

For God and Country

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

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American Legion Post 5
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Commander's Comments...

By Clare Sullivan

Summer is in great form and we're still experiencing really fabulous weather; it has been amazing, it is almost too warm at times! We have been so fortunate to have such consistently good weather; it has done wonders for the flowers outside the post and throughout town, never mind our sense of well-being! A big thank you to Brent Johnson for keeping these flowers going strong! ☺

The 4th of July was another success for the town and for the post. The runners on the mountain and all the town's visitors had a great day and of course, so did our American Legion Family! We sold lots of ribs and they were so tasty, and a big thanks to all our volunteers who made this happen. You folks were amazing and once again it was completed with all the combined efforts of the Sons, Auxiliary and the Post! We had just enough help and lots of folks had some good chow right out front of our post home. We also had a great showing in the 4th of July Parade with our Riders and all our Mustang crew who helped us carry the colors. Thanks for continuing the great service, good food and good fun - the Post #5 "Rep" continues!



We couldn't do what we do without the exceptional and dedicated volunteers who reliably "rise to the occasion" to help us do what we do for our veterans and our community throughout the year. Everything you have done - from weekly cooking and supporting special events, prepping and cooking literally hundreds of pounds of ribs on the 4th, dishing out the fabulous chow to all our guests at the post or participating in the parade, to participating in funerals and memorials of our departed members - you have made the this post and our American Legion Family a success and something to be hugely proud of! Thank for all you do and continue to do!

This month has the **Silver Salmon Derby** going on and it will be very busy with visitors and fishermen who are hunting for the trophy and tagged fish. All this is good for our little town and everyone who has a business. The long winter months with slower business and higher operating costs puts a burden on them as well as all of us who call Seward our home.



With that in mind, if you can buy locally - we're fortunate to have the services, 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!



July was not just busy with the 4th here in town, we were busy on the 6th supporting the athletes of Expedition Alaska by providing a really tasty awards dinner for them! They

had about 150 participants and family members who came from all over the globe to do some real extreme competition in our outdoors. They are a tough crew but managed to experience the best Alaska had to offer to challenge them in their efforts to compete!

We also had the privilege to host the crew of the USCGC Healy for about a week. The crew comes in nearly every year and spends some time with us. It is



wonderful to see some of the same folks from time to time and meet new crew members. It was wonderful seeing them, hosting a welcome dinner and getting to know them. We also held a retirement dinner for the crew's outgoing captain and we were able to wish him the best for his new adventure as a civilian!

I'd also like to thank all who have consistently supported our post and our American Legion Family by coming to the club, and those who take the time to help out during or official functions and come to monthly meetings. Simply said, we wouldn't be here without your support at whatever level you choose to participate. As you know, the American Legion is a multifaceted organization with the mission of "mutual helpfulness," and that is what we strive to do. On a daily basis you can see the functioning of the club including our meals, the bar and nightly activities, all of which are designed to support and entertain our

membership. In the larger picture of our organization, we use these daily activities to give us the ability to accomplish the mission of helping veterans and our community neighbors. Essentially, all you do from buying an "adult beverage" to participating in a fundraising auction or carrying a flag in one of our celebrations all help in what we are here for, and have been doing since the chartering of Post 5 in December 1919.



Some say I really don't do much, I only come during this event or that - believe me, any event even with a small contribution of support goes a long way.

You know the saying - "Many hands make light work"; and for any participation I am extremely grateful. Your efforts assist us in service to our veterans and the community in our endeavor to adhere to our mission of "mutual helpfulness."

House and Vice Report...

By Mike Calhoon

Hello from the Second Vice/Club!

We made it through July in fine form due to the great volunteer support for the 4th of July weekend to include feeding 145 folks from the Expedition Alaska race, our monthly breakfast, and a visit for the last week of the month from the USCG Icebreaker Healy. It was a great month and you all made it happen.



I cannot say enough about the great volunteers in the Post 5 Family. Without all of you we could never accomplish all we do for the veterans, active duty personnel, their families and the community of Seward. You are the lifeblood of the organization and you are all truly and sincerely appreciated.

August is lining up to be another activity-filled month. The **Salmon Derby** kicks off on the 8th, our **Community Breakfast** will be on the 16th, we will be hosting a get together for the Associated General Contractors of Alaska on the 20th, and who knows what else will pop up as things always do. If you are interested in assisting with any of these functions just let us know and we will definitely put you to work.

Remember that the new membership year has begun so look in the mail for your renewal notices or you can go to myLegion.org and renew online.

We will be looking at some Post maintenance and repair projects in the next few weeks and will keep you all informed as to that schedule. There will be lots to do before winter hits.

Thanks to all of you who continue to support your Post and Club. I look forward to seeing you all and please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns.

For God and Country!

Salutations from the Sons

By Mike Calhoon

Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander. Squadron 5 members again came through in a big way in helping the Post with all of the July activities. You all continue to be a shining example of how support for your Post should be given.



I don't normally do this but I would like to give a special thanks to **David "Ozzie" Osborn**. He has been doing a great job of maintaining the legion cemetery. During the Visit from the USCG Icebreaker Healy Ozzie and **John Christensen** were able to work out a volunteer project at the cemetery for some of the crew from the Healy to work on. **Dave Dieckgraeff** supplied the sand and dirt, plus some dirt work, and John and Ozzie directed the activity to complete some much needed maintenance.

You should go take a look at what work was done and how it will improve the look and ability to maintain the cemetery. Great job everyone!

The Post has more activities planned for August and most likely some unplanned things will pop up. Take a look at the calendar and see where you may be able to help.

The new membership year has begun and we have received the 2016 membership cards so think about renewing your membership before the Early Bird Dinner which should be held sometime in early September.

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.

From the President's Desk...

By Nancy Perea

It's hard to believe that it is August already! Where has the time gone? The flowers are in full bloom, the Salmon are in and the smell of the fishing fills the town. School will be starting soon, kids will be going off to college and the tourism will dwindle. Our town will be ours again, but we will surely miss our visitors.

In July our Ladies kept very busy with the 4th of July activities. Sharon Dillon was our Committee Chair for the 4th of July booth. Her team sold ice cream floats and water to thirsty patron and sales went well.

Next year we will make sure we have the booth advertised with the Chamber in the events calendar.



The Department President, Sharon Cherrette, will be coming to Seward October 24th for visitation. This will be a great time to meet her and learn valuable information for our Unit. Mark your calendars as we know there is always an exquisite meal served when we have guests!

The Coast Guard cutter Healy was in port. They lent a hand with the Cemetery refurbishment and it was a relief to have some extra strong helpers around. They are always helpful when they come to Seward and we love to host them. We had cake and a small celebration for them. They appreciate our hospitality, and I hear we are one of their favorite ports. Thanks guys and gals! We salute you!

I notice that we have many members, but such a low turnout at our meetings. Do you have suggestions or ideas of ways to get members to the meetings? Such a small group of women make such a big difference in our community, imagine if we had twice as many to help out! Think of how

many fresh ideas we could come up with. I would love to hear your suggestions and comments. Our meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month, starting promptly at 7pm. If you don't have time to cook dinner beforehand, there is always a tasty feast upstairs for \$8 or so. If you would like to email me your suggestions or comments, our email address is auxiliaryunit5@yahoo.com.

Last on my mind is Bingo. We need to increase our patronage at Bingo on Monday nights. Think about how fun it would be to grab a group of friends and come play. It could be a fun start for a bridal shower, birthday party, anniversary.... Monday night football starts soon so maybe while hubby watches the game upstairs on the big screen, you can come down and have some fun too. Bingo is every Monday night beginning at 6:30pm, doors open at 6:00pm.

Thank you to all those who give their time to the Auxiliary. Our Veterans and community members appreciate you!

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U. S. Coast Guard History

Extract from www.coastguard.com

The U. S. Coast Guard is simultaneously and at all times an armed force and federal law enforcement agency dedicated to safety, security, and stewardship missions. We save lives. We protect the environment. We defend the homeland. We enforce Federal laws on the high seas, the nation's coastal waters and its inland waterways. We are unique in the Nation and the world.



The Coast Guard official history began on **4 August 1790** when the first Congress authorized the construction of ten vessels to enforce federal tariff and trade laws and to prevent smuggling. Known variously through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as the Revenue Marine and the Revenue Cutter Service, we expanded in size and responsibilities as the nation grew.

The service received its present name in 1915 under an act of Congress that merged the Revenue Cutter Service with the Life-Saving Service, thereby providing the nation with a single maritime service dedicated to saving life at sea and enforcing the nation's maritime laws. The Coast Guard began to maintain the country's aids to maritime navigation, including operating the nation's lighthouses, when President Franklin Roosevelt ordered the transfer of the Lighthouse Service to the Coast Guard in 1939. In 1946 Congress permanently transferred the Commerce Department's Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation to the Coast Guard, thereby placing merchant marine licensing and merchant vessel safety under our purview.



The Coast Guard is one of the oldest organizations of the federal government and until Congress established the Navy Department in 1798 we served as the nation's only armed force afloat. The Coast Guard protected the nation throughout our long history and served proudly in every one of the nation's conflicts. The National Defense responsibilities remain one of the Coast Guard's most important functions even today. In times of peace they operate as part of the Department of Homeland Security, serving as the nation's front-line agency for enforcing the nation's laws at sea, protecting the marine environment and the nation's vast coastline and

ports, and saving life. In times of war, or at the direction of the President, the Coast Guard serve under the Navy Department.



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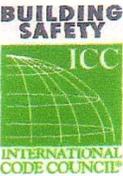
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
August 2015 					Salmon Derby August 8-16	
2 Texas Hold'em Poker 6:00pm	3 Bingo at 6:30pm Omaha Hold'em Poker 7:00pm	4 Mexican Martes	5	6 ALR Meeting 7:00pm 	7 Steak Night & Karaoke! 	8
9 Texas Hold'em Poker 6:00pm	10 Bingo 6:30pm Omaha Hold'em Poker 7:00pm	11 Mexican Martes	12 Auxiliary Meeting 7:00pm 	13 SAL Meeting 7:00pm 	14 Steak Night & Karaoke! 	15
16 Community Breakfast 9:00am Texas Hold'em Poker 6:00pm	17 Bingo 6:30pm Omaha Hold'em 7:00pm	18 Mexican Martes Post Meeting 7:00pm 	19	20 Associated General Contractors of Alaska 4-6:00pm	21 Steak Night & Karaoke! 	22
23 Texas Hold'em 6:00pm	24 Bingo at 6:30pm Omaha Hold'em 7:00pm	25 Mexican Martes	26 	27	28 Steak Night & Karaoke! 	29
30 Texas Hold'em 6:00pm	31 Bingo 6:30pm Omaha Hold'em 7:00pm			Alaska State Fair Aug 27 to Sept 7		

Food Every Night!!!