Commander’s Comments...

By Clare Sullivan

Great times for all! We’ve had some wonderful and for us some “blistering hot” weather! I think we had a few days that made it to 75 degrees! I know that doesn’t sound hot for many but for us it sure was a scorcherrrr!!

By comparison to April and May, June was definitely tame with respect to activities but we still had busy times and hard work by our dedicated volunteers. Particularly with beautifying the post, Brent Johnson has once again risen to the occasion and has done some fabulous flower designs with the wonderful flowers donated by Carol Souza from Weezingreens around the post! Thanks Brent and Carol, you guys are awesome and we get such compliments on our arrangements as well as our hospitality!

The Auxiliary put out a fabulous Father’s Day Breakfast and we honored our flag and conducted dignified flag disposal ceremony on Flag Day. We also welcomed the crew of the USCGC Munro who made quick stop over in Seward and as always we opened our doors to our visiting military. It was a good visit and a nice respite for a crew that had been out to sea for a while. And, once again the Post 5 Family made it all happen!

I’d also like to thank Ben and Dutchess Stapleton for continuing to do the newsletter. This month will mark their one year anniversary for doing this valuable service - keeping our members informed in such a delightful way of what we have going on in our American Legion Family at the post!

July is also going to be busy with the 4th of July celebrations going on in Seward and we know how busy that is! We will be gearing up soon to get our renown ribs ready for the hungry masses who will descend on our town and the Auxiliary will be “on it” with ice cream sodas and pie. This year should be even busier as the 4th is on a Saturday. Brace yourselves!!!! With that in mind, we will need VOLUNTEERS!!!(hint hint) ☺️ Give Mike a call at the post or email the post if you’re interested and can help at the post or help in our parade preparation. As you know we always are a big part of the parade and the festivities all throughout town.
I would be remiss if I didn’t thank everyone who have consistently volunteered during our daily activities for the Post, Sons and Auxiliary this past year and particularly during the busy last couple of months. As always, you have been taken time out of your busy lives to help others and increase the quality of life for others. Whether it was a scholarship, a helping hand at the post or in the community, helping veterans or our active duty personnel, you have made it happen and it is all reflective of your dedication in the service of others – and speaks volumes about the quality of the people in our American Legion Family! Thank you!!!

I’d also like to thanks the crew of the Mustang and their families who are a huge part of our effort to serve others. These young folks have been assigned here mostly by chance by their “detailer” and they too have stepped up, donated time and talent in our American Legion Family’s mission of service. They have been here for fun events at the post and at somber events in the passing of veterans to Post Everlasting. These young people have enthusiastically risen to the occasion and represented us at the post and the US Coast Guard so very well in the most superlative fashion. We are fortunate to have this incredible group as members of our American Legion Family!

I’d like to specifically acknowledge our Sons of the American Legion who are the talent pool who have helped so much in keeping the physical structure of our post home together as well as the parking lot cleared in the winter. As you know our building is somewhat of a “historical” building and with that status we consistently undergo the trials of old buildings as in a leaking roof and windows, heating issues, water issues, etc. and several of our Sons have stepped up and bailed us out with volunteer help to keep us dry and operational. Thanks guys you have helped us keep going to do what we are chartered to do in helping the veterans and the community.

Summer’s here, get out and enjoy it, stop by and see what we have going on. Thanks again for all your support and membership as everything we do is only made possible through strong membership and our great volunteers!

See you at the Post!
Hello from the Second Vice/Club!

Hard to believe it is already July!! Summer is screaming by. Hope everyone is having a great summer and enjoying the good weather when we have it. Guess we needed this rain to help with all the fires and fire danger.

June was a good month for weather and activities. We had a visit, first time, from the USCGC Munro which is stationed at Kodiak. They were here for a three-day port call and we enjoyed getting to know some of them during their visit to Seward.

We also celebrated Flag Day with our usual ceremony at the Post and some good food and comradesy afterwards. It was a beautiful day and a great ceremony. If you missed it you should put next year on your calendar and plan to attend.

The Auxiliary Unit 5 hosted the Father’s Day breakfast and had a great turnout plus prepared some delicious food for everyone. As always Unit 5 came through in a big way. Great Job!!!!

Our dedicated volunteers continue to shine and we could not do what we do without all the great help. You are all awesome!!!!

This month the big function, of course, is the 4th of July. We will be having our rib feed and the Auxiliary will be serving ice cream floats at that time. We will start serving about 11:00am on the 4th.

We will be catering a luncheon at the Army Resort on July 5th for Expedition Alaska. You can look that up on the internet at expeditionak.com. It is an interesting event which ends in Seward on the 5th with the awards luncheon.

We will also have our community breakfast on July 19th. More great food.

As you can see we need lots of volunteers for these events. If you have some time and would like to volunteer just contact us at the post and we will surely put you to work.

Post 5 slightly exceeded its goal of 255 members for 2015!! Congratulations to all of you for making it happen!

Remember to check out the Apollo Medi Trans insurance for emergency medical flights. It is $125.00 per year which is much better than $30,000.00 for a flight to Anchorage.

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

Mike Calhoon
Sons Salutations
By Mike Calhoon

Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Thank you Squadron 5. Your help and volunteer spirit helped the Post tremendously with all the events in June. Whether it was helping during the visit of the USCGC Munro, with the Flag Day activities, or helping to consume the great food prepared by the Auxiliary on Father’s Day, you once again showed the true spirit of what the Sons of the American Legion is all about. I continue to be proud to be a member of the Sons.

Now we can focus on July and the events to come. We have the 4th of July right around the corner and the 3rd Sunday of the Month breakfast on July 19th.

If any of you has the time and would like to volunteer for these events please contact me at the Post and we will get you on board. Support of the Post and its activities is one of our main objectives and we do a very good job with that.

The Squadron Commander, Al Dykstra, would like to remind all of you about Apollo Medi Trans Insurance. This is insurance for emergency medical flights and it is $125.00 per year. It is worth looking into as emergency medivac from Seward to Anchorage can be upwards of $30,000.00. Check it out online.

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.

Director’s Ramblings and Rumblings...
By Bobby Dunno

Riding season has been really great thus far this summer and those of us who enjoy motivating down the road on two wheels (or three as it were) have been blessed with a wonderful June. Riding this time of year with this weather is a great experience with all the sights and smells that we breeze through as the wind cuts across our handlebars.

3rd Annual American Legion Riders R.O.M.P. was held on the 12-14 of June and hosted by Post 35 Susitna Valley in Wasilla. Don and Marilyn Sutherland, Larry Gentry and I attended representing Post 5 and a genuine good time was had by all. Friday we rode out to visit the young men attending Boys State it is good to see the number of young lads learning how our government works and to talk to them. It restored a little faith that there may be someone to hand our country over to in the up and coming generation.

We then up the mountains into Hatcher Pass to visit Independence Gold Mine. It was an enjoyable and challenging ride and one that I am going to repeat the first chance I get. Saturday found us on the Poker Run to Jack Henry Post 1 for a cook out for lunch. During the trip we managed to visit Post 28, 29 and 33. The final day saw the ALR ride north toward Talkeetna and a visit to the VFW Post there. Once again the weather was awesome and I am so looking forward to the 2016 ROMP to be held in Anchorage at Jack Henry Post.
Our next scheduled event will the 4th of July Parade if you're a member of the ALR or a member of the Post with and motorcycle looking to participate and maybe join the ALR I encourage you to polish it up and meet at the Post the morning of the 4th where we will gather for the parade. Also we have our Legacy Run Dessert Auction coming up on Steak Night the 3rd of July and we always need people to participate in that. We all know just how fast summer will fade into fall so please take advantage of this time and Get on Your Bike and Ride!

Fourth of July Facts

When the holiday was declared a holiday. Although Independence Day is a legal holiday, it was not declared so until 1941. This was the date that signified the formal adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

- The introduction of fireworks.
  The 4th of July is synonymous with firework displays and are a staple in the celebration. How did they become so popular? Have they always been used? History shows that they were originally made in China and as early as the 11th century. This was during the time when the Chinese people used pyrotechnic mixtures for war rockets and explosives.

- Uncle Sam. The 4th of July facts surrounding the term "Uncle Sam" was finally clarified and popularized during the War of 1812. This is when the term originally appeared on supply containers that held war materials. The "Uncle Sam" symbol became synonymous with servitude and devotion, as in Uncle Sam wants YOU. Although there was heavy recruitment taking place, Congress did not adopt Uncle Sam as a national symbol until 1961.

- Two Facts.
  Two very important but little known 4th of July facts show that 1) full support of the Declaration of Independence was not supported by all members of the Continental Congress and 2) a representative of Congress rode horseback 80 miles to reach Philadelphia and break a tie in support of independence.

- The Liberty Bell.
  Like the historical flag, the Liberty Bell was a very symbolic monument for Americans. However, the Liberty Bell has some 4th of July facts that many do not know about. Originally, there were two versions of the Liberty Bell. At the time of their manufacturing, one was found to be defective and had to be melted and recast. The second bell was subsequently also found to be defective. It too had to be melted down and recast, therefore requiring a third version. Without any defective places, the third version of the Liberty Bell rang every Fourth of July from 1778 to 1835. According to history and tradition, as it rang, it cracked as it was being tolled for the death of Chief Justice John Marshall, the longest serving Chief Justice in the Supreme Court.
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**Food Every Night!**