

Leatherneck News

Upcoming Events

- 2-3 October 2009—Annual Rose Fund Drive
- 3 October 2009—Hamburger Sale, Jasper Rural King 11 AM—1 PM
- 8 October 2009—Marine Family Support Group Meeting, 7 PM Jasper American Legion
- 11 October 2009—18th District Volunteer Firefighters Parade, Haysville. 1 PM
- 12 October 2009—Ball Committee Meets Celestine Community Club, 6 PM
- 15 October 2009—Ball Committee meeting, 6 PM Jasper American Legion
- 15 October 2009—Regular Meeting of the Detachment. Jasper American Legion, 7 PM.
- **17 October 2009—RSVP's Due for Ball!!!**
- 7 November 2009—234th Marine Corps Birthday Ball, Celestine Community Club. Cocktails start at 6 PM.

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Southern Indiana Leatherneck Detachment #931

234th Marine Corps Birthday Ball Tops the Agenda

For some of you, the upcoming Marine Corps Birthday Ball is your first. Perhaps you're wondering how to act, what to wear, and what happens during a ball.

First item is the RSVP. By now all Detachment and Marine Corps Family Support Group members should have received an invitation. If you haven't, contact a Detachment Officer immediately. It is vital to the success of the ball that you place your reservations as soon as possible, but it would definitely be bad form to go past the 17 October deadline. You may invite guests, but as protocol dictates, you are responsible for ensuring they abide by customs and courtesies. Please fill out your attendance forms and get them in!

For as long as the Marine Corps has existed, Marines have celebrated its birthday no matter the clime or place. Whether in garrison (on base) or while deployed, Marines always take time to

wish each other a hearty "Happy Birthday Marine".

In a garrison environment, the Ball is a formal event. For members of the military, the Dress Uniform with Medals is proscribed, but the Mess Dress uniform may be substituted in its place. Non-NCOs who have not been issued Dress Blues wear the Service A uniform. For retirees and other former service members, without a uniform, a black tuxedo with black tie and miniature medals is recommended. Civilian men will normally dress in tuxedo or similar black tie suit. For civilian women, a "formal" is the norm.

The first hour or so of a formal ball is the cocktail hour, during which time guests mingle and meet. Typically, displays of military artifacts, photos and other items are about for examina-

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Parade Season in Full Swing

Fall is always a busy time of year for us as there are a host of celebrations with a mandatory parade. In amongst all of the other activities, the Detachment, with the unfailing support of the Marine Family Support Group, provided a Color Guard, Parade Vehicle and numerous walkers for two parades.

On 20 September, the Town of Holland celebrated their 150th year anniversary, complete with a parade that wound the streets. As is common when a farm animal leads the parade, on foot, some delays were met, allowing copious amounts of rain to fall on participants. Not a dry cover in the house!

Fortunately, the weather and the mascot were more agreeable on the 27th during the Huntingburg Herbsfest Parade. Though cloudy, windy, and cool only an hour before the parade start, parade start time brought sunny skies and nearly perfect, though muggy, conditions.

Sherer Named as Scouting Coordinator

During the regular meeting of the Detachment on 17 September 2009, the Commandant named Dr. Ryan Sherer to head the Detachment's Scouting program. This is an appointed position to which Dr. Sherer accepted with sincere motivation.

A close relationship has always existed between the leader building organization of the Scouts and the Marine Corps League. The Marine Corps League has long regarded the program of the Boy Scouts of America as in support of the Preamble of the Constitution of the League. The League supports the Boy Scouts of America as they promote traditional family values to America's youth. The Marine Corps League participates in Scouting through assistance with units, districts, and councils, in community projects, merit badge programs, and spe-

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Commandant's Corner

Get your Ball Tickets! Enough said, right? Every year we seem to have some who wait until the last minute to make their reservations for the Ball. Don't be one of them!

Myself and the Ball Committee are excited about this year's ball. Our "museum" will focus on the accomplishment of the Detachment and we will have an local enlisted leader for our guest of honor. Having been one of the sets of "boots on the ground" Command Sergeant Major Chris Knies is sure to provide us with a great speech.

We all owe the Ball Committee a round of applause for the work they've done and continue to do to pull this off. This one single evening requires more planning and coordination than just about any of our other events. They've also committed a significant amount of their "off-duty" time towards fund raisers to help defray the ticket

price. To give you an idea, if you were to attend the Ball in Indianapolis, one ticket would cost you \$80. If you only wanted to see the ceremony, no food or drink, it would still cost you \$20. Our member cost of \$30 is a real bargain that can't be beat!

I'm also excited over the kickoff of our Scouting Program thanks to the exuberant motivation of Dr. Ryan Sherer. Ryan jumped in with both feet (and arms) and is ready to rock and roll. Thanks Ryan!

Toys for Tots is just around the corner also. The regular meeting in October would be a good place to find out how and where you can be most useful during this year's campaign.

Last words: Get your Ball Tickets NOW! Semper Fidelis.

Training Course

Over the weekend of 12 and 13 September, Commandants, Senior Vice Commandants, and Junior Vice Commandants gathered from around the state for the kickoff of the Department of Indiana's Professional Development Program. Periods of Instruction tailored to the needs of the top three seats in a detachment were condensed and fed fire-hose style to those in attendance. Subjects ranging from recruitment and retention to uniform regulations and leadership were discussed.

Other topics covered included the duties of elected and appointed officers, ribbons, awards, meetings, and the Marine Corps League Auxiliary. The class on the Auxiliary, given by Department of Indiana Auxiliary President Pat Smith was especially enlightening due to the limited exposure many of us had to the Auxiliary.

According to Department Commandant Russ Eaglin, this training session was only the beginning. Classes beneficial to all positions in the detachments will be offered at the Fall Conference and future Conventions. A training CD, specific to the Department of Indiana is in the final production stages and will be disseminated at the Fall Conference. These training sessions not only broaden the members knowledge base but also help to promote teamwork and camaraderie.



12 September—Marine Barracks, Indianapolis. Detachment Commandants, Senior vice Commandants and Junior Vice Commandants listen attentively to training class.

Scouting (Cont'd)

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cial recognition of Eagle Scouts.

Among the duties of the Scouting Coordinator is to maintain liaison with the Council and Troop Leaders, in this case, the Lincoln Heritage District of the Buffalo Trace Council. This district consists of Dubois, Pike, Perry, Warrick and Spencer counties. In recognition of the leadership training received, the Marine Corps League presents those attaining Eagle Scout an embossed certificate Good Citizenship Award. The common practice is to present the certificate during the Eagle Court of Honor.

It is fitting that our Detachment is able to start this program now. The Boy Scouts of America will celebrate its 100th birthday next year. In 1998, then Secretary of the Navy Dalton recognized the importance of Scouting to the growth of leaders when he said: "I realize that Scouting teaches the same Core Values of Honor, Courage and Commitment that our Navy and Marine Corps hold so dear, and have recently begun to re-emphasize in both training programs and in everyday activities. This emphasis on values and responsibility is what makes Scouts such great Sailors, Marines and American citizens. The Scout Motto, "Be Prepared," is the same motto that I have stressed for our Navy and Marine Corps since I took office in 1993. I am proud to say that we are prepared and also equipped, trained and ready to meet any challenge, anywhere and at any time."

Military.com's Marine Corps Enlistment Benefits section advises:

"Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts: Achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout while in Scouting, you can possibly qualify for advanced rank placement with the Marine Corps. Scouting requires training, loyalty, and discipline and the Marines recognize that as an Eagle scout you have had some of the basics that they will expand upon in boot camp."

The first Eagle Scout presentation will be made on October 11th for Troop 182 in Ireland.

Silent Drill Platoon Performs at Scottsburg by Ed Herzog

Our Marine Corps League Detachment #931 sponsored a bus trip to Scottsburg, IN yesterday, (Sat Sept 18th 2009).

Thirty-two of our members, support group members, and friends rode the bus and were joined by other Detachment members and spouses at the Scottsburg H.S. gymnasium for an exciting precision performance of the Silent Drill Platoon from 8th & Washington Barracks, Washington D.C.

We had the opportunity to speak with many of the individual Drill Platoon members following the performance and talked with them concerning their current duty status and where they would be assigned following the completion of their stint with the platoon.

Among those viewing the performance were a group of approximately sixty newly recruited men and women who will be entering Marine Corps boot camp in the very near future. They were accompanied by some of their recruiters in full dress blue uniform and were indoctrinated into what their future holds in store for

them. Several groups were seen in the outside grassy areas of the gym down on all fours doing pushups by the numbers, as our bus departed the premises. It kind of made some of us a bit home-sick, but yet no-one asked the driver to stop so as to allow us to join in with them, we merely chuckled under our breaths and proceeded onward.

Our itinerary included a stop at the beautiful Scott County 'black granite memorial' honoring all past military veterans of Scott county. This is a remarkable undertaking by a county wide organization made possible mostly by donations from those who truly honor and respect the deeds and accomplishments of those who have honorably served their country in all wars, past and present.

A stop at a nearby Ponderosa steakhouse for a meal together basically completed the days activities in the area and we then proceeded homeward bound.

Labor Day Picnic

Even the threat of rain and thunderstorms couldn't dampen the spirits of Detachment and Marine Family Support Group members in the annual pilgrimage to the Blemker Farm.

On Sunday, September 6th, John and Leanna Blemker once again hosted what's become the annual picnic where members of the Detachment, the Marine Family Support Group and the Tri-State Family Support Group take time to relax together and get to know each other better. Many took advantage of the fishing opportunities afforded by the well-stocked lake which gave up more than 60 pounds of catfish during the afternoon. There was much pole-bending, line-snapping action highly enjoyable whether you were fishing or just watching. By the end of the day, several five gallon buckets were required to

haul off the harvest. Interestingly, not a single person brought a fish for the pot-luck supper. The Detachment send many thanks to John and Leanna once again for their support!



6 September 2009— (Above) The Andersons relax on the dam between battles with the catfish which averaged more than 6 pounds each.

(Left) - A sample stringer of fish, the largest exceeding eight pounds.

Apply
Postage

*Southern Indiana Leatherneck
Detachment #931*

Southern Indiana Leathernecks
Marine Corps League
P.O. Box 184

Once a Marine, Always a Marine

Please deliver to:

WWW.SILDMARINES.COM

234th Birthday Ball (Cont'd)

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tion. During this year's ball, you may expect light background music and/or video presentations. It is extremely bad form to become overly intoxicated or boisterous during cocktail hour. As in past years, a photographer will be on hand to take portraits.

As the cocktail hour ends, the announcer will give a 5 and a 10 minute warning. This is the time to make any necessary stops and make your way to your seats. Once everyone is seated, we'll hear a short message from General Conway, the current Commandant of the Marine Corps. After the Commandant's message, the official ceremony will begin with a salute to our fallen comrades, an opening prayer, presentation of colors, and the cake cutting ceremony. The ceremony at our birthday ball closely follows the ceremony performed by Marines around the world.

Upon conclusion of the official ceremony, dining begins with the choice of Prime Rib or Chicken Cordon Bleu. Served with fine wines from French Lick and followed by birthday cake, the meal tends to provide a stress test of uniform buttons! As the meal concludes, we'll be treated to a speech by this year's guest speaker, Command Sergeant Major Chris Knies.

This year's entertainment will be provided by DJ Chad Lawson. With a wide range of music available, everyone should be able to find something to match their tastes. For those not in the mood to dance, there will be a large display set up, highlighting the many accomplishments of the Detachment since its beginning. Those of you who wish to display items will need to coordinate with a Detachment Officer and arrange for drop-off or pickup of such items.

The Birthday Ball is an important aspect of the Detachment's Charter mission to espouse the traditions of the Marine Corps to the public. It is our opportunity to show the public unfamiliar with the Corps what being a Marine means. It is our chance to show ourselves at our best and to help others comprehend the true meaning of esprit de corps.

October 17th is the deadline for ticket purchase. All members are expected to actively promote the ball as the event of the year that it is. Semper Fi.

Detachment Officers:

Commandant:

Dave Englert 812-357-2792

Senior Vice Commandant:

Patrick Moriarty 812-695-5061

Chaplain

John Wagner 812-683-4997

Jr. Vice Commandant /Membership

Ed Herzog 812-695-3115

Paymaster and Web Sergeant

Tina Moriarty 812-695-5061

Adjutant

Dennis Englert 812-482-2987

Judge Advocate

Chad Mehringer

Public Affairs Officer

Steve Lindauer 812-634-9685

Sgt. at Arms

Allen Fritz 812-683-2192

Historian

Pat O'Keefe

Quartermaster

Steve Wagner 812-482-5724

Scouting Coordinator

Ryan Sherer 812-631-0006