



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
MELVIN M. SMITH DETACHMENT #586
MCL AUXILIARY UNIT #305
JIM CHAMBERLAIN POUND #185
SPOKANE, WA
JANUARY, 2012
Editor: Randy "Otter" Ott



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

OUR COMMANDANT'S CORNER

**6,539 Toy requests filled
23,845 children**

Approximately 166,915 Toys distributed

**Our Detachment raised over \$5,100 at our
Annual Toys for Tots Spaghetti Dinner.**

I thank each of our many volunteers for the INCREDIBLE 2011 T4Ts Campaign!!! GySgt Shumate took charge and made things happen. Sgt Plute ran a tight warehouse as well. The community support was outstanding as the volunteers came from everywhere to help. First, we had the Salvation Army step up and take the vast majority of our toy requests during Tom's Turkey Drive in conjunction with the 2nd Harvest Food bank.

**Semper Fi!
Hank**





New Year's Greetings Marines!

Christmas greetings from Tucson, Arizona. We are enjoying the weather and I am working every day on the front desk at the Pima County Sheriff's Dept. An article in the Leatherneck caught my attention. It was about the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff SgtMaj Bryan Battaglia, USMC. He is the 2nd SgtMaj to be appointed. The first was Command Sergeant Major William J. Gainey. Joe was appointed by Gen Peter Pace, USMC. Joe was my classmate at the US Army Sergeants Major Academy. Judi needed our car to drive to the hospital where she worked so Joe picked me up every day. We remain good friends to this day. Admiral Mullins invited Judi and me to Ft. Meyers, VA for Joe's retirement. We sat just a couple seats over from Gen Peter Pace. SgtMaj Battaglia will do us proud. Semper Fi. Have a happy new year!

Jim Bennett
Jr. Past Commandant
509-701-3829
KE7ZPF

Semper Fi

Wreaths Across America donated Christmas Wreaths to the National Veterans Cemeteries across America. At Noon on December 10, 2011, Jr. Vice, Jim Brown helped lay wreaths on the graves of our local fallen Veterans at the Eastern Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake, WA.





From the dining room table at Doug's, (no desk in Yuma, living primitive)

Started off the snow bird season trying to attend the Territorial Detachment's meeting, they must have known I was in the area as they changed the meeting day and I missed it. Did have a couple beers with the Adjutant since he was at the Legion for the Thursday night dinner. Things are fine down here I am trying to shoot a couple of days a week and Linda is scheduling doctor appointments on shooting days to prevent my practice time. The shoulder must be healing as I can now hold up the rifle while shooting standing. Can't put upward pressure on my elbow yet so standing is the game.

For those who shot the MCL postal match the final results are not yet out. Many shot the pistol match but the rifle attendance was down. One team DQ'ed for not following the correct course of fire.

The orange crop is small (fewer oranges) this year probably due to the frost last January. Doesn't hurt my feelings to much if I have fewer to pick. Will probably lose another tree in the spring, not much fruit on it now and Linda says "take it out". Navel oranges are being picked now, but we have Valencia's so I don't have to pick until March.

For those who listened to my Yuma hot rod saga all summer, the chrome shop fired some of the help and the new management called me to come and get the parts that were supposed to be ready last spring. The call came the day before I was heading to the court house to file a small claims action against them, already had the paper work filled out.

**Semper Fi, Doug
cell # (509) 951-3143**

January's Birthdays



**Jim Fuller (5th)
Larry Bennett (21st)**

**Jim Stailey (12th)
Mike Hume (23rd)**

**George Barnett (14th)
Dave Hamm (27th)**

Congratulations Marines!



We held our ?? Annual Toys for Tots Spaghetti Dinner. Our many volunteers made this event incredible and memorable. After all the dishes were done, no leftovers to sell, raffle tickets drawn/awarded, auction items cleared and toys delivered, we raised over \$5,100.00 for this year's Campaign. THANK YOU!!!

Our Extended Toys Family



Our servers doing a great job!



We had a packed VFW



These are pictures from the 2011 Toys for Tots Spaghetti Dinner

The raffle/auction was a hit!



The spaghetti was AWESOME!



So many prizes to choose from?



A HEARTY thank you to our dedicated members that have given and given over the past years. Specifically, Marine Don Crain & Thrine Crain for this is the 27th year of their dedication. We appreciate all that you've done Mr. & Mrs. Crain!

Others that have a long time in the T4Ts trenches include:

Bill Town, Jim Studabaker, Jim Eggers, Walt McKee, Pat Rowand, Norm Sanborn and Manny Esparza.

New faces this year include: Marcus Poulin, TJ Morgan, Bill Bean, Tom Quinn. .

Sick List

The usual suspects are doing their usual best as can be expected. Since returning from her travels, Ann Whitney has been having problems with her legs and wishes everyone well at Toys for Tots since she was unable to volunteer this year. She was greatly missed by all. Chaplain Town has been extremely busy with his volunteer time at the Police station and Toys for Tots, but he has talked with everyone on the list.

Marine Corps League Minutes for December 8, 2011

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

Introduction of Dignitaries: Appropriately held with the following Past Commandants present: Dennis Dressler, Randy Ott, and Dick Jamieson. National Officers present were PDD Dennis Dressler and PDD Randy Ott. All Marine of the Year recipients were properly recognized.

Introduction of Guests: Introduced guests were: PFC Shane Morgan, son of TJ Morgan; Joe Sullivan, and Steven Ashworth. They shared their bios.

Quorum of Board of Trustees (Elected Officers) Present: YES

Application(s) for Membership: Verified and accepted the DD214s and applications for PFC Shane Morgan, Joe Sullivan and Steven Ashworth; and Joe Sullivan applied for a life membership. The three were voted into and sworn-in as new members.

Presentation of Life Memberships: None.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Minutes from the November meeting were published online and posted. Motion to accept the minutes as published from Dennis Dressler, seconded by Bryan Smith. Motion Carried.

Correspondence: Commandant shared about the Naval Museum at the Reserve Center and how they are sharing it outside of their regular hours with large groups.

Report of Adjutant/Paymaster: A full November report was given and a report was turned into the Officers. Balance in the accounts and membership are in a healthy status. Membership is at 117. Judge Advocate O'Flaherty motioned to accept as read. Seconded by Bryan Smith. Motioned carried.

Report of Sickness/Distress: Chaplain Town reported on our many members and their statuses, specifically Past Commandant Art Stelting and Ann Whitney. Doc Kaltenbaugh is recovering from minor surgery and will be back cooking in no time. He shared the following passings: Herb G. Gerkin, 91; Holder D. Wright, 88; Robert W. Hopkins, 76.

Reports of Elected Officers: Sr. Vice Rowand passed about the Battery's need for MCL help with events. Red blazers would be preferred, but dress appropriately.

Reports of Standing Committees: **VAVS**—Chaplain Town asked for help to set up the Christmas trees at the VA Nursing Unit in the first part of December. Also, the MCL/MCLA BBQ at the nursing unit on Jan. 10th, please show up by 1030. Retirements will be happening at the VA within the Volunteer Department. They will be having a lunch Feb 4th for a going away. Sen. Patty Murray is on the side of veterans in getting the help they need faster in Washington as we are last in speed of service.

Membership—Updates needed if you move. **Awards**—Randy and Dennis shared about the upcoming deadlines for Department Marine of the Year submissions as well as other awards that can be nominated by anyone in the Detachment.

the info turned in before the 20th of the month and it will get into print.

Newsletter—Get

Coffee Stop—

None. **Calling Committee**—None.

Reports of Special Committees: **Funeral Details**—No notes.

Memorial Day—

Chairman Ott asked for members to think of guest speakers for the committee to vet. Some names given: New Mayor David Condon, Mike Baumgartner, Mark Peterson. He also asked for new committee members.

Americanism—Work in progress with Marcus Poulin stepping forward to work on the 2011/2012 History. Marcus shared some of the work he has been involved with WWI

history. **Homeless Vets**—No report. **Veterans Court**—update from the Commandant on mentors needed for the court. The court is doing well, but needs support for the young Vets. **BSA**—No report.

Old Business: Toys for Tots Campaign info was shared by Sr. Vice & Commandant.

New Business: Gene Zanck asked the membership to consider having some time during the meeting for a guest speaker or sharing time of members' stories/histories. So considered by the Commandant and asked Gene to share his story. We learned the Gene tried to get in before he was 17. He joined in Feb 1945, then served in China after the Japanese surrender. Dennis shared about why we have meetings and we need to make sure we cover business first, then have this event. Norm Sanborn asked about the Detachment History book. Updates are happening. Sgt-At-Arms Esparza suggested that all members come early/stay late to the meeting area to also be social. This will be done under Good of the League in January.

Good of the League: Spaghetti Dinner Tickets were available at the meeting for sale.

Ceremony of Installation of Officers: N/A.

Announcements: BBQ at the VA on Jan 10th at 10:30. Volunteers needed. Meeting on the 12th at 19:00. Brunch will be held on Jan 14th at VFW Post 51 from 1000 to 1300 for \$7.00. Our T4Ts Spaghetti Dinner reminder on December 9, 2011 at 4:30-8pm at VFW Post 51. A Christmas Wreath laying Ceremony will be held 12-10-11 at the Eastern WA's Veterans' Cemetery at 12:00 pm. All are invited to attend.

Closing Ceremony: Appropriate with a moment of silence was held.

Next Meeting: 1900 on January 12, 2012.

Present at Meeting: Members (24)

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Ott

Adjutant/Paymaster

Notes worth passing on...

We've got an electric wheelchair available through an estate my wife worked with. It cost \$7,000 new and the estate is seeking a \$1,500 donation slip for the family trust being handled by a bank. The VA hospital cannot take it for whatever reason. I would like it to go to a vet, especially an OIF/OEF vet. It is in our storage unit across from Fred Meyers on N. Division. It is heavy and would need to be picked up. Any MCL members that could use it? Thanks.

Frank Thompson.... If you are interested, call Randy Ott and he will pass your info onto Frank.

Please keep this Marine and family in your thoughts...

We have a link to a Marine who was severely injured in Afghanistan. His name is Nick and he's fortunate to be alive but will be a triple amputee due to his injuries. She's asked for people to pray for them and to write letters or cards to him and his mom (Julie). Feel free to write to either of them and mail them to the

addresses: CPL Kimmel, Nick (USMC)

Walter Reed National Military Med Ctr

8901 Rockville Pike

Bethesda, MD 20889-5600

Julie Graham

c/o Laura Roog

1146 Rd. C NE

Moses Lake, WA 98837



***This Month in History
Selected Dates of Marine Corps
Historical Significance***



1 January 2012: President Obama has ended combat ops in Iraq with the withdrawal of all U.S. Troops. We continue the fight in Afghanistan and our many other World Wide endeavors.

10 January 1995: The Pentagon announced that 2,600 U.S. Marines would be deployed to Somalia for Operation United Shield to assist in the final withdrawal of UN peacekeeping troops from Somalia. The decision came in response to a UN request for American protection of its peacekeeping forces serving in the war-torn African nation.

11 January 1945: The first elements of Marine Aircraft Group 24, commanded by Colonel Lyle H. Meyer, landed at Lingayen, Luzon, Philippine Islands, to provide close air support for Army forces. Over the next three months, MAG-24 and MAG-32 would fly a total of 8,842 combat sorties and drop more than 19,000 bombs as part of the Fifth Air Force in support of the Sixth Army.

16 January 1991: Operation Desert Shield became Operation Desert Storm as forces of the allied coalition launched an all-out air campaign against targets in Iraq and occupied Kuwait in an effort to liberate Kuwait and enforce the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. Overall, in the theater of operations, the coalition forces included more than 415,000 U.S. troops.

18 January 1951: Marines of the 1st Marine Division began mopping-up operations against guerrillas in the Pohang area, South Korea, following the Division's return from its epic battle with Communist Chinese troops at the Chosin (Changjin) Reservoir.

20 January 1968: The second battle for Khe Sanh began when Marines from the 3d Battalion, 26th Marines attacked a North Vietnamese battalion between Hill 881 South and Hill 881 North. More than 100 of the enemy were killed.

21 January 1918: The 1st Aeronautical Company arrived at Ponta Delgada, Azores, for anti-submarine duty. That unit was one of the first completely equipped American aviation units to serve overseas in World War I.

22 January 1969: Operation Dewey Canyon, perhaps the most successful high-mobility regimental-size action of the Vietnam War, began in the A Chau/Da Krong Valleys when the 9th Marines, commanded by Colonel Robert H. Barrow, and supporting artillery were lifted from Quang Tri. By 18 March the enemy's base area had been cleared out, 1617 enemy dead had been counted, and more than 500 tons of weapons and ammunition unearthed.

25 January 1856: Marines and seamen from the U.S. sloop DECATUR went ashore at the village of Seattle, Washington, to protect settlers from Indian raids. The Indians launched a seven-hour attack but were driven off later that day after suffering severe losses. Incredibly, only two civilian volunteers were killed and no Marines or sailors were lost.

27 January 1988: About 400 Marines and sailors from the 2d Marine Division, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, and 2d Force Service Support Group deployed for the Persian Gulf. The Contingency Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) CM 2-88 would relieve Contingency MAGTF 1-88 in the volatile Persian Gulf and provide the effective landing force capability to Joint Task Force Middle East.

29 January 1991: The first serious ground fighting of Operation Desert Storm broke out when Iraqi troops mounted an attack into Saudi Arabia along a 40-mile front. Iraqi units centered their efforts on Khafji, a port city six miles south of the border. Saudi and Quatari troops, supported by artillery from the 1st Marine Division and attack helicopters and other allied coalition aircraft, recaptured the town two days later.



Some stories for you reading pleasure. If you want to share a story, please submit it before the 20th of each month for the next month's newsletter.

HEY ALL YOU GO GREEN MEMBERS!!!

Bring your washed & crushed aluminum cans to the monthly meeting!!!
Sgt-At-Arms Esparza and Sr. Vice Rowand will collect them and turn the money into our Relief Fund!!! ☺☺☺Thank you☺☺☺

Marine Toys For Tots Foundation



With a lot of sweat and team work, the warehouse was ready to rock n roll.



Taylor Ott helps Aaron & Grant Dahl to get started filling toy requests. We had incredible volunteers this year.



The Spokane Chiefs Hockey Team supported us with the Teddy Bear Toss and barrels at the gates for some of their home games before Christmas. The Toss brought in over 5,600 stuffed animals. We get a small portion of those and the rest go to other worthy causes in the region.



The Salvation Army stepped up and helped our cause this year, so we supported them at their "Red Kettle" Kick-Off. (l-r) "Doc" Kaltenbaugh, Randy Ott, Jennie, GySgt Wiese, GySgt Shumate, Peter, Hank Melanson, Dick Jamieson.

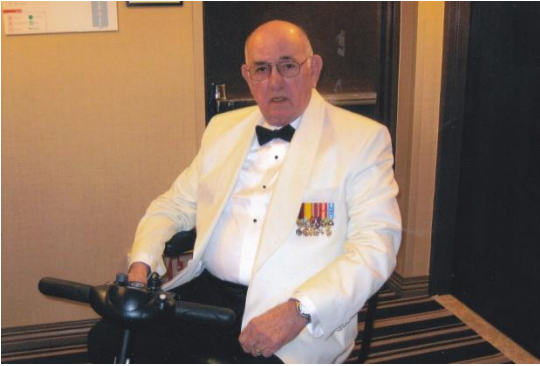
Member Profiles for January

Capt. Joe Burch, USMC Retired, has held 13 ranks: E-1 thru E-7, W-1 thru W-3, and O-1 thru O-3. One more tidbit: He marched in the inaugural parade for President Truman in 1949. Stay tuned for more on Capt Burch as Doug is out of town and has Joe's complete Bio. My apologies on that.

Semper Fi

Joe Burch

Capt. USMC (Retired)



(Left Photo) Our first Commandant, Tom LaVigne joins the breakfast crowd and chums it up with our current Commandant, Hank Melanson.

Life Member, Bill Borses dressed to impress in an undated USMC Photo.



(L-R): PFC Shane Morgan, Joe Sullivan, Stephen Ashworth are sworn-in by Commandant Hank Melanson.

OHHRAH!!!

Our Auxiliary was busy in November & December

Here are a few photos from the “stocking” stuffing at the Nursing Home on the 20th. Perhaps some might be good for the newsletter. The League and Auxiliary each spent \$300 to obtain the gloves and handkerchiefs that go into the stockings and are given to veterans in the hospital, nursing home, state veteran’s home and to homeless vets through veterans outreach programs. Also, for the newsletter: Volunteers are needed on Tuesday January 10th to serve the patient picnic at the VA. Volunteers should plan on arriving between 10 and 10:30. Let Bill or Sam know if they are going to attend. Have a wonderful holiday.



Spirits were high because of our decorating crew and the trees. One in the Hospice Unit & the other upstairs in the main hospital.



Judge Advocate Mike O'Flaherty has been an incredible volunteer at the VAMC. Way to go Mike! Thank you!



The Auxiliary & Detachment donated \$600 to give gifts of gloves, socks and hats for our veterans.

USMC "Breakfast"

(Saturday)

January 14, 2012

10:00 a.m. to 12 Noon



\$7.00

USMC "S.O.S."

Pancakes

Bacon, Sausage

Hashbrowns

Coffee, Milk, OJ

Laughter &

Camaraderie!

**All you
can
eat!**

Join Us!

(VFW, Post 51 ... 300 W. Mission)

Open to the Public!

FEBRUARY'S CALENDAR

- 1 _____
- 2 Ground Hog's Day...Come on Spring
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 VA Bingo @ 1900
- 9 MCL/MCLA Mtg 1900 @ VFW 51
- 10 _____
- 11 _____
- 12 _____
- 13 _____
- 14 _____
- 15 _____
- 16 _____
- 17 _____
- 18 _____
- 19 _____
- 20 _____
- 21 _____
- 22 _____
- 23 _____
- 24 _____
- 25 _____
- 26 _____
- 27 _____
- 28 _____
- 29 _____

Please support/patronize the following Restaurants due to their incredible support of lunch/food at the Toys for Tots Warehouse. (no particular order)

Dick's Hamburgers

Five Guys Burgers & Fries

Whiskey Dick's Irish Pub & Grill

Domino's Pizza (Alberta @ Rowan, and E. Wellesley)

Five Mile Heights Pizza

Aloha Grill

Kentucky Fried Chicken

Applewood Smokehouse Catering

Ron's Drive-In (Valley)

Zips' (Valley & Airway Heights)

Taco Time (on Francis & Airway Heights)

Applebee's (Newport Hwy)

Little Caesar's Pizza (N. Market)

O'Doherty's Irish Grille (Newport Hwy)

DeLeon's Mexican Deli

McDonalds (Monroe)

Wendy's Spokane

Bruchis Sandwiches

Pizza Hut

Das Stein Haus

Boston's Gourmet Pizza

D'Lish Hamburgers

Olive Garden (Newport Hwy)

Chili's (Northtown Mall)

Europa Restaurant & Bakery

Dairy Queen (Pines)

Pizza Hut (Cheney)

Burger King (Division)

Franz Bakery

JANUARY'S CALENDAR

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____
- 9 _____
- 10 **VA BBO Lunch @ 1030-1300**
- 11 **VA Bingo @ 1900**
- 12 **MCL/MCLA Mtg 1900 @ VFW 51**
- 13 _____
- 14 **Breakfast at VFW 51 10-12 \$7.00**
- 15 _____
- 16 _____
- 17 _____
- 18 _____
- 19 _____
- 20 _____
- 21 **MODD Pound Growl 8am-10 @ TBD**
- 22 _____
- 23 _____
- 24 _____
- 25 _____
- 26 _____
- 27 _____
- 28 **Toys 4 Tots Thank You Dinner TBA**
- 29 _____
- 30 _____
- 31 _____

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

