

For God and Country

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

May 2015
Volume 12,
Issue 5



American Legion Post 5
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Commander's Comments...

By Clare Sullivan

Spring has sprung! And, there was not even a hint of "Break Up" this year. It will be easy to do a solid outdoor post clean-up this year with the ground not being frozen. I hope the good weather continues. It will make our Memorial Day Ceremonies at the cemetery more attractive with greener grounds. Last year the grass really hadn't started to get that fresh spring look as it was still coming out of the winter dole-drums just before our Memorial Day ceremony.

As many of you may have noticed the post was really busy over the last weekend. We hosted the **Department of Alaska 96th Convention**. It was a hugely busy weekend and we welcomed Legionnaire, Auxiliary and Son's delegates from 22-25 April. We had close to 200 delegates and guests that enjoyed Post 5 hospitality, entertainment and some really great food! It was a very informative and productive convention.

and cake making, and computer support you guys made it happen. All I can say is you totally rock!



I would be remiss if I didn't give a huge shout out to our volunteers. We could not have pulled this off without you. You all were amazing and the time and material that was donated was incredible - to donated vehicles and drivers, taking the VIPs out on the bay, touring the Sea Life Center, decorations, food runners, rippie selling, cooking



Alaska SeaLife Center
w i n d o w s t o t h e s e a

As we continue to head toward the better weather, I reflect on our previous winter months and I want to thank all who came out to support our activities at the post this winter. It was a tough winter but we managed to keep things going

and that was solely attributed to our consistent membership who came up to the club often for a yummy meal and some good camaraderie. You helped out a lot and it was so very nice to pass the cold winter days and nights with such good company! Thank you for your incredible support. As you know we can only help others if we survive as an organization and even a short visit by members from time to time helps keep us going and viable so we can do what we can continue to support of our veterans and our community.

Besides the huge effort with the convention we were busy in April with our celebration of Easter and the Third Sunday of the Month Breakfast and our "breakfast crew" cooked up some really tasty Eggs Benedict and French toast. If anyone went away hungry it was their own fault! ☺

Now we're into May and it will be a busy month! We'll be prepping and serving **Mother's Day** Breakfast on 10 May to honor our Moms. We will also be celebrating **Armed Forces Day** on 16 May down in the Harbor with the Chamber of Commerce. We'll cook up hot dogs, beans, potato salad, etc., so come on down for a free lunch and enjoy a little camaraderie. Toward the end of the month we will be busy with the **Armed Services YMCA Combat Fishing Tournament** on 20 May at the railroad terminal.



We will be partnering with the Armed Services YMCA, the Fishing Charter Boat Association in Seward, and other local businesses to give a hero's welcome and good time fishing for those military members from JBER who have participated in recent conflicts throughout the world, particularly in Iraq and more recently in Afghanistan. These

young heroes will enjoy a fun day of fishing and some good eats at the cruise ship terminal after they have taken in their haul of fish and spent a great day on Resurrection Bay!



Following all the earlier activities, we'll be rolling into the end of the month and we will be remembering those servicemen and women who have passed before us on the 25th of May, **Memorial Day**, at our traditional locations at the American Legion Cemetery and at the Waterfront Monument at the end of town. We'll have the ceremonies beginning at 1100 hrs at the American Legion Cemetery followed by a smaller one at the waterfront monument. Once the ceremonies are over we will be having lunch at the post for all in attendance. It will be another day that we can honor our comrades who have answered the final call and still share a good meal with those who remain.



House and Vice Report...

By Mike Calhoon

Hello from the Second Vice/Club,

We survived another convention. The 96th Department of Alaska Convention was hosted by Post 5 April 22-26. It was a great success and it was all due to the large number of volunteers who, not only helped plan the event over the last five months, but executed the plan. There are so many people who helped that I will not try to name each and every one of you. Without all of you we never would have been able to make it happen. I am truly grateful to all of you and the sacrifices you all made to assist the Post 5 family during this event.

So many positive comments were made by people attending this convention. They raved about the food, decorating, and transportation. The very best compliment was about the number of volunteers who were working during the convention. Other posts were amazed that we could pull together so many people willing to work. They now understand what it means to have a unified legion family with people dedicated to the true mission of the American Legion.



Thank you all for everything you continually do to support the Post 5 family!!!

Now that convention has passed, we move into our busiest month of the year. We have **Mother's Day breakfast on the 10th, Armed Forces Day hotdog feed on the 16th, Community breakfast on the 17th, Combat Fishing Captain's dinner on the 19th, Combat fishing on the 20th, and Memorial Day on the 25th.** Mixed in will be the cemetery clean-up and the Post clean-up. Many opportunities exist for you to come and help out and be involved with your very active Post.

For those who have been involved in our Pool League, the end of season dinner is scheduled for May 9th.

Poker is still going strong on Sunday and Monday and Bingo is in full swing on Monday nights as well.

Congratulations to all for a successful convention and thank you all for the hard work you all put in.

For God and Country

Salutations from the Sons...

By Mike Calhoon

Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Summer seems to have arrived or at least is creeping in on us.

I want to thank all the Sons members who volunteered their time and effort during the convention this past month. Not only did the SAL spearhead the transportation, which went very well, but numerous members were present at all hours during the convention to assist wherever they were needed. Their efforts contributed greatly to the success of the convention. Thank you all very much.



This month the post will be very busy with **Mother's Day Breakfast, Community Breakfast, Armed Forces Day hotdog feed, Combat Fishing, and Memorial Day.** If you have time to give please contact me at the post and we will get you plugged in to these events.

Squadron 5 has met its membership goal for 2015 but we should continue to recruit new members and remind old members to renew if they have not done so. Membership is an ongoing effort and it is the membership that really makes things happen.

I thank all of the SAL Squadron 5 members for your support and I look forward to seeing you at the Post.

Mike Calhoon
SAL First Vice Commander

From the Director...

By Bobby Dunno

Finally, the roads are clearing and it is actually OK for most reasonable people to get their bikes out and see some road pass beneath our foot pegs. So riding season is upon us and it's time if you have not done so already let's get them ready to ride. I still have more than a few projects I need to get done to accomplish that goal myself. That does not include a few other ALR members I promised to assist with their bikes as well. So Bobby needs to get busy. A few of us have already taken a spin or two around town this past week, after all sunny and near 50 degrees is just too hard to pass up!

On that note we need to think about not just freshening up that coat of wax, (yea I know that's important too!) but every rider needs to check out the bike and make sure it is truly ready to carry or butts safety out for miles and miles of enjoyable riding. During storage tires lose air pressure, clutch plates and brakes bind up, cables and linkages start sticking, and that's just scratching the surface. If you are wondering what it is you should check, we have a check list available on our website alaskalegionriders.org, make use of it so we don't forget anything in our excitement at getting out and on the road.



We have finished with the 96th annual Alaska Department Convention and the ALR Alaska meeting went well. The By-Laws were updated and approved and officer elections went as well as can be expected. Bobby Dunno is not the State Director anymore the New Director for the ALRA is Mark Berg from Jack Henry Post 1 and Bobby is

now the Assistant Director. Secretary/Treasurer is Diane Estrada from 35 while her husband Lorren remains as the Sargent Arms. Bob Myles is also returning as Chaplain and Lisa Williams of Chapter 30 will continue as our most excellent Webmaster. Another new officer to the ALRA is our own Clare Sullivan who will fill the role of Historian. On another note, I enjoyed the unique opportunity to give the National Commander Mike Helm a ride in my son's sidecar. He asked which would be better a sidecar or riding 2 up on a bike and we agreed that a demonstration was warranted. I took him out for a little less than an hour allowing him a different perspective on touring the Seward area and he had a great time. I think it is safe to say that when it comes time for him to participate in the Legacy Run he is going looking for a sidecar to ride in.

Another note from Convention the helmets that we had painted for each branch of section did well at auction. They all went for \$200.00 to \$300.00, with the U.S. Coast Guard helmet going highest at the 300 dollar mark. All total we raised over \$1200.00 for the Legacy Run Scholarship Fund not bad for what was about a \$350.00 investment. Thank You Clare for arranging the outstanding paintwork that adorned the helmets they were truly beautiful pieces of art.



Our next meeting is scheduled for the evening of the 7th of May and we have lot to discuss. For starters, scheduling for when we will be holding our first desert auction as a means of fundraising for The Legacy Run Scholarship Fund. Setting a date for our Kick off the Season Dinner and finalizing plans for the Blessing of the Bikes on 16 May.

So if ya'll have the same itch to ride I suggest you scratch it, get them bikes checked out, fuel them up and then **Get On Your Bike And Ride!**

President's Notes...

By Nancy Perea

The Auxiliary Unit 5 is pleased to announce that our very own, Connie Kullander won Woman of the Year for the ladies Auxiliary. Connie's contributions to both Post 5 and Unit 5 are invaluable to our organization. Although she is not currently holding an office, she assists in our meetings, gives countless numbers of volunteer hours



and is one of the backbones of our organization. There were many tears of joy shed as Connie accepted this award. Thank

you Connie for the time and devotion that you give to our Veterans and community.



The convention went great. National Auxiliary President Janet Jeffords was very friendly and lent valuable information to our meetings. She enjoyed herself, as did the 60 some auxiliary members who attended. Many new friends were made and great ideas shared. Thank you to all those who dedicated their time and creativity to make this a success. I heard many accolades to our group of volunteers.

May is going to be busy with Combat Fishing, Mother's Day Brunch and Memorial Day. This is a great time to get extra volunteer hours and help pay respect to our Veterans.

Yours in God and Country,

Nancy Perea

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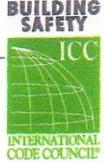
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Post 5 May 2015 Calendar					1 Steak Night	2 Pool League 6:30pm
3 Texas Hold'em Poker 6:00pm	4 Bingo at 6:30pm Omaha Hold'em Poker 7:00pm	5 Mexican Martes	6	7 ALR Meeting 7:00pm	8 Steak Night	9 Pool League 6:30pm
10 Mother's Day Breakfast 9:00am Texas Hold'em Poker 6:30pm	11 Bingo 6:30pm Omaha Hold'em Poker 7:00pm	12 Mexican Martes Post meeting 7:00pm	13 Auxiliary meeting 7:00pm	14 SAL meeting 7:00pm	15 Steak Night	16 Armed Forces Day Hotdog feed at the Harbor 11:00am
17 Community Breakfast 9am Texas Hold'em Poker 6:00pm	18 Bingo 6:30pm Omaha Hold'em 7:00pm	19 Mexican Martes Captain's Dinner 6:00pm	20 Combat Fishing Tournament	21	22 Steak Night	23
24 Texas Hold'em 6:00pm	25 Memorial Day 11 am Bingo at 6:30pm Omaha Hold'em 7:00pm	26 Mexican Martes	27	28	29 Steak Night	30
Food every night at the Post						
31						

Stop on by and visit with friends