

American Legion Seward Post 5
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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Bobby Dunno



Wow! Did January go out with a vengeance? Now that January is in the history books and we are into February I always start getting jumpy because February is always a short month; and with the end of this month comes the inevitable onset of spring. With spring comes the warmer weather and the opportunity to get my motorcycle out of the shop and who can't get excited about that! But before we talk about motorcycle season we still have a significant amount of winter activities to get through.



The end of January was Seward's annual **Polar Bear Jump Off Festival** and once again the American Legion Family from Post 5 was out and about giving our support. Our Post opened its doors to the community and was home to many of the activities ranging from Breakfast and the **AVTEC Fish Feed** on to hosting the **Turkey Bowling Competition**. The Polar Bear Jump Off is an incredible event in support research for finding a cure and treatment of Cancer, and to be able to participate in support of such a cause has value for each and every one who takes time to give a little of themselves to help so many others.

February 5 will see Mike, Connie and their crew hosting Post 5's annual **Super Bowl party**. Hopefully, we will have a great crowd from both sides of the sidelines rooting for the teams from the NFC and AFC. Me, I have always fallen on the side of the NFC and besides I don't think I can handle another reason for the announcers to celebrate Tom Brady☺. Super Bowl LI at The Post is a great way to be with great company as we watch the game with food and fun had by all.



The Ladies of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 5 will be decorating and hosting a romantic evening at the Post for the **Annual Valentine's Day Dinner on the 18th**. What the menus will be has yet to be decided but you can count on a wonderful meal for you and your sweetheart will enjoy.



Cub Scout Pack 327 will be holding their Blue and Gold Banquet and we will be making sure all those young lads and their families are well fed again this year.



When it comes to food Post 5 is no slouch because we will once again be playing host to breakfast and lunches for the **National Ocean Science Bowl**. The NOSB is a great activity hosted by the Seward Marine Science Center and the University of Fairbanks. Young high school students interested in science, from all over will be converging on Seward to compete in knowledge and science based events, and Post 5 will once again play a supporting role. Seems no end to what Mike, Connie and crew can do in support of our community.



February also brings with it our **first call for post officer elections** that cover all facets of the American Legion Family. If you want to know what goes on and want to put your two cents in, the one way to be truly counted is to be an officer on one of the American Legion Family Committees. Having filled a few seats on these committees and as the current Post Commander I have found the experience to be a rewarding and fulfilling time, that has provided me a sense of civic pride. And while I am no longer an active duty military member there is still a role for me to play in service to my country and community.

From the ALR Director...

By Assistant Director Bobby Dunno

Ho Yea, can you smell it standing outside on that sunny day, yea ya'll remember what a sunny day looked like. Yep you can't tell it by the temperature but that fresh smell is spring on its way (Wishful thinking I know). At least those of us who are anxious to feel the wind break across our handle bars or windscreens and are hoping that spring will come early. Waiting somewhat patiently for the roads to dry out and we will once again get astride our saddles and be cranking it up and on to our adventures and heading out for summer of fun and purpose.

BUT....

Before that can happen our bikes will need a little TLC and I am not talking about just a fresh coat of wax all though for many that is important also. Every rider needs to check out the bike and make sure it is truly ready to carry or butts' safety out and about, for miles and miles of enjoyable riding. During a long winter of storage tires lose air pressure, clutch plates and brakes freeze up, cables and linkages start sticking, and that's just scratching the surface. While I know there is still a link to the Spring Ride Checklist on our American Legion Riders Website and in case you have no visited it lately and "forgot" how to find it, try this www.alaskalegionriders.org. But we will go over a brief rundown on things to be checking before you kick it to gear and get that big grin as you start rolling out for your first ride.



Check your battery, if your bike might have been exposed to freezing temps look for signs of bulging or cracks in the housing. Look at the fluid level and charge on your battery. If necessary, fill the fluid with distilled water (just up to the line). If necessary, put it on a charge and refresh the go-go in the battery. If you find it weak you may want to go ahead and make the decision to replace it. It could save you having to replace it on short notice during an enjoyable ride later.

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The History of the Four Chaplains



On **Feb. 3, 1943**, the United States Army Transport *Dorchester* - a converted luxury liner - was crossing the North Atlantic, transporting more than 900 troops to an American base in Greenland. Aboard the ship were four chaplains of different faiths: Reverend George Fox (Methodist), Jewish Rabbi Alexander Goode, Reverend Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed) and Father John Washington (Roman Catholic).

Around 12:55 a.m., a German U-boat fired a torpedo that struck *Dorchester's* starboard side, below the water line and near the engine room. The explosion instantly killed 100 men and knocked out power and radio communication with *Dorchester's* three escort ships. Within 20 minutes, the transport sank and more than 670 men died.

As soldiers rushed to lifeboats, the four chaplains spread out, comforting the wounded and directing others to safety. One survivor, Private William Bednar, later said, "I could hear men crying, pleading, praying. I could also hear the chaplains' preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going."

Another survivor, John Ladd, watched the chaplains distribute life jackets, and when they ran out, they removed theirs and gave them to four young men. "It was the finest thing I have seen, or hope to see, this side of heaven," he recalled. As *Dorchester* sank, the chaplains were seen linked arm in arm, praying.

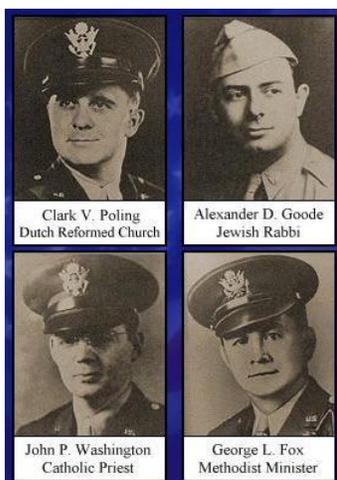
Fox, Goode, Poling and Washington were posthumously awarded the **Distinguished Service Cross** and the **Purple Heart**, and in 1948, **Congress declared Feb. 3 to be Four Chaplains Day.**



Because of the Medal of Honor's strict requirements of heroism under fire, Congress authorized a one-time **Chaplain's Medal for Heroism** on July 14, 1960. The award was presented to the chaplains' next of kin Jan. 18, 1961.

On **Feb. 3, 1951**, President Truman dedicated a chapel in the chaplains' honor at Grace Baptist Church in Philadelphia. When the building was sold, the chapel fell into disrepair, and the foundation overseeing the chapel moved it to the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard in 2001. The chapel was repaired in 2004 and given the name Chapel of the Four Chaplains.

In 2006, at The American Legion's 88th National Convention in Salt Lake City, the National Executive Committee passed a resolution that supported awarding the Chaplain Medal of Honor to Fox, Goode, Poling and Washington.



The Chaplain's Medal for Heroism is a decoration of the United States Congress which was authorized by an act of Congress on July 14, 1960. Known as the Chaplain's Medal of Honor and the Four Chaplains' Medal, the decoration commemorates the actions of the Four Chaplains who gave their lives in the line of duty on February 3, 1943. The medal was designed by Thomas Hudson Jones (1892-1969) of the United States Army Institute of Heraldry. It was presented posthumously to their next of kin by Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker at Ft. Myer, Virginia on January 18, 1961.



House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Let it snow!! Guess we need to do the "No Rain Dance". At least we have had some winter this year and hopefully more to come.

I want to thank all the great volunteers who helped the Post provide a great community breakfast for our membership and the community and for all the great help during Polar Bear Jumpoff Festival. We can accomplish so much when we work together as a Legion Family.

This month we have Super Bowl Sunday on Feb 5th, the Auxiliary Unit 5 Valentine's Dinner on Feb 18th, our community breakfast on Feb 19th, and our Post 5 Open House on Feb 25th. Put your volunteer hats on again and give me a call to let me know when and where you can help. Also, we will be hosting the NOSB for breakfast on Feb 17, 18, 19 each morning at 6:30am. Can always use help for that.

We will have First Call for 2017-2018 Post Officer Nominations at our monthly meeting on Feb 14th at 7:00pm. If you would like to find out more about becoming a post officer you can contact any post officer and we can answer any questions you may have.



We are fully into the new membership year. So far, we have reached the goals set by Nationals so I thank all of you who have already renewed for 2017. You can renew at the Post, mail in your renewal, or go online to Legion.org and pay online. Dues for 2017 have increased to \$60.00 due to an increase at the national level. If you have any questions on that please feel free to give me a call and help the Post reach its goal of 244 members.

Pool league is on Saturday night, Bingo is on Monday night, and Poker is on Sunday and Monday night.

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

Sounding Off from the Sons...

By Mike Calhoon



Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

2017 hit us with a bang! Guess winter has returned to Seward this year.



I want to thank all the Squadron 5 members that donated their time and effort during January. We had help at the community breakfast and especially during Polar Bear Jumpoff Festival. Busy times and your help was greatly appreciated and truly needed.

February will continue to provide opportunities to show our support of the Legion and the community.

We will have Super Bowl Sunday on Feb 5th, Auxiliary Unit 5 Valentine's Dinner on Feb 18th, community breakfast on Feb 19th, and the Post 5 Open house on Feb 25th. Please let me know if and when you are able to give us a hand with any of these functions.

We had our First Call for new officers at the January meeting and will have our Second Call at the Feb 9th meeting. If you are interested in getting involved at the officer level please come to the meeting at 7:00pm or call me if you have any questions about becoming a squadron officer



The new membership year is in full swing. The SAL Dues for 2017 have increased to \$30.00. I thank all of you who renewed early. Please consider renewing your membership if you have not done so already Your continued support help Squadron 5 with its mission of service to veterans and our children and youth programs.



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.

1st Vice Notes...

By Clare Sullivan

Well, I bet you thought once the holidays were over we'd have things slowing down, but not at the post! And what do you think about all this snow we've been having!!!! Long time no snow... we've been fortunate with calmer winters.

Anyway, we've been busy since the beginning of the year with nightly post activities and of course the annual Polar Bear Jumpoff Festival. This town is amazing how it pulls together to help others. What is really notable is the fact that many of these wonderful people are members of our American Legion Family who continually step up to the plate and make things happen! Thank You for all you do in service for our veterans and our community.

Here we are in February and we have things planned for Valentine's Day and of course SuperBowl. The 2nd Vice will have more details on that in his section. Also make sure you take a look at the calendar for nightly activities and the yummy meals. 🍕😊

February is **Americanism** Month. Many may wonder what that means and essentially it is the month that we focus on one of "the **Four Pillars**" that make up the American Legion. In 1919, The American Legion was founded on four pillars: **Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth.** Each pillar encompasses a variety of programs that benefit our nation's veterans, its servicemembers, their families, the youth of America and ordinary citizens. These programs make a difference in hundreds of thousands of lives each year.



At the national level and at varying levels at the posts, **Americanism** encompasses the following programs:

- **Flag Protection**
- **Illegal Immigration**
- **Voter Registration and Participation**
- **Boy Scouts of America**
- **The Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Establishment-Clause Lawsuits**
- **Legacy Run**
- **Boys Nation**
- **American Legion Baseball**

As you can see there is a lot to the American Legion, what it does and can do to be a vital part of a community; these programs are under only one pillar, there is so much more when you examine the other pillars.

Con't Next Page

February brings the "first call for officers" for the post, and the Sons and the Auxiliary will have their second call. All positions all our what we are get involved, participate. As you may already know we help many in our community and throughout the state by funding scholarships, holding community events, helping those in need, honoring our patriotic holidays, and generally running an organization that positively impacts many in this community. You may think it takes a lot of time but not really. The way posts are organized the division of labor is made so that it isn't overwhelming for one officer or position. We all pull together to make things successful. We are happy to accept whatever you can do. Our decisions about our activities are made at our post meetings. You can help guide what we do by coming in and offering your input, your "2 cents", and ideas. With this in mind, in order to participate you need to be a current member, so drag out your card from your wallet and if it doesn't say 2017 - you need to renew (hint hint 😊).



are up for consideration in organizations. If you like doing (or not) and want to this is a great way to



are so very much more. Our organization provides numerous opportunities available that help our veterans and our community, you just have to get involved. So, just do it! You'll feel good for helping others and getting involved in an organization that has been around and serving veterans and their communities since 1919!

Okay, next topic, 😊 "The doors are open and the lights are on." What does that mean for us? This phrase gives us on the board a sigh of relief that we made it through another month. We look for ways to become more accommodating and meet the needs of the membership while trying to make ends meet. If you have an idea what we can do to support the membership at the same time increase revenue to keep the doors open - we're all ears! But in the interim, what helps us a lot is if you can stop by for a meal, say "hey" to your fellow members, and enjoy a beverage. And if you're able to do that, especially in the winter we are extremely grateful! When you stop in, if you have questions inquire what we do and we're all about (even if you don't have a meal or a drink 😊).

We do a lot as a service organization for the tiny town as we have. The American Legion has a long legacy of helping others and Seward Post 5 is committed to continuing that legacy. Our organization in Seward has been around since 1919 and the post where it sits now has been there since the end of WWII. We are always looking for better ways to serve and in different capacities; so, if you have some time and want to help, even a small way, we're always ready to welcome new talent. It is amazing what we manage to pull together with the variety of ideas and skills that we can employ. We get a great sense of accomplishment when we hold events that help others, and we get the collateral benefit of having a great time and making new friends!

We have a lot planned in the near term and will plan for more upcoming events, so come on down to the post, join a great crew in any of our organizations and let yourself feel good by helping others! **Welcome to the American Legion Family.**



Every membership makes us a stronger organization locally through the national level. Our membership numbers are a very loud voice for veterans' rights and benefits. We have veterans throughout Seward ranging from WWII veterans to veterans from the ongoing military activities in the Middle East and throughout the globe. All have served and all deserve the consideration due to them for their honorable service. The post for any veterans is the starting point for them to receive learn what they are eligible for and can in terms of benefits and support from the **Veterans Administration**. By coming by the post, and speaking to one of our officers, a veteran can potentially learn what is out there for them - in terms of benefits and assistance; as well as finding a familiar and welcoming community with many shared experiences that many in the "civilian community" just can't relate to.



Moving on to another topic that seems to haunt service organizations like ours, and contrary to what some believe, the post a bar. The American Legion is a Veteran Service Organization. Granted the post has a bar for members to enjoy and benefit from the camaraderie at the bar; but we

[For God and Country!](#)

Con't: ALR Director News....

If you changed the engine oil before you said good-bye for the winter it, it is probably ready to rumble. But even fresh oil can be contaminated by water, which will give it a milky appearance when you fire it up for the first run. If you didn't change oil before storage, replace it before taking it out and revving it up. Otherwise, those normal wear metals and other oil contaminants add a small measure of moisture from storage, a recipe for corrosion. The other fluid we deal with fuel, hopefully you stored it with a fuel tank. Topping off the tank prevents other condensation and rust in the tank but the fuel has probably stratified, unless you used a fuel stabilizer. Before turning on your petcock and letting that old fuel into your fuel system, it may be a good idea to drain the tank. (Pour the old gas in your car.) This is also a good time to change your fuel filter. In the worst case, Carb/Injector cleaner might help with any varnishing of the fuel system, but if it is really bad you might need new jets or injectors or a visit to a professional shop for cleaning the fuel system. For the rest of the engine pull the plugs a give the pistons a shot of oil (I like using Marvels Mystery Oil) in each spark plug hole followed by a couple of spins of the engine with the plugs removed will protect the cylinder walls and rings during those first few revolutions. Check the plug gaps and replace the plugs making sure the wires and boots are on tight.

This is a good time to look at the brakes and too install fresh fluid, nothing gets contaminated faster than Brake Fluid. You definitely should do it if you skipped it during the last year or two. Check the pads or shoes too. If they are "sort of" thin, get new ones now. Check for proper hand lever and foot pedal travel, now is also the time to lube cables and adjust the travel on the hand and foot controls. While you are working on the brakes check the forks for looseness and look to the fork seals and check for tattle tale cracks and seeping fluid. Check tire pressures against the tire manufacture specification. The pressure should be able to be seen on the side wall of the tire. Inspect tire for proper tread depth and signs of rot or bulging. You should also check the condition of the valve stem which is always a source of air leaks. Drive chains and belts stretch, if you haven't check yours it is a good bet that it may need

adjusting. There are all sorts of rules of thumb out there as to how tight a chain should be. A general basic guideline in push on the chain and it should deflect about 3/4 of an inch. Check with your owner's manual for the most accurate measurement. Drive belts should also be checked for cracking or fraying. Drive sprockets should be looked at to ensure that they are mating properly with the chain or belt. Excessive play at the sprocket cannot be adjusted out and they have to be replaced.

Check all your lights to see that they are functioning properly. You can check for light adjustment but if they were good last year they are probably good this year. Check light fixture to make sure it is tight and will not move with vibrations. Check all your blinkers and brake light function, check on all your instrumentation also. Replace any nonfunctioning or dim bulbs.

That should do it for initial safety checks. And now is the time to put on that nice coat of wax, shine the chrome and get all those fingerprints you left all over cleaned up. While there is plenty more that could be checked and worked on those items usually fall into a bit different category rather than the "let's get her ready to ride" stuff we are discussing here. But getting this basic stuff complete will allow you to take your bike out for those first slightly chilly yet sunny days with confidence and you will have a big grin and be working the throttle while you see everyone else easing off and listening, pulling over and lookin', or sitting on the side of the road tightening.

This March we will be coming out of the "dark" and we will be holding our first meeting. There is going to be a lot to talk about as well as a lot of riding to do, good weather and bad. We got Poker Runs, ROMP's, long rides, short runs, good comrades and always too much fun. So get them bikes serviced while the roads are icy and nasty, cause once that clears it will be time for only one thing and you do not want to be fixing stuff when it is time to....

Get On Your Bike And Ride!



President's Day

Excerpt from Timeanddate.com

Washington's Birthday, also known as Presidents' Day, is a federal holiday held on the third Monday of February. The day honors presidents of the United States, including George Washington, America's first president.



Washington's Birthday officially honors the life and work of George Washington, the first president of the United States. The day commemorates past presidents of the USA. Washington's Birthday is sometimes known as Presidents' Day. This is because while most states

have adopted Washington's Birthday, some states officially celebrate Presidents' Day.

Some states pay particular attention to Abraham Lincoln, as his birthday was also in mid-February. In the weeks or days leading up to the holiday, schools often organize events and lessons for students about the presidents of the United States and George Washington in particular.



George Washington was the first president of the United States of America. His first term as president was from 1789 to 1793 and his second term from 1793 to 1797.

Before he became president, he played important roles in the military, leading **the American Continental Army** to victory over the British in 1783. Washington is often seen as the father of the United States and is probably the best known American politician ever.

Washington's Birthday was first celebrated as a holiday in the District of Columbia in 1880. It was made a federal holiday in 1885. The holiday was originally held on the anniversary of George Washington's birth, on February 22. In 1971, this holiday was moved to the third Monday in February.

From the Secretary...

By Connie Kullander

Well Hi there!! It's been since last year that you have heard from us. First off I would like to say "THANK YOU" to our volunteers. You are the ones that help make everything get done.

January has left us with the Polar Bear jump festival behind us. What an amazing crew of helper we had once again. In spite of the weather and all the bad news we had a great turn out. We had lots of complements on our events, but for those of you who missed our Friday night entertainment, you missed great fun!!! We had Lou Lou Small here and she was fabulous!!! She had this place in stitches and rocking!! She is not only a great singer she is a fabulous entertainer!! Maybe next time for those of you who missed out?

The Auxiliary has been busy down in the tiny office. We are still doing Bingo in spite of the nasty weather. so do hope to see you all her on every Monday at 6:00 and bingo starting at 6:30.

We have also had our first call for new officers. The next meeting on Wednesday, February 8th @ 7:00 will be second call. If you want to be an officer and get involved in a great organization *PLEASE come get involved and get elected into an office.* We have a lot to offer to your children and youth as well as our community. So *PLEASE* come get involved, be nominated for an office and see just how this organization works.

On February 18th, we will be putting on our "**Second Chance Valentine Day Dinner**". So, if you forget to get your sweetheart something here is your opportunity to make up for missing that special day. We will be having prime rib with shrimp, veggies salad and potatoes. A great meal with all the fixings. We are taking reservation starting @5:00 pm going till 8:30. Just give the post a call @224-5440 and tell Connie or Mike you want to make a reservation for Valentines.

Jumping around here in the letter we will need volunteers with the NOSB on February 17, 18, 19 in the mornings around 6:00. This is the National Ocean Science Bowl for the kids that come here every year from all over the state. If you can help give Mike a call at the post.

It's Super Bowl Sunday on the 5th of February, so all you football fans, come down to the Post and have a great time with Mike and Connie to watch your favorite team win the super bowl!! We will have a variety of finger foods and munchies here, but if you what to bring something that would be appreciated too.

Don't forget that every third Sunday of the month we have our community breakfast. We welcome everyone but a rotation of volunteers would be nice as well. Thank you to our volunteers that we do have and nice work!!

Have a great February and Happy Valentine's Day!!

For God and Country

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