



**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
MELVIN M. SMITH DETACHMENT #586
MCL AUXILIARY UNIT #305
JIM CHAMBERLAIN POUND #185
SPOKANE, WA
August, 2011**



COMMANDANT'S CORNER

It is with great pleasure that I send this note. We have been a busy group as of late with funeral support of our fallen Marines & Corpsmen. This is an honor to do because of the sacrifices that they have made for us and our beloved Country. Pvt. Herman Sturmer was returned home this past month from his 68 years of being on the island of Betio after being killed in the opening of a great battle. His family, the Marines, and the Marine Corps League gave him a fitting farewell for this lost hero. Below is a picture of his honors. We are looking for more members to stand tall for those that go before us. Please consider giving your time to this cause. Feel free to contact me or Chaplain Town to learn more.

I am inviting all members and their immediate family to our August 11th meeting, which will be a "FREE" BBQ with all the fixings at VFW Post 51 at 18:00. We'd love to see everyone. Bring a friend to see that we are a bunch of Marines & Corpsmen that like to be around our families and do fun things. If you need a ride, call me or your leaders and we can get you to and from the meeting. Please RSVP so that we have enough food. Call Randy, 998-9031 or Jim Brown, 599-3456.



Thank you again for your support,

Hank
385-2726

"ONCE A MARINE ~ ALWAYS A MARINE"
"Official Motto of the Marine Corps League"

Semper Parati



From the desk of Doug



We need volunteers for the coffee stop as there are openings. Please call me to find out when. Thank you.

I've been away from my desk helping Linda recover from her knee replacement surgery. I want to thank everyone that has sent well wishes and thoughts for her recovery.

I know that the National Convention will be a lot of fun and that you will have missed a great time. I know I did. I will give you more news next month.

Your thought for the month: "If someone gives you free advice, always consider the source and the price."

Semper Fi,
Doug Phone (509) 328-5837
(I am also using Linda's cell, (509) 951-3143)



Greetings from our Senior Vice Commandant Pat Rowand

*Greetings Marines, Corpsmen & Associates,
We are going to start our SOS Breakfasts again in September. Please mark your calendars accordingly. We'd love to serve you a great dish and share some time with you at the VFW. A hearty Semper Fi!*

*Pat Rowand
Sr. Vice
590-7547*

And now a word from the Junior Past Commandant...

I have the pleasure to announce that we are selling the below pictured coins as a fundraiser for our Detachment and the 911 fund at the same time. We are selling them for \$10. If you are interested, please



contact Jim Brown,
599-3456. That is
all...Carry On!

Semper Fidelis!

Jim Bennett

Junior Past Commandant 701-3829



**VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT
DETACHMENT EVENTS. PLEASE COME JOIN US
& SHARE IN THE FUN. ☺**



KEY VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS ARE: Doug Shurtleff, Jim Brown, Dennis Dressler, Jim Bennett, Hank Melanson, Pat Rowand or Randy Ott. Just call one of them to find out what's happening.



Sick List

Chaplain Town has been busy calling and visiting quite a few members. Please keep them in your thoughts and drop them a line of encouragement.

The following have been given a break from the report for some time, so here's an update... Don Crain is feeling better most days, but has bad days too. Art Stelting is going to be the Clayton Parade Grand Marshall on Aug 8th. He is feeling okay with his recovery going slow & steady. Ray Moon has good days and bad days. Hang in there Gunner! Walt McKee is always on the go. Dave & Carol Hamm are staying busy with their lives. Ann Whitney has been on a cruise again; perhaps one of these trips she will share some sea-stories. Gene Zank is feeling much better. Tom LaVigne has been hard to reach because he's so busy at the courthouse. Bill Town has gone through more skin treatments to knock out his cancer. Painful thing to go through. Betty Guillot is staying active since we last saw her at Kay Morse's funeral. Joan Morse is doing better, and she is active with her accordion as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul "Bill" Town
Chaplain
489-8407

fox33at2ndtks@hotmail.com



Recruit a new member!

If you do this, you will be awarded a New USMC Ball Cap. Hurry! I only have Six (6) new caps. Welcome aboard !

Marine Corps League Minutes for July 14, 2011

The meeting was brought to order by Commandant Hank Melanson at 19:00. The Roll Call of Officers revealed that all were present and our Opening Ceremony was held.

Introduction of Dignitaries: Appropriately held with the following Past Commandants present: Don Crain, Dennis Dressler, Doug Shurtleff, Randy Ott, Jim Bennett, Dick Jamieson.

Introduction of Guests: None. **Quorum of Board of Trustees (Elected Officers) Present: YES**

Application(s) for Membership: Bryan S. Scott was introduced by Sgt-At-Arms, Manny Esparza. Bryan shared his bio, which included a tour on the Drill Field at Parris Island. He served 13 years, mostly in Artillery. Oath of membership was performed. **Presentation of Life Memberships:** None.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Published and mailed. Dennis Dressler motioned to accept as read. Seconded by Norm Sanborn. Motion carried. **Correspondence:** CRC for the county Veterans Office will have a meeting at 1830, Veterans Services, 1102 W. College Ave., a representative is needed. Note passed for Sr. Vice to attend if available. **Report of Adjutant/Paymaster:** A full report was given. Balance in the accounts and membership are in a healthy status. Membership is at 111.

The old coffee stop trailer was recently sold and the money was deposited. Dennis Dressler motioned to accept as read. Seconded by Doug Shurtleff. Motioned carried. **Report of**

Sickness/Distress: Art Stelting is recovering from a stroke and getting better each day. The following Marines/Corpsmen have passed since our last meeting: Gilbert Cox, 67; Gilbert E. White, 86; Edward Webber, 82; Lawrence Lynse; James Lambert Sr.; Erwin Lindstrom; JC Arnold, 32; William Choi, 79; Angela Ugilie, 88; Raymond Myers, 86; Pvt. Herman Sturmer was found from the battle of Betio. Several members were present at his return and services: Dean Ladd, Bill Town, Hank Melanson, Randy Ott, and Don Crain. Thomas E. Wynecoop, 88; was also attended by the Commandant, Mike O'Flaherty, Dave Kaltenbaugh, and Chaplain Town. **Reports of Elected**

Officers: None **Reports of Standing Committees: VAVS**—Report from June's meeting was updates on VA progress. **Membership**—Jr. Vice Jim Brown introduced the MCL Mentoring Program that has been established to bring new members onboard with a better chance of them staying long term. **Awards**—Our detachment was awarded the National Jr. Vice membership award and Department of Washington. Also recognized were Department Marine of the Year was awarded to Randy Ott and PDD Doug Shurtleff was awarded Pack Dog of the Year for the Washington Pack. Membership ribbons were given to members present that hadn't received them. **Newsletter**—Randy Ott is in the process of updating the look of the newsletter and the website. Also trying to get the National MCL Newsletter Award. Randy also opened the Newsletter to members to share a story, joke, pictures, anything. Get the info to him before the 20th of the month and he will get it into print. **Coffee Stop**—Doug Shurtleff reported a successful stop. A deposit of \$648.10 was made after the three days on the Westbound. We have three more stops this year. Please volunteer. **Calling**

Committee—Randy gave a new roster to the call team and updated the procedure for calling. Other detachments use this as a Fire team approach. It builds unity and communication. **Reports of**

Special Committees: Funeral Details—Bill Town needs more members that might be interested in supporting local funerals. If there is a local funeral, we are looking for volunteers to stand tall for the Marine/Corpsman and their family. Red cover is the only requirement; however, if you can dress in the white shirt/black trousers for uniformity, this is appreciated. If we have steady members, then we can work on a standard uniform such as red blazer or wind breaker. **Memorial Day**—Randy shared pictures from our recent Ceremony. **Americanism**—Work in progress for National. **Homeless**

Vets—Brief update given about Volunteers of America and wanting to help was given by Commandant Melanson. **Old Business:** None. **New Business:** Randy Ott introduced the 9-11 Challenge Coin Fundraiser that the Detachment is doing. \$10 each coin which was purchased at \$5. Anyone wanting a coin or to sell multiple coins, please contact him. Walt Mabe shared about Veterans with Disabilities are supporting over 650 members. They are looking for fundraising events and getting the word out. **Good of the League:** NCOA Rep. & member, J. Goffinet asked for endorsement/sponsorship of POW/MIA WA State flag protocol be adjusted. Dennis Dressler moved to help the movement. Motion seconded by Larry Marks. Motion carried. Next meeting in August will be a BBQ open to all members, family and a friend. Meeting time will be adjusted to 1800 so that

dinner can be served and a short meeting will follow. All members are encouraged to bring family or a friend. Please RSVP by 6 August. **Ceremony of Installation of Officers:** N/A.

Announcements: National MCL Convention will be held July 31-August 6. BBQ at VA is Aug 20th at 1030. **Closing Ceremony:** Appropriate. **Next Meeting:** 1800 on August 9, 2011
Present at Meeting: Members (28)

Respectfully Submitted, Randy Ott, Adjutant/Paymaster

VA Bingo, is held every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 1900. Come join the fun! Next session is Aug 10th.



**Coffee Stops All at Sprague Lake on I-90.
Call Doug to get on the schedule...
328-5867**



Calendar of Events...August, September & October

Aug 5, 6 & 7th Coffee Stop, Eastbound I-90 Sprague. This is National Convention week, so please volunteer to set up...

10th VA Bingo, 19:00-20:00 at the VA Nursing Unit.

**11th MCL/MCLA BBQ in Lieu of a Meeting, 18:00 @ VFW Post 51.
FREE FOOD!!! Bring your family or a friend.**

20th BBQ at the VA Nursing Unit. Volunteers needed.

22, 23 & 24th Coffee Stop, Westbound I-90 at Sprague.

Sept 8th MCL/MCLA Meeting, 19:00 @ VFW Post 51.

10th MODD Jim Chamberlain Pound Growl 08:00 @ Terry's Breakfast & Lunch on 7815 E. Trent Ave. "Bring d'em bones"

14th VA Bingo, 19:00-20:00 at the VA Nursing Unit.

**17th USMC SOS Breakfast at 0900-1100 at VFW Post 51,
Open to the public, \$6.00.**

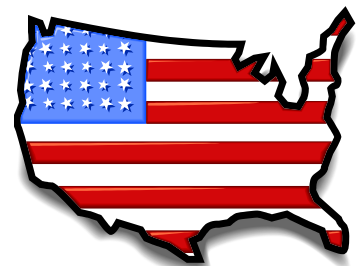
17th MCLA Tea Party Gathering TBA, Stay Tuned

19, 20 & 21st Coffee Stop, Eastbound I-90 Sprague.

Oct 12th VA Bingo, 19:00-20:00 at the VA Nursing Unit.

13th MCL/MCLA Meeting, 19:00 @ VFW Post 51.

15th USMC SOS Breakfast at 0900-1100 at VFW Post 51, Open to the public, \$6.00.



On July 15th, **Bill Town** was given the honor of being nominated to go in the Honor Flight this past June. He and 35 other WWII Veterans had a marvelous trip. The Patriot Guard Riders and many well-wishers were on hand to see the Veterans off and returned safely. Here's a picture of the return. If you know of a WWII Veteran that you would like to honor by nominating them for the HONOR FLIGHT, please call Hank at 385-2726.



August Birthdays

Will Bruse
Dan Hefner
Don Peters
Ed Thew

Graham Crutchfield
Jerry Masgai
Joseph Polello
And our Sr. Vice, Pat Rowand

Dale Gough
Thomas Nieberding
Jack Rasmussen



Congrats everyone!!!

MCL Spotlight – Peter Denman



First, let me give you a timeline on the pictures. The first is a before picture. I was a senior in high school wearing the latest style for 1976. The second picture is me fresh out of boot camp standing in my parent's front yard (what a contrast). The third picture is of me at Camp Schwab in Okinawa getting ready to go on maneuvers through some swamps that went up to my neck. The last is from the Mercer Island Half Marathon in 2007.

I joined the Marines in January 1977 at the age of 18. I didn't consult my parents and had told no one until after I had already signed the papers and had an enlistment date in 10 days. I had a

brother-in-law who was telling people that the Marines were too tough and I would never survive boot camp (he was Army Reserve). I used that to push me through boot camp. After I graduated boot camp, he said, that's fine, but, I won't last four years. Once again I proved him wrong. When I left for San Diego, I weighed 191 pounds, when I returned I weighed 156. I walked right up to my mom and siblings in my class A's and they didn't recognize me until I was inches away and smiled.

While at Camp Schwab in Okinawa, a marine from our section was getting ready to go back to the states, so, we had going away party for him. We went into Henoko (affectionately referred to as Hooterville) to pick up supplies (gallon bottle, sake, tropical juices, and Styrofoam cups). That evening we went to the outskirts of Hooterville to celebrate. We mixed up the "mojo". I had never had mojo before, you can't taste the alcohol in it and it doesn't hit you until after you start walking around. The more you walk around, the more it hits you. We wandered into the bar district where I commenced to pass out outside one of the bars. I was helped back to the barracks where I was dropped onto my rack. We were woke up at 0500 the next morning to run five miles in formation. It was a tough five miles, but, I finished still in formation.

The Corps is responsible for my love of running today. About a month ago I was unloading a patient from my van at work. He said, "you were in the military, weren't you?" I told him I had been in the Marines and he said it shows in my mannerisms and how I go about doing things. "Once A Marine, Always A Marine." 😊

Pete

Editor's note: Pete recently finished 3rd in his age group for a marathon. Pretty impressive!

New from the Auxiliary and VA BBQs

VA Picnics

The Auxiliary has scheduled BBQ on **Saturday, August 20**

Need 10-15 people to help. 3-4 people to cook the hamburgers and hotdogs and the rest to serve the food on the line and assist any patients. I will purchase the food and kitchen will complete the prep work for us.



Ship's Store Items

For those who were unable to make it to the Department Convention, the Department Ship's Store will be at the August BBQ for your shopping pleasure. Stop by, I'm sure there is something you just can't get along without.

TIDBITS FROM OTTER

OHHRAH!!!

I can't believe that we are into August already! Summer barely got here and it's gone. I hope all of you got to BBQ a few times or even got to the lake. Whatever it is that you like to do; DO IT!!! That's what you fought so hard for during your time. That's what our troops are fighting for now. I hate to remind everyone of this, but it appears that everyone is watching life go by instead of joining it. We need you to join us at events.



Please consider the efforts of your MCL leaders and volunteers. We do this because we care. Come out of your house once a month or every other month. Reach out and talk to your fellow member. You will be surprised to know that we have a lot in common besides being a part of this fine Detachment.

Respectfully,

Otter
998-9031

Member Mike Maehl submits the following story from a friend...

Hey Bill, Hope all is well. I have some down time, so I am checking mail before I hit my rack and figured I'd drop a line and to tell everyone I said hello. I also wanted to tell you something that I had the honor to witness about a few weeks or so ago. Over here I have the unfortunate duty to send Soldiers, Airman, Sailors and Marines that have paid the expensive price for another person's freedom home. In my short time here, far too many of them were sent home this way. Each time we send our fallen warriors home we give a small "dignified ceremony" where a few hundred brothers and sisters-in-arms pay respect as they are loaded onto the aircraft. I hate to say this but it's a tremendous sight, and even though this is a NATO base it's not only Americans in the ceremony.

Having to manage the upload of the rest of the cargo after the ceremony was complete, I heard and saw something that will stick with me my rest of my life. As I began to work with the loadmaster, we had to reposition the transfer cases of four of our fallen, one Air Force, one Army and two Marines. The only people left on the plane were the two loadmasters, two Army Sergeants who work for mortuary affairs, a handful of Marines, and myself.

As we are getting ready to move the cases, the highest ranking Marine, a Staff Sergeant, asked if he they could help. The loadmaster told him where they had to be moved. The Staff Sergeant turned and told his guys what to do. As they were getting ready to move the flag-covered transfer cases, the Staff Sergeant barked out: "make sure you put the Marines next to each other."

After they put the fallen Marines in place, each Marine saluted the fallen and walked off. That floored me! Out of all the other times I had to do this, I never had any other unit make sure that not only one of their own was not by themselves but to show them so much respect with a farewell salute. I have always heard once a Marine always a Marine, and I see it from friends like yourself and others I know, but at that moment I saw its true meaning. I have never seen another that moving since then.

I have always had respect for the Marines and in retrospect I should have joined the Marines when I first came into the service, this just shows me that the title of U.S. Marine is more than just that title and there is no other profession, no other career, no other unit that compares. I love my Air Force, I understand the need for the Army and Navy but I respect the Marines.

I just needed to tell someone that and no one else here understands this and I knew you would. Talk to you soon.

Ray

These are recent pictures from our many events.



Pvt. Sturmer is remembered.



Chaplain Town before the flight.
Commandant Hank there to send him off.



This is the new flag shirt
Get yours now! \$15.00.



The short sleeve version.



The long sleeve version \$18.00.



It was a packed airport for the
last honor flight.



Hank welcomes Walt Mabe to the Det.



Dick & Donna Jamieson on coffee duty.

In case you haven't seen it, here is BGen Smith's Marmaluke Sword used for the Birthday Cake Cutting.



Hello Marines!

BBQ, BBQ, BBQ!!! Yes I said BBQ! This is for everyone that is a member and their family. You are encouraged to bring a friend or even a member that we haven't seen in a while. Share a ride! RSVP please by the 7th. We always take volunteers to help set-up, serve or clean-up.

Thanks ☺

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Brown

Jr. Vice Commandant

(509) 599-3456

maestroSemperFi@q.com



Auxiliary News Update...

The Ladies of the Auxiliary are going to have a friendly Tea Party on the 17th of Sept. Please invite your wife to this Grand Event. They serve a mean cup of tea and treats. This will happen after the SOS Breakfast. No Charge! Any questions can be directed to:

Lori Ott, Jr. Vice President, MCLA Unit #305

509-998-9030

otterpops.ott@gmail.com



The picture below says it all; Chaplain Bill Town out on the town... Yakima that is ☺ This was taken on the Dept. of WA's Convention weekend.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AUGUST 2011	Aug 1 MCL	Aug 2 MCL	Aug 3 MCL	Aug 4 MCL & Set-up Coffee Stop @ East Bound 22:00	Aug 5 MCL & Coffee Stop @ East Bound	Aug 6 MCL & Coffee Stop @ East Bound
7	8	9	10 BINGO @ VA 19:00	11 MCL/MCLA BBQ @ 18:00	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 1030-1:30 BBQ @ VA Nursing Unit
21 Set-up Coffee Stop @ West Bound 22:00	22 Coffee Stop @ West Bound	23 Coffee Stop @ West Bound	24 Coffee Stop @ West Bound	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SEPT 2011			_____	1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6	7	8 MCL/MCLA @ 19:00	9	10 MODD Growl @ Terry's on Trent 08:00-10:00
11	12	13	14 BINGO @ VA 19:00	15	16	17 USMC Breakfast @ 09:00-11:00 \$6.00 Open to Public TBA MCLA Tea Party...Location TBA
18 Set-up Coffee Stop @ East Bound 22:00	19 Coffee Stop @ East Bound	20 Coffee Stop @ East Bound	21 Coffee Stop @ East Bound	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



This is a picture from a few years ago...Not sure of the event, however, these guys were dressed to impress. As Past Commandants, they stand proud to be a part of this Detachment. (Left to Right): Tom Jamieson, Tom LaVigne, Bailey Reynolds, Don Crain, and Art Stelting. Semper Fidelis!



**Return services requested:
Marine Corps League
Melvin M. Smith Detachment
300 West Mission Avenue
Spokane, WA 99201-2366**

