Commander’s Comments...

By: Bobby Dunno

Gee Whiz, why does summer have to fly by so fast! Sometimes it just doesn’t seem fair does it? Seems to me Post 5 just gets busier as the weather gets warmer, but then I guess that is always the case as tourist season cranks up, so will the activities around the Post.

Of course Mike and his crew have had some additional task to get finished, which has been needed taking care of and that was way beyond their normal summer activities. So we now have a complete set of stairs on the south wall thanks to the efforts of Norm, Ozzie, Tom and Mike. With the installation of the stairs the South Wall project is complete and a success! We all need to say a special thanks to our American Legion Auxiliary Unit 5 as it was they who funded the South Wall project and without them we would still leak along several locations around the windows in that wall. Can anyone dare to mention the east wall and balcony since that is where we will have to focus for some of the same treatment at some point in the future?

Some may have noticed the New Sign on the west wall of our Post, we have Tom Sears to thank for the beautiful addition to our Post as he built, donated and installed the sign. Along with the Awesome sign he and his better half Shannon did an awesome job of cleaning up and landscaping the flower beds around the Post. Their efforts have done wonders for the Post appearance and when all the flags come out on the fourth, Post 5 will be strike a very nice pose with the mountains and bay as a back drop.

For those of you who have not already heard we have said goodbye to two close friends in Matt and Rebecca Brinkley as he has been relieved as Commanding Officer of the USCGC Mustang having his change of command ceremony on the 29th of June. Replacing Matt is LT Jamie Greendyk please join me in welcoming her to our Post and Seward Community. We will sure-
ly miss Matt and Rebecca they melded into our family so easily, and quickly became part of our family. Although they are leaving they promised to visit so we have their return too Seward to look forward too.

As we reach the end of the Fiscal Year, I would be remiss not to recognize and give a big thank you to our dedicated team of volunteers without whom American Legion Post 5 would never accomplish anything. Without those who continue to serve our community, we would accomplish only a small fraction of the monumental task that our many members seem to expect and too often take for granted. I was going to start listing the names of all those who I am so proud of, who show up work, sweat and always smile while doing it. But knowing me I would forget two or three important members of our American Legion Family and I do not want to forget anybody. We all have our parts and functions we are good at, fit a talent or find something in which we take pride in. So you know who you are and the many activities you participate in so know that you are appreciated and loved. I do need to mention that Sharon Dillion is going to busy taking care of her family who recently met with a serious auto accident, thanks you for all the love, thoughts and prayers you sent their way and she will continue to need our support as she mends them back to health over the next few weeks and months. Her absence is going to be felt as she was not only a active volunteer, but who is not going to miss her voice resounding around the Post and she always brings her bright and cheery attitude that’s seems to rub off on everyone around her.

Upcoming immediately is 4th of July Weekend in Seward, AK! We all know what we have happen- ing in and around town and our Post. The 4th is falling on a Monday this year so we can expect a larger than average crowd taking advantage of a longer than usual weekend. So we will need every hand that can be mustered to grill and dish up some of our awesome ribs, potato salad and baked beans. Mike has laid in a supply of hundreds of pounds of ribs and you know they are going to be tasty. So if you are not interested in lending a hand you can still come by and bring an appetite. Let’s all also do what we can to pray, do a little dance for one of them days that is sunny but cloudy enough to be cool with a slight breeze. You know one of those perfect weather days that happens only 3 or 4 times a year in Seward!

With the start of the fiscal year we start the beginning of a new membership year. So everyone should be getting your renewal notice so you will have another excuse to stop by the Post some evening and renew your membership. The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Riders cannot do everything we do in Seward without a strong membership so please renew your membership and do it earlier than later. Last year the Post fell short of our membership goal, so we should shoot to get more people into membership allowing our American Legion Family fulfill what we see as our obligation to our Community, State and Nation. If you need to know what it takes to sign up or supply information to someone who might be thinking about it ask at the Post. We have literature that you can take to assist in explaining the simple process of becoming a proud member of the American Legion.

For God and Country!
1st Vice Report...

By: Clare Sullivan

June was a great month for the post with out of town members coming to visit, our hard-working volunteers at beautifying and fixing our post home, and the events that allowed us to celebrate our flag on June 14th on Flag Day with the annual ceremony honoring our flag and retiring unserviceable flags. We couldn’t do any of what we do in the community without all our volunteers who make it happen and keeping us a vital part of this community. These folks are so important in the work we do as well as helping us keep our patriotic holidays alive and in the mind of our fellow citizens!

I’d also like to thank Ben Stapleton for continuing to do the newsletter, this is such an important way we can keep in touch with our members at the Post 5 Family and keep everyone up on “what’s happenin’ at the post!” Believe or not we have members who don’t get on Facebook to see what we have going on and just like to get the news in the old fashioned way. J There is something nice about a flyer, a piece of paper, or a multipage newsletter that you can just sit back and read instead of being glued to the computer screen!

July is also going to be busy right out of the gate with the 4th of July celebrations going on in Seward, and with the 4th being on a Monday we’re expecting quite the crowds to be here starting early on Friday the 1st. Folks will be getting into town and staking out their spots for camping and RV’ing. It will be fun but the town will be packed and with that we’ll ready at the post for those who want a break from all the action whether on the mountain or not!

We’ll be serving up food as always at the post and of course we’ll be having our famous baby back ribs on the 4th as well as beans and potato salad. Come on down and if you can lend a hand with some of the work, it is always a fun time - even if we’re working to get things up and running. That is the great thing about volunteering, we’re able to do something good for our veterans and the community and have a good time while doing it! It is the best of both worlds!

This week we will be gearing up 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 Monday! 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 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 commu-
nity, 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 send out huge kudos and thanks to the crew of the Mustang and their families who are a huge part of our effort to serve others in our community and throughout the state. 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, all the while keeping up with their busy lives, jobs and young families. 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!

Summer's here, take advantage of it and make the most of it! Stop by and see what we have going on while you're out and about. 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!

For God and Country!
House and Vice Reports...

By: Mike Calhoon

Hello from the Second Vice/Club,

Wow, July is here already. Time flies when you are having fun!!

June sped by but we were able to properly celebrate Flag Day and I would like to thank everyone who participated and attended the ceremony at Post 5. It was a beautiful day to give proper recognition to our flag and the country it represents.

Hope you all have had a chance to see the improvements to your Post home. Tom Sears and Shannon Krause did a great job remodeling the flower beds and Tom put together and donated our new sign on the front of the building. Looks wonderful. Thank you for your great work.

The Auxiliary Unit 5 put on a great Father's Day breakfast for everyone and we thank them wholeheartedly for the great food and recognition of all the fathers. Without the Auxiliary doing everything they do the Post would definitely not function nearly as well or be able to provide for our members and the community.

This month we will have the 4th of July weekend, the community breakfast, and Linda Amberg’s going away party as the main events. Check your calendars and see where you would like to lend a hand and we will gladly put you to work.

There is still some staining to complete on the stairs outside and a window trim project to complete inside. Let me know when and if you can assist.

We are at the beginning of the new membership year. 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.

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.

Salutations from the Sons!

By: Mike Calhoon

Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander,

June has flown by and here we are getting ready for the 4th of July celebration in Seward. One busy time coming up.

The Squadron has continued to be very supportive of Post 5 activities and projects. Big thanks to David “Ozzie” Osborn for all his support and help with all ongoing projects and to Dave Dieckgraeff for the concrete to complete our south wall project.

The Post will need lots of help for the 4th of July so let me know if you can volunteer some time and effort prior to and during the 4th.

The membership year is coming to a close soon so please renew if you have not done so. The SAL Dues for 2017 will increase to $30.00 and we will be sending out notification to all members of the change.

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.

For God and Country!
Auxiliary Notes...

By: Michelle Swartz

Summer is here and I hope everyone is getting out and enjoying all the things summer in Seward has to offer. The Fourth of July the Auxiliary will have ice cream floats for sale to go along with the Post’s annual BBQ ribs. Come down and support your Auxiliary/Post and bring a friend!

This month on the Saturday July 23rd the Auxiliary and Post are hosting a retirement/going away party for Linda Amberg. Linda is leaving our fair state and moving to Florida and we wish her well and safe travels. This event will be open to the public, so if you know anyone that would like to attend, please be sure to invite them. The fun will begin at 6pm.

The Auxiliary is in need of help for upcoming events, so if you have an extra hour or two you can donate, it would be greatly appreciated. If you are interested in helping a great cause please contact Michelle at 491-1325.

The Auxiliary is hosting its TOYS FOR TOTS auction August 13th this year instead of November/December. This event is open to the public and is our fund raiser for purchasing toys for the local children in town that otherwise might not have a Christmas. The toys will be distributed at the Christmas party held for the children in December.

There will be a raffle this year to go along with the auction and silent auction. The three prizes for the raffle will be Grand Prize - Denali package trip for the summer of 2017 on the Alaska Railroad Dome car Wilderness Express with a two night stay at the Cedar Hotel, transportation from the train to the hotel and back and funds to purchase dinner for two. Second place is a guided kayaking trip to Aialik Bay for the summer of 2017. Third prize is $500 in cash. The drawing will be held at 8pm August 13th, 2016.

**There will only be 300 tickets sold.** We hope to have tickets available starting the 4th of July. You don’t need to be present to win.

Come and enjoy and support your American Legion and Auxiliary!
Hello from ALR Director,

This summer’s motorcycle season has been one of dodging the weather but we have had the chance to get some fair amount of riding done. The American Legion Riders of Post 5 have had two dessert auction so far raising over $300.00 for the Legacy Run.

4th Annual American Legion Riders R.O.M.P. was at Post 1 in Anchorage the Dunno Family and the Dunno family bikes and I showed up representing Post 5 and we had a pretty good time. Friday the ALR joined many other groups honoring the passing of Fred “Bulldog” Becker IV he was a great defender of veteran rights and a well-known motorcycle enthusiast and member of the Combat Vets Motorcycle organization. I myself did not know this man but after the Celebration of Life I wish I had. The ALR was requested by and provided the road guard for the estimated 220 motorcycles from the gathering on Muldoon Road to the main gate onto Ft. Richardson Army Base. Once on base the real impact of Mr. Becker’s life was easily understood as servicemen from all branches lined the road from the gate to the cemetery the formation held not only the average enlisted personnel but many high ranking officers. Riders counted 6 Colonels among the ranks lining the route and saluting. Among those attending was most of the command of JBER and Representative Lisa Murkowski.

Most of the rest of the weekend was spent riding dodging the rain which caused us to change the riding plans as the rain increased and dropped of all the time. We also spent a fun time sitting around the fire pit at Jack Henry Post 1 and watching Danny Dunno play in the yard as he had a very good time and the members at Post 1 went out of their way to make him feel at home and he stayed well fed. All in all Post 1 did a great job hosting the ROMP and we can look towards next year when the Romp is going to roam up north and visit the American Legion Riders around Fairbanks.

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 come on out and join us to ride in the parade and eat ribs and baked beans at the Post when it over. The parade is always a fun happening and hopefully we might get real lucky and have a nice day with no rain to ride in.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY!!!
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 Served Every Night!!!**

**See you at the Post!**