name and their name will be put into the drawing. Entries will close on 1 May. You can enter as many times as the number of new members you recruit.

Thanks for all you do.

Carol S. Kennedy
Commander, The American Legion, Department of Colorado



From the Adjutant Larry Johnson

The 2nd renewal notice will be mailed out the 1st of September. A majority of you should not have to worry about getting that 2nd renewal notice. As a reminder, if you have received your 2014 membership card you do not need to send in more money. I have 5 Legionnaires who I will be sending their money back because they have paid twice for 2014 (unless you wish to use that to make a tax deductible donation to the Post).

How important is your email address? I can tell you that to the Post your email address is very important. As you know, the Post Office has changed its procedures. All mail is now shipped to Denver and shipped back to Colorado Springs for Delivery. Right now there is talk that the Post Office wants to increase the cost of stamps by \$.01. This means that the cost of 1st class mail will increase and there is a good chance that bulk mail rates will change as the price goes up.

Currently, when we mail the newsletters there are two sets of rates. 1 set is for the mail that goes out of State and out of the local area. We send out about 65 newsletters at the rate of \$0.178 (which is \$11.57). The other is for delivery in the Colorado Springs area. We are currently sending out about 510 pieces of mail at \$0.119 (which is \$67.83) for a total of \$79.40.

If the Post Office decides that we have to pay the out of area rate it will cost us \$102.35 to mail out a total 575 newsletters. If that is the case it will cost an additional \$23.00 a month more to mail out the newsletter. I would like to ask all Legionnaires, Auxiliary Members and members of The Son's of The American Legion that have emails that you provide them to the Post. It will help us save money and when things change as they sometimes do, we can update you immediately. The best way to ensure I have your email is to send a message to centennialtwozeronine@yahoo.com.

When I attended the Department membership committee meeting on 7 August, we were told of a new promotion to increase membership. Details are on page 3 of this edition in the article from our Department Commander, Carol Kennedy.

Early Bird Dinner

The Early Bird Dinner will be held on Friday, 18 October at 6:30 P.M. This a free dinner for all American Legion members, The American Legion Auxiliary members and Son's of the American Legion members who have either joined, transferred or renewed their membership before 15 October 2013. If you bring someone who is not a member of the American Legion Family there will be a slight charge of \$10.00 for the meal.

All that is required is for you to have your 2014 membership card and have made a reservation for the dinner. The RSVP is to ensure that we have enough food to feed everyone. Renew now and make your reservations.

From the Junior Vice Commander

Legionnaires, are any of you available to give 3 hours per week/month sitting at the Post from 1300 to 1600 answering telephones or greeting walk-ins? We would like to advertise that the Post is open certain days of the week. If you can give this time to the Legion please contact me at (719) 231-2364 so I can set up a schedule.

*Lyle Hagelberg
Junior 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 class starting September 12th is full. The Junior Shooting Committee will not be accepting any more registrations for this class. There will be a class starting in January of 2014 and registrations can be sent in for this class. A firm date for the January 2014 class has not been set. For more information, please contact any member of the Junior Shooting Committee. **Registration forms are available at the Post.**

Junior Shooting Committee:

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

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

Origin of NAVY Terminology



First, I would like to congratulate all the newly selected Chief Petty Officers!

Chief Petty Officers "Fouled Anchor" Insignia-

The Anchor has been symbolic of many ideals through-out man's history. To the Romans it stood for wealth and commerce, for the Greeks it meant hope, salvation and steadfastness. A Fouled Anchor may be found among the sculptures in the world renowned temple of Neptune in Rome. The British NAVY use the "Fouled Anchor" insignia to signify "poor seamanship" as it was worn only to be enlisted personnel who had not been able to demonstrate the skill necessary to be advanced in rank. The United States NAVY employs the "Fouled Anchor" with all it's symbolic significances as the insignia worn by Chief Petty Officers holding the honored rank and title of "Leading Seaman" on ALL NAVAL VESSELS!

Rusty Bower
NAVY Senior Chief Retired

The 21st annual Salute to American Veterans Rally

17 August marked the 26th annual POW/MIA Recognition Ride and the 21st annual Salute to American Veterans Rally. Thousands of veterans gathered in Woodland Park to ride into Cripple Creek in support of Active Duty Military, Veterans, and POW/MIA. The parades and showing of support were truly awe-inspiring.

This year's ride commemorated the official dedication of the POW/MIA Memorial Highway (Colorado HWY 67 from Divide to Cripple Creek). In addition to the ride, there was an official commemoration, a fly over, and the traveling Memorial Wall which was staged at the Cripple Creek High School Football field. This impressive wall of fallen heroes stretched from end-zone to end-zone. It is estimated that there were 30,000 civilian and military personnel that participated in this event to honor those that serve (Waltman, L.P., *When Veterans Day Just Isn't Enough*). For a town the size of Cripple Creek, it was something to see and be a part of.



Prior to commemoration of the POW/MIA Memorial Highway, this patriotic mountain town showed their pride and support for our military heroes with a POW/MIA Memorial Park and the Pikes Peak Region's Memorial Wall, located in the beautiful and historic Mount Pisgah Cemetery. This Memorial wall listed members of the Armed Forces from the local area that have been killed since September 11, 2001, honoring the memory of their service and sacrifice.

To find out more about this annual event check out <http://www.theveteransrally.org>.

Robert Johnson
Historian



From the Scout Coordinator John Brown

*****Warning – Warning – It is popcorn time.*****

Both packs will be bringing popcorn to the American Legion breakfast the next two months to help you get your popcorn fix. Pack 24 will be with us at the September breakfast and Pack 386 will be with us in November.

Both packs are back from summer camping and summertime events and are ready to earn even more badges helping their packs grow. Committee members are back meeting trying to figure out how to pay for the packs' wants and needs and popcorn is a big factor in both budgets so please help them out.

Both packs have great adult leadership and many new boys to learn the scouting ways. At the end of June this year the scouts advanced one rank. Tigers became Wolves, Wolves became Bears, Bears became Weblows one and Weblows ones became Weblows twos. So each year at this time they all start fresh and take a new path to Boy Scouting. New young scouts just coming in start at Tigers based on their age.

If you are interested in knowing more about scouts or want to help, give me a call at 331-8160.

John Brown
Scout Coordinator



Centennial 209 Family Calendar of Events



Post Officers 2013-2014

| 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 2013-2014

| 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 2013-2014

| 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 |

| | |
|------------|--|
| 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 <u>ALL 3 MEETINGS POSTPONED UNTIL 2 NOVEMBER</u> |
| 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 | District 7 Fall Conference Post 38, Security 1100-1500 hours |
| 1 Nov | Hamdogger 6:30 pm |
| 2 Nov | Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary Meetings 10:00 am SAL Mtg 11:30 am |
| 7 Nov | Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm |
| 9 Nov | Veterans Day Parade - Downtown Colorado Springs |
| 15 Nov | Steak Night! 6:30 pm RSVP REQUIRED |
| 22 Nov | Fish Fry 6:30 pm RSVP REQUIRED |
| 28 Nov | Happy Thanksgiving! |
| 5 Dec | Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm |
| 6 Dec | Hamdogger 6:30 pm |
| 14 Dec | Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary Meetings 10:00 am SAL Mtg 11:30 am NO MEETINGS THIS MONTH! |
| TBA | Post Christmas Party! Date/Time To Be Announced |
| 1 Jan 2014 | Happy New Year! |
| 2 Jan 2014 | Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm |

THE AMERICAN LEGION
 CENTENNIAL POST 209
 P.O. BOX 25334
 COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80936-5334

NON-PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 COLORADO SPGS, CO
 PERMIT NO. 192

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

| ~ September 2013 ~ | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------|---|--|---|--|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 1 | 2 LABOR DAY! | 3 | 4 | 5 Executive Cmttee Mtg 6:30pm  | 6 Hamdogger Nite! 6:30pm  | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Legion, SAL Meeting Auxiliary Mtg CXL'd 9:00am - 12:00 noon All Patients Day  Pueblo VA Nur. Home |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 USAF Birthday! 66 yrs.  | 19 | 20 USAF Birthday Dinner 6:30pm RSVP!  | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Fish Fry! 6:30pm RSVP!  | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | Notes: | | | | |