



Frank Spicklemire American Legion

POST 60 NEWS

LEGION OFFICERS

Commander
Jack Knoblock

1st Vice Commander
Mike Keithly

2nd Vice Commander
John Pearson

Finance Officer
Wes Hardin

Adjutant
Ken Charles

Service officer
Terry O'Keeffe

Sgt at Arms
Ed Bulgin

Chaplin
Jack Creason

Members at Large
John Ernsberger
Mike Waite

AUXILIARY

President
Sandy Knoblock

Vice President
Donna Rushby

Secretary
De Leah Eavenson

Treasurer
Jan West

Sgt at Arms
Emily Sullivan

Chaplain
Reina Pearson

We look forward to seeing you at the Legion Dinners held on Fridays at the Legion Hall:

Bar opens: 5pm
Dinner: 6:30pm

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER:

This Newsletter opens a new day and fulfills one of my goals as Commander. Since having been given the privilege to serve as your Commander and surrounded by an outstanding team much has been accomplished. We have welcomed 18 new members and have seen the return of members who have not been engaged with the Post for some time. Friday Nights continue to be a catalyst for both new members and community support. Individuals and organizations continue to utilize our facility for meetings and catered events. After all, we still put out the best meal in town!

We have continued to upgrade our post by installing fans throughout the building in order to help reduce winter heating needs and improve summer ventilation. With a program provided by Idaho Power, we installed improved lighting to help reduce our electrical cost. In addition to our planned quarterly Newsletter, beginning on the 1st of February you will be able to access our Post via the web by logging on to www.post60news.com. Wes Hardin and Mike Waite as part of our Communication Committee are working to bring the latest information via the web to members of the Post and community. In regard to the Communication Committee, I would like to thank Robin Miller and Jan West for their vital input and expertise to bring this publication to you.

Also in 2009, your Post helped host The National Guard Family Retreat. Once again the Ladies Auxiliary led-off Cascade's Annual 4th of July parade. The Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts continue to utilize the posts for their meetings. We held our annual Oratorical contest and sent one student to Boys State. We were once again invited to share our experiences as vets with the students of Cascade School. We participated in Cascade Medical Center's fundraising Golf Tournament. In a continued need to fulfill our commitment to our Veterans and community we conducted four funerals and two memorial services.

Recently Mike Keithly took on the job of going through the many years of legion files and records. There was a lot of history locked up in those files and records. We hope that a legionnaire with an interest in the Post History will take on the position as Post Historian.

There are goals not yet realized that I hope to achieve during my remaining term such as bringing our SAL (Sons of American Legion) Squadron together as a more organized part of the legion family. We continue to seek ways to recognize those community members that support our organization. As part of a long standing issue with the City of Cascade, we are working to resolve the Legion's property title.

As Post Commander I want to insure that the membership always feel that this is their post and that the leadership is open to their suggestions. The Communication Committee welcomes articles for inclusion in future newsletters. It should be noted that in order to keep the cost down on the newsletter, future issues will be sent via email to those who normally receive Legion info by that means. If you are not currently receiving email from the Legion we encourage you to provide your email to the post.

Remember, an organization is only as good as its members, and their participation.

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT:

Let me begin by saying thank you for electing me to serve as your President. Particular thanks goes to Lana Marie for her guidance; Joan Peele for all her years of dedicated service; and the elected officers for your support. (continued on page 2)

“WE CAME BACK...AND WE LOVE IT!” by George Greenfield

This is how Ray Brown, his wife Terri and their children feel about “retiring” to Long Valley. After 21+ years Ray decided to leave the Army for an opportunity to spend more time with his family. During his military career he spent more than half the time out of the states, much of it separated from his family as he served his country with four tours in Iraq.

“This was a really tough decision” says Ray. “I loved the service. As a young kid I played army. And, in third grade, started reading about the military...everything I could get my hands on about WWII history.

Ray grew up in Cascade, met his future wife, Terri, in second grade, attended school here, and played local sports including football, softball, and ran track. Ray and Terri started dating in high school and went to the prom together. They have been married 21 years and have four children. Terri’s dad was a police officer here in Cascade and “pulled” Ray over a few times to ask, “Are you coming over for dinner tonight?”

Ray joined the army when he was 17 and started serving at 18. Terri also served in the military as an MP. “This experience really helped us when Ray was away serving in Iraq,” says Terri. Having served in the military, Terri understood what Ray was facing, knew the drill, and was able to help out many of the younger wives and families as they faced separation while their husbands were deployed to Iraq. She came to be known as ‘Mom’ to many families in Germany.

Ray’s first deployment to Iraq was in the Gulf War in 1990 with his last finishing up in 2009. He served as a Combat Engineer and saw big differences in the country over that time; especially in security, infrastructure, and communication. During his last tour he saw the Iraqi country start to work...the military and police were beginning to lead. Iraqi nationals came out in droves to support the U.S.

For Terri, the deployments were always tough, but “you adjust. They were very nerve wracking...you wait for the letters.” It got better toward the end as phones and the internet made it possible to connect more easily. A few times they even enjoyed video conferencing. “There were come long days!” says Terri. (continued on page 3)

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT: (continued from page 1)

It has been a busy and exciting year with several new members joining our ranks. Our new members have brought new skills and energy—helping us to continue our mission to the Veterans, youth, and community with their 100% support of the American Legion.

With the help of Mrs. G, Kay, Emily, and our donated bake goodies, our Poppy & Bake Sales were a success. In June we finally established an “Adopt a Veteran” program through the VA Veterans Home. Several of our ladies started making blankets at Jan’s house to fill a need for our Santa Project. Sheri established “The Kids Winter Needs Project,” coordinating that effort through Cascade School. Our “Pie raffle” (you know whose pies!) continues to be a big hit for our Friday Night Social. Monies gleaned from our pie raffle have allowed us to make Friday Night Dining one to be proud of. One of our finest moments was the opportunity to once again march in the Annual Cascade 4th of July Parade.

I believe with the introduction of our newsletter, and I might add, the talents of Robin Miller and Jan West as part of the Communication Committee, the “Post 60 News” will be a great addition to our Unit. I have been told they are seeking your favorite recipes to include in the newsletter—as most of you know, you won’t see one from me!

I would like to thank my Auxiliary Sisters for making Peggy’s Memorial Service as special as she was, and always will be. A special thanks goes to Gayle for putting together the perfect memories of Peggy’s life. Thank you Lana Marie & DeLeah for the lovely flower arrangements. I am so proud to be a part of such a great group of ladies.

NEW LEGION MEMBERS (SINCE MAY 2009): Walter Pearson, Zebulon Dimmett (active duty), David Russell, William Lytle, Richard Owens, Bret Stauts, Jeffrey Bitkioff, Bill Groats, Raymond Brown, Vincent Maberto, Rod Miller, Tom Simrak, Terry Moore, Bob Bills, Eric Shields (active duty), Aaron Helmick, Ezekie Loseke (active duty), James Hankins.

NEW AUXILIARY MEMBERS (SINCE MAY 2009): Ginny Ernsberger, Dianne O’Keefe, Jana Wickham, Beth Amos, Robin Stauts, Louise Peterson, Lynn Robinson, Robin Miller, Jennifer Hardin, Arlene Kropf

IN MEMORIAM:

Robert Remaklus, Jack McGee, Robert (Bob) Chunn, Past Commander, Peggy Charles, Auxiliary Treasurer





KID'S CHRISTMAS PARTY 2010

Santa came to the Legion on December 20, 2009, along with about 140 children and their parents. Santa (Joe Posluszny), Mrs. Claus (Gail Greenfield), and Grandma Claus (Helen Posluszny) made this a special community event, with the help of the Elves (Joe & Helen's son and granddaughters), and nearly two dozen Legion members.

Children as young as 13 days old all the way to 15 years old were treated to a conversation and photo with Santa, a present, a bag of candy, stories and songs with Grandma Claus and lots of cookies and hot chocolate. Nineteen children also received double layer fleece blankets made by Auxiliary members.

The event seemed to be more of a family affair this year as families took the time to

visit with neighbors and friends as they ate cookies and drank hot chocolate.

Even in this tough economic year, community members contributed more than 170 presents for children all ages. Legion and Auxiliary members spent hours decorating the hall, sorting and wrapping presents, putting together sacks of candy and insuring that the Santa photos were taken and printed quickly. Thanks to the experience and commitment of Legion members there were no glitches!

Following the event, surplus gifts were shared with local churches and WICAP for immediate distribution. Extra blankets were given to the Sheriff's Office and extra beanie babies were distributed to the Cascade Police Department for encounters with children.



"WE CAME BACK...AND WE LOVE IT!" (continued from page 2)

Terri is proud of Ray...for what he did for the past 21 years in the army. As for Ray, he says, "I still feel like I'm on vacation...some of my bags are not yet unpacked." "I really loved the army and was good at what I did. It was a huge feeling of satisfaction and belonging...they were my family...and it was very hard to turn away from."

It was time to settle down and reconnect with the family. In the past 21 years they have lived in 17 houses with more than 12 years in Germany. While Ray was in Iraq, with the help of modern technology they looked at houses over the internet and found their home in Gold Rush. So here they are in Long Valley. Ray just landed a job with the U.S. Forest Service; the kids are in school and Ray says, "We're happy with where life's headed right now...very happy. It feels great to be cold!"



WHO IS THIS?

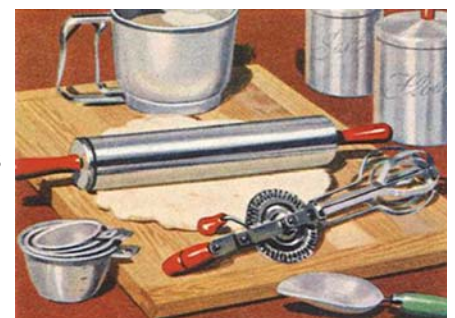
Send your guess to Commander Jack @ knoblockjack@hotmail.com and win a free drink @ Legion! If there is more than one correct guess, there will be a drawing to determine the winner.

REMINDER:

Legion/Auxiliary dues are due now for 2010. Please remit your dues (if you haven't already) to: American Legion/Auxiliary, P.O. Box 984, Cascade, ID 83611
Legion dues = \$40.00 Auxiliary dues = \$25.00
Sons of the Legion dues = \$7.50.00

RECIPE CORNER:

Special notice to all you bakers out there: Jill Marolf from the McCall Chapter of Angelcakescharity.org is looking to establish a group in Cascade. They bake cookies & cakes for special groups, such as homebound seniors and veterans. Jill and her husband will be joining us on February 12th for the Friday night dinner. She will be bringing a Valentine's Cake and Cookies for that night. YUM!



American Legion Hall
105 E. Mill Road / P.O. Box 984
Cascade, Idaho 83611

Phone: 208-382-3694



We're on the Web!
www.post60news.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 6th—Chili Cook-Off

May 8th—Cinco de Mayo Event (includes auction)

*Activities have not yet been formalized at the printing of this publication. Please look to our webpage for recent info.

**We will be sending all future Post 60 Newsletters via email in order to save on postage. If you do not have an email address please notify the Post (anyone on the Communication Committee) in order to continue to receive the newsletter via regular USPS mail. The newsletter will also be available on our new website:
www.post60news.com

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Your Communication Committee welcomes your suggestions for the newsletter. Contact any member of the Committee via phone or email (preferably email).

THIS JUST IN—She's a Winner! - Congratulations to Reina Pearson—she was the winner of the Toshiba Laptop Computer at the American Legion State Winter meeting held on January 16, 2010. Tickets sold were to raise money to help support Boys & Girls State. Look for her picture in the next State Legion Newsletter.

