

Veterans Strengthening America

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

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American Legion Seward Post 5
E-mail: americanlegionpost5@gci.net
sewardpost5@gmail.com
website:www.americanlegionpost5.com

 $\textbf{Facebook:} \underline{ www.facebook.com/american legion postfive.seward a laska}$

Phone: (907) 224-5440



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS By Clare Sullivan



Well, this summer has been super busy... even more than normal! Although we've had quite a bit of rain and some good pockets of sun, we still managed to keep things going and going well. We have certainly gotten a great appreciation of the sunny days after all the rain!!!

July was so busy, and I am amazed how all our outstanding volunteers make things happen in our Post, even with their own busy lives! We're still providing support and good nightly food for our membership and those in need; we couldn't do it without our reliable and amazingly dedicated volunteers. Whether they were serving dinner upstairs, helping out in the social area or cooking breakfasts, maintaining our cemetery or the grass and garden around our post, our volunteers are amazing!

The 4th was a bit soggy, but we still put out amazing BBQ ribs.
The social area had a steady stream of people throughout the day due to the inclement weather



and it was fun to see all those folks having a good meal as they sheltered from the rain.

For a second year we had another "return" to the old 4th of July activities where there were many kids' things to do, and the Post sponsored the Sawdust Pile Coin Search where the kids dove in to



hunt down 50 cent pieces. It was so fun and huge kudos to Cody Gilmore and the Seward HS Football Team for running the "Pile!" And a wet mess it was!!! That was some hard-core kids diving into that!!!



We also had the annual arrival of the USCGC Healy on their way for some more research operations. As always, the Healy never fails to impress with their camaraderie and

service! We wish them the best as they continue their research for several months. Kudos too to all those that helped in preparing the dinner and the "entertainment" for the crew!!! A good time was had by all!









During the Healy's visit, Seward Post 5 was presented with a special certificate to memorialize our special relationship with the crew that we have had for many years. The Healy's "skipper" Captain Michelle Schallip awarded Post 5 a United States Flag that was flown at the actual Geographic North Pole! We have the flag and the certificate that documents the event! Now to get the Anchorage and get the flag mounted and framed. It certainly will be placed in a place of honor and prominence at Seward Post 5!



This month has the Silver Salmon Derby going on and it will be busy with all those wanting to catch the big monied fish. It is good for our town and everyone who has a business. Good luck to all the derby participants, there are some good prizes to be won and not just good fish!!



So....The long wait is over and we finally have our columbaria installed in the cemetery. Just as an information refresher we started this project in 2019 when we were looking at what was best for our members and local veteran needs at the Legion Cemetery. We found that once a veteran was called to "Post Everlasting" and needed be interred, most families look toward cremation rather than the full burial plots. And these days, people prefer to have a small location for a remembrance. Well, these columbaria are beautifully made of granite and marble. They also have good looking niches for the placement of ashes and an area for a plaque that will be placed outside to identify the dearly departed.

A big "Thank You" goes to both Verdie Bowen and Forrest Powell from the Office of Veterans Affairs, Department of



Military and Veterans Affairs for all their assistance in helping us secure the grant to purchase the columbaria and them installed. I'd also like could thank the City of Seward, the Electric

Department folks allowed us to store the columbaria in their warehouse over the winter and transport them to the cemetery. I'd also want to thank the City's

Community Development Department who was instrumental in arranging for be installed in the cemetery. And,

finally, huge thanks to Ascension Construction Services for



all their work building the cement base and making them sturdy to hold each 6,100 lbs. columbaria and expertly placing them on the bases. Thank you all for all your support and talent to help members of our community at such a somber time.

This will go a long way to comfort those who have lost family and friends.



We were privileged to have the USCGC Kukui here in Seward for an extended "visit" while their ship was undergoing some major overhauls at













the JAG Shipyard. This crew was amazing with their support of the post and all our activities. Whether it was dinner prep for our many events and Friday Night Steak Nights, meeting room flooring installation and painting or performing outstanding firing details for veterans who had passed to "Post Everlasting," the Kukui Crew was there. Their amazing support and incredibly positive attitude was inspiring and humbling for all of us at Post 5. We were sorry to see them go but we will have exceptionally fond memories of their stay and have made some good friendships we will always cherish, and their adopted Post will be there for them; all they need is to send up a flare.... Or maybe

All the best, we'll see you again!

a phone call, it may be less

As we're in the new membership year, get your renewals in and bring someone along to join the post, unit or squadron! As you can see, as I have been reporting in our newsletters, we have a lot going on in support of our veterans, their families and our community. And, we'll be planning our Early Bird Dinner sometime in September - so stay tuned! That is always an "exercise" in deliciousness!!!!

dramatic!!!



House and Vice Report.....



Hello from the Second Vice and Adjutant!

Finally, we have gotten a taste of summer in Seward. Hope you have all been enjoying the sunnier and warmer weather.

A great big Thank You goes out to all the great volunteers this last month. Ron Cain, David Osborn, and Clare Sullivan did a great job helping at the cemetery. Scott and Jackie Wilde have kept the grass and weeds at bay around the post. Then, of course, we have all the great volunteers who have helped with breakfast, steak night, and all the cooks and bartenders throughout the week. Remember, these folks are volunteers and do not get paid for what they do.

We said goodbye to the crew of the USCGC Kukui after their eight months stay in

Seward. We thank them for all they did to help the Post during their time here. We wish them well in their careers.

This month we will have our community breakfast on August 20th, and we have ongoing maintenance at the cemetery. If you would like to support these any of activities please contact us and we will gladly put you to work.

I would like to ask everyone to be considerate of others when you come to enjoy the food at the Post. We provide these meals as a benefit to our membership and would like to see as many members have had the opportunity to eat as possible. Please limit yourselves to one helping until it is apparent that most folks who want to, have eaten. Thank you for your consideration.

The 2023 membership year has ended but you can still renew for 2023 and keep continuous years. The 2024 membership year is here, and you can renew online at mylegion.org, stop by and see us, or mail your renewal in when you receive your notification. We want to thank all of you that renewed this year or joined as a new member. Your membership supports Post 5 and all the Legion goals and activities throughout the year.

Thanks to all of you who continue to support your Post and all the activities designed to support our membership, our veterans, and the community. We look forward to seeing you all and please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns.

Sounding Off from the Sons.... By Mike Calhoon



Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

July was very busy at Post 5. Thanks goes to all Squadron 5 members who helped and volunteered time last month. David Osborn has been helping maintain the cemetery and volunteering in the kitchen, Scott Wilde, along with Auxiliary member Jackie Wilde, mowed and weed whacked around the Post, and Al Dykstra came in and helped with our community breakfast and helped clean the grills for Friday night steak night. Way too many to name for help on the 4th of July so just know how much it was appreciated.



The Squadron is now working on a flagpole project at the Legion cemetery, and we hope to have that completed this summer.

This month the Post will hold the community breakfast on August 20th. There will also be continuing upkeep and maintenance at the cemetery. Let us know if you can help with any activities.

We have come to the end of the 2023 membership year, but you still have time to renew your 2023 membership. We did reach our membership goal for 2023



and will begin the 2024 membership year on July 1st. Dues are \$35.00 and your membership helps us support the mission and goals of the Sons of American Legion and the Post 5 family.

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 when possible.



Notes from the Road...

By Bobby Dunno, Chapter 5 ALR Director

How many people enjoyed riding in the SUNSHINE! I know I did, the only bad part about the improved and warmer weather is that everyone got busy, and no one had time to ride together. Perhaps if that bright orange orb continues to radiate and warm our roads (or at least what we are calling roads this days) we can manage to put together at least an Ice Cream run to Wildman's or to Hope for... because we want to ride to Hope. I seem to ride with a few folks but seemingly never with those I enjoy riding with the most.

July was fun the 4th of July parade was a good time for the one motorcycle that rode in our community's parade, but it was likely the wettest parade ride I ever took part in. But in true Seward fashion, the streets were lined with lots of people celebrating our Nation's birthday.



While the 4th was a good start to the month Salute to Vets ended the month with a bang. The Salute to Vets, put on by Southern Peninsula ABATE (aka Chapter 20), was a rousing success and is getting bigger every year. And, with the improved weather the 2023 Salute will stay with me for a while. The weather was awesome, the event was jammed packed with activities and fun. Personally, I enjoyed the

stunt plane flying overhead, the bike games with all the loud competitions and friendly rivalries, with no injuries. Awesome food and live music it, was a great time and the ride on Saturday was incredible as the bikes rolling down the Sterling Stretched for a full mile. With all the flags flying and bikes rumbling it a spectacle and fun to be part of.

The only bad thing about the Salute to Vets, it's the last planned organized event of this summer. If you have not noticed the fireweed is getting tall and soon will begin to bloom. While I love riding past field of pinks flowing in the breeze, it does begin the count down towards the end of riding season. So, if your like me and still have not met all of your goals for the 2023 riding season; Fill the tank, check the oil, ensure y'all have thread on the tires. Then Get On Your Bike and Ride!

Love You All, "For God and Country!"



August 7, 2023 - Purple Heart Day

National Purple Heart Day honors the men and women who have been wounded or killed in military service. An important day for us to all remember those who have served to keep us free and the many who have made the ultimate sacrifice.



Please visit the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor for more information: https://www.thepurpleheart.com/



Also, another important day in the history of the U.S is <u>VJ</u>
<u>Day</u> (Victory over Japan Day). Exactly what day it is celebrated is a little confusing:

August 14th - Japan surrendered

August 15^{th} - the surrender is announced to the world. The day that is most commonly recognized and celebrated in modern days.

September 2 - the formal surrender ceremony was held in Tokyo Bay aboard the USS Missouri and formal signing of the surrender occurred. At that time President Truman declared September 2nd to be VJ Day.

VJ Day marks the end of WWII and the end of fighting against Japan. It is called Victory in Japan Day or Victory over Japan Day. Regardless of what day it is celebrated it marked the end of WWII and the fighting between the US and Japan.

From the President's Desk



By Connie Kullander

Happy days everyone. July didn't turn out so bad after all. We had some really beautiful weather.

First off, I would like to thank everyone who helped with our 4th of July celebration! I hope everyone enjoyed all the delicious food that was prepared, and enjoyed some of the festivities that were out and about, mostly our independence!!!



Here we are in August and let's see what's going on. It is the National Convention at the end of the month, held in Charlotte, North Carolina. The convention brings together thousands of legion members. Officers and guests and their families. They will be electing new officers, receiving reports, and conducting a lot of other Auxiliary business, while celebrating the accomplishments of the administrative year.

They also have selected one of our Coast Guard Servicemen as Service Member of the Year - Joe Torre. He is from the U.S.C.G Buoy Tender Kukuki, out of Sitka. You have probably seen Joe at the club as he was always helping out. Congratulations Joe!!

We can always use some extra hands around the club, as we always have something going on.

Salmon Derby is this month as well, so get a ticket and catch the big one.

Don't forget to attend one of the meetings, the second Wednesday of the month @ 6:00 pm. We can always use new ideas and would love to have some new faces at the meetings. So come to a meeting and get involved with one of the best organizations you could belong to.



Excerpt from the NY Post, 31 July 2023

August will see two supermoons in a rare astronomical event that won't happen again until January 2037. The month will open and close with a supermoon, with the <u>sturgeon supermoon</u> rising on Aug. 1 and a rare super

blue moon on Aug. 30. The sturgeon supermoon will appear at its peak illumination in the afternoon on Tuesday, Aug. 1 at 2:32 p.m. ET, according to <u>In the Sky</u> it will set at 5:11 a.m. ET on Wednesday, Aug. 3.

The Aug. 30 super blue moon will rise at 7:10 p.m. ET — reaching its peak at 9:36 p.m. ET — and will set at 6:46 a.m. ET on Aug. 31.

A blue moon is the second full moon in one calendar month. Typically, months only have one full moon, separated by 29 days, but since months are mostly 30-31 days long, sometimes a second full moon can make its way into the same month, according to NASA.

This event only occurs every 2-3 years, hence the phrase "once in a blue moon." The last time stargazers witnessed a super blue moon was in December 2009, and after the one this coming month, the next time one will appear will be in August 2032 — nine years from now.

The blue moon on Aug. 30 will be the year's biggest supermoon, the Farmers' Almanac predicted. Despite the name, a blue moon is not actually blue in color. It has the same color and appearance as any other full moon.

The Aug. 30 super blue moon will rise at 7:10 p.m. ET — reaching its peak at 9:36 p.m. ET — and will set at 6:46 a.m. ET on Aug. 31

Moon lovers won't be able to miss the cosmic event, as it'll take up a large portion of the sky and could potentially take on a different color depending on light and how low it is on the horizon.



"A red or yellow colored moon usually indicates a moon seen near the horizon," NASA said. "There, some of the blue light has been scattered away by a long path through the Earth's atmosphere, sometimes laden with fine dust."

A supermoon is when the moon's orbit is closest to the Earth at the same time the moon is full, according to NASA. A supermoon is a full moon by nature, but not every full moon is a supermoon. When a full moon is closer to the Earth than usual, it appears to be slightly brighter and larger than a regular full moon — about 15% brighter and 7% bigger.

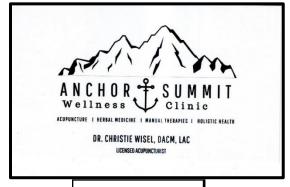
Both of these full moons in August are supermoons, and they're also the second and third supermoons of 2023. The first was the first, called a <u>Buck Moon</u> July 3, and the final will be on September 28 with the <u>Harvest Moon</u>.

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Have Fun at the Silver Salmon Derby!! 12-20 August 2023

Food Served Every Night at the Post!!!!