



# Semper Fi Gazette

## Saturday Morning Joe

*Our Koffee Klatch and Happy Hour*



*John L'Abbe on the left and Roy Jost at February's Happy Hour*

Early Saturday morning they start converging on Quinn's Restaurant, on Vista Avenue, some arriving even before the doors open. Coffee, breakfast, and swapping old war stories among other topics of interest, are the order of the day. The Koffee Klatch and Happy Hour may be one of our oldest traditions for the Treasure Valley Detachment Marine Corps League. First suggested by our first Commandant Mike Me-

ade and Robert Daly the Koffee Klatch started in 1995, about six months later Art Jackson suggested that we have a breakfast with the ladies, this started the Happy Hour, these two events have lasted throughout our detachment's twelve-year history.

The Happy Hour is quite an affair; the ladies and guests are present and accounted for. When we had it at Mike's Restaurant, we pretty well

### Treasure Valley Detachment Marine Corps League

#### Leadership:

<b>Commandant</b>	
Ken Ohls	208-344-4329
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<b>Senior Vice Commandant:</b>	
Rich Erickson	208-562-0498
<b>Junior Vice Commandant:</b>	
Arnie Strawn	208-454-8295
<b>Judge Advocate:</b>	
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<b>Adjutant/Paymaster</b>	
Ralph Elston	208-853-7344
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Bill Johnson	208-384-1844

took over the dinning room for our breakfast. With one long table spanning the width of the dinning area of Mike's now it is in the shape of a horseshoe in the largest dinning area at Quinn's. Conversation runs rampant from one end of the table to the other. It is a good way to meet the wives of the Marine members of the detachment and have a good breakfast and a good time as well.



## TREASURE VALLEY DETACHMENT MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

DETACHMENT NO. 878

Happy Hour occurs once a month and it falls on the third Saturday of each month. The rest of the Saturday mornings are devoted to the Koffee Klatch, it is open to Marines, Former Marines, Members and non-members alike. The main agenda is coffee, breakfast, swapping war stories, or just relaxing with other Marines and shooting the bull. We're an easy bunch to get along with and diverse; in our number we have Marines that landed at Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. We

are also graced with those that landed at Inchon, and fought at the Chosin Reservoir. There are enough of us Vietnam Marines to keep things going, as well those that fought in Gulf wars. From grunts to World War II pilots, there is plenty to talk about.

To continue the story, in the early years the Koffee Klatch was held at Mike's Restaurant in the Hillcrest Shopping Center where it remained. Although the Happy Hour was changed to other locations periodi-

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cally, like the Kopper Kitchen, it always returned to Mike's. Mike's was the preferred place and Tina Bryant the preferred waitress, this arrangement lasted for years, Tina even became an honorary member. Unfortunately all good things came to an end and a new adventure began, Mike's Restaurant closed their doors on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2006 and we changed the location of the Koffee Klatch and Happy Hour to Quinn's in October. Tina was hired on at Quinn's as well.



*Angel Daniels of Idaho Marine Parents and Fred Kee at the February Spaghetti Dinner.*

### **What a Lot of Fun We Had, What a Great Group of People**

The February Spaghetti Dinner was a complete success, with a wide variety of mouth watering spaghetti sauces to choose from; freshest of tasty green salads, and a table full of treats to satisfy the sweetest of sweet tooth. Forty-one Marines and guests filled the Pavilion for the evening event and everyone had a great time.

Fred Kee introduced us to Angel Daniels of Idaho Marine Parents, she was a guest of Fred, Angel calls Fred and Walt Molder whenever a young Idaho Marine comes home from Iraq or Afghanistan and in-turn they will call us and we meet the young Marine at the airport to welcome them home. Idaho Marine Parents is an association of parents and family members of active duty Marines and their website is [www.idahomarineparents.com](http://www.idahomarineparents.com).

The Ladies of the Treasure Valley Marine Corps League Auxiliary wishes to thank you for a successful evening.

### **Business Meeting for March 2007**

The regular Business Meeting of the Treasure Valley Detachment Marine Corps League for March will be held at the Pavilion on Gowen Field at 1900 hours. March 15th. All members in good standing are encouraged to attend. The next regular business meeting will be April 19, 2007. Your opinions, ideas, and voice is important to the detachment. So please make a note on your calendar to attend the meetings.

### **Happy Hour and Koffee Klatch**

Although it has been reported that Koffee Klatch started at 0800 hours for the last year or so, that has been in error, the actual time is 0900, although you can show up as early as you want, but you should wait until they open. Koffee Klatch is held at Quinn's on Vista Ave. every Saturday morning at 0900; except the third Saturday of the month. That day is our Happy Hour Breakfast with the ladies and guests.. Happy Hour is at 1000 hours and this month it will be on March 17th.

### **Happy Birthday to Our Ladies:**

Donna Schumaker and Melody Vaquera

### **Department of Idaho Marine Corps League Pre-Convention Meeting**

The meeting will be held April 20-21, 2007 in Salmon, Idaho. The Eagles Lodge will be hosting and providing the meals. Accommodations have been reserved at the Stage Coach Motel. Rates are \$63.00 per night for a roadside room and \$68.00 per night for a riverside room. The motel telephone number is 208-756-2919.

The motel will hold a block of twenty rooms until April 1, 2007. Be sure to call early to get the room you want



**Boise VAMC Volunteer Service Hours**

The Marine Corps League volunteers worked a total of 1532 hours for the fiscal year of 2006. For the first quarter of the 2007 fiscal year, the volunteers worked a total of 164 hours and in January a total of 40 hours were worked. Kudos to all of the volunteers who put their time in at the VA, including our own Gordon and Velma Williams, a job well done and a credit to the Marine Corps League.

**Political Battle of the Marine Corps**

part 3 of 6

The nineteenth century was a grueling century for the Marine Corps, from its reestablishment to 1834. Just the simple act of being an organization and part of the Department of the Navy was no easy task. Politically the Marine Corps was seen as an ugly step-child that no one really wanted, although the Navy saw the usefulness of it in landing parties, boarding parties, extra gun crews, and general ship security and discipline of an all volunteer ship's crew. Politicians in congress and the White House wished to see the Marine Corps abolished and incorporated into the Army.

After its reestablishment the Marine Corps could have been its worst enemy, with inept leadership from the Commandant down. Both of the first two Commandants were court martialed, Lt. Col Franklin Wharton was acquitted, and Brevet Maj. Anthony Gale was convicted and cashiered. Leadership in the senior ranks was not the only problems that faced the Corps, although a major one. The Marines faced pay and accounting irregularities and the poor quality of enlisted personnel. Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Marines faced an extremely high desertion rate. From 1821 to 1824, it was reported that 607 Marines had deserted a total of 696 times. During this period 265 were recaptured and 151 were court martialed. Manning levels for the Marine Corps during this time was a little over a thousand enlisted and ninety-three officers. Manning levels were based upon the number of vessels in service.

Interference with the chain of command by the Secretaries of the Navy and the Department of the Navy, even the President continually frustrated our fifth Commandant, Brevet Maj. Archibald Henderson. Commandant Henderson also faced an officer corps that was unwilling to accept assignment to sea duty. As well, horrendous living conditions ashore at barrack facilities and the lack of training and low manning levels. For a decade Commandant Henderson dogged the Navy Department and congress for reforms to no avail.

Andrew Jackson's first State of the Nation address to the congress in 1829 he told the nation "I would also recommend that the Marine Corps be merged in the artillery or infantry, as the best mode of curing the many defects in its organization". This measure was opposed by Commandant Henderson, the Senate Naval Affairs Committee, and the House Military Affairs Committee, and soon went down in defeat. 1834 was a pivotal year for the Marines; Congress passed the Marine Corps Act of 1834. This Act reformed the chain of command for marines ashore and at sea, increased the manning level of the Marine Corps, made the Marine Corps part of the Department of the Navy and subject to naval regulations. Congress also re-

# Auxiliary News

Treasure Valley Marine Corps League Auxiliary #408

**TVDMCL Auxiliary Leadership**

President: Theresa Nakashima  
208-672-8642

Senior VP: Sherry Meade  
208-377-3806

Junior VP Melba Butler  
208-343-4093

Judge Advocate: Donna Schumaker  
208-286-0680

**Minutes for February, 2007.**

February's meeting was not held due to the Spaghetti Dinner, the next regular meeting will be March 15, 2007 at 1900 hours, at the Pavilion on Gowen Field. Yet the Auxiliary wishes to thank everyone for such a successful February Spaghetti Dinner.

**The mailing Address for the Auxiliary is:**

Ralph or Barbara Elston  
7845 W. Powell St.  
Boise, ID 83714

**Note from the editor:** I must have the minutes by the last Friday of the month or they may not be in the newsletter, editor.

## EVENT HORIZON

- Regular Business Meeting, March 15th., 1900 hours
- Happy Hour, March 17th. 1000 hours
- St. Patrick's Day, March 17th.
- First Day of Spring, March 21st.



jected the Board of Navy Commissioners recommendation to abolish Headquarters Marine Corps and place it under a naval command ashore. Although this Act saved the Marine Corps it did little toward boosting manning levels and the quality of recruits throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, nor the animosity between the Marines, ship's crew, and senior naval commanders.

## The Career of Reckless, In Brief

From the Dust Jacket of *Reckless, Pride of the Marines*

by Andrew Geer:

Source:

Hot Detachment Marine Corps League #975

[www.hotmcl.org/horsemarines.html](http://www.hotmcl.org/horsemarines.html)

P.O. Box 7323 Waco, TX 76714-7323

Webmaster: Ben Johnson

Foaled by a race horse named Morning Flame, the favorite of track fans in Seoul, Korea, Reckless wins the adoration of Kim Huk Moon, a young Korean boy whose courage and perseverance had made him her mother's devoted trainer and rider. Kim learns to love Reckless even more than he had loved Flame, and when war envelopes their country the inseparable pair leave the deserted race track and are exposed to many daring and exciting adventures together. Peace comes eventually, but not before Kim, in order to get the money to buy an artificial leg for his wounded sister, bravely makes the greatest sacrifice of his life when he sells Reckless to American Marines for use as an ammunition carrier at the front.

From the first part of the story, which describes in stirring detail the lives of Kim Huk Moon and his family in a small Korean village and Kim's dedicated affection for the little sorrel mare, we follow Reckless through her war experiences. Bought by a Marine gun crew with their own money and trained to help them carry shells for the Recoilless Rifle which they have nicknamed "Reckless", she is dubbed with the same name and made their mascot. Her antics, and her insatiable appetite for such surprising tidbits as poker chips, coca cola, shredded wheat, scrambled eggs, vitamin pills, a hat or two, and her specially made blanket of red silk trimmed with gold, bring welcome amusement and relief amid the strains of combat.

Her first real test under battle conditions comes when she is led beside the thunderous rifle to which she has packed ammunition over rugged hilly terrain. There were some who doubted that a horse could withstand the tremendous blast of the Recoilless Rifle and remain calm. Will she hold? Will she bolt? The gun is fired: Wham-whoosh! The hills bellowed and rocketed with the roar. Behind the weapon spurted a flame of dust. Though weighted down with six shells, Reckless left the ground with all four feet ... her eyes went white. 'Take it easy, Reckless,' Coleman, a Marine, soothed. Wham-whoosh! Reckless went into the air again, but not quite so far. She snorted and shook

her head to stop the ringing in her ears. Wham-whoosh! She shook as the concussive blast of air struck her, but she did not rear. She stood closer to Coleman, trembling slightly, but the white was gone from her eyes."

She had held, and from that day Reckless was an indispensable member of the gun crew, making trip after trip, often alone, from the ammunition supply point to the gun, laden with heavy shells under the most devastating enemy fire, never faltering, never failing. So completely does Reckless capture the hearts of her Marine comrades with her beguiling shenanigans and her fearlessness that they present her with a special citation for bravery, promote her to the rank of sergeant and personally pay her way to the United States where she will enjoy well-earned retirement pastured in the rolling hills of Camp Pendleton, in California. Retirement, however, does not mean that her exploits are at an end, because the fame of Reckless has spread far and wide, and good Marines, unlike some, do not fade away. Semper fidelis, always faithful, was never a more fitting motto than in the example of this horse.

## 26th MEU Conducts Bilateral Training with Djiboutian Military



26TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT Release

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Release # 0704

Feb. 14, 2007

ABOARD USS BATAAN (Feb. 14, 2007) – Elements of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit con-

cluded a bilateral training exercise with soldiers from the Djiboutian Army today, at a training range in the central part of Djibouti. The training was part of Exercise Image Nautilus which gave 26th MEU Marines and Sailors their first opportunity to disembark from ships of the Bataan Strike Group for operations since deploying Jan. 6. Bilateral training between U.S. and Djiboutian forces supports Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa's continued engagement with the nation and helps sustain a partnership dedicated to security and stability in the region. During the training, which began Feb. 10, Marines from Battalion Landing Team 2/2 worked alongside dozens of Djiboutian soldiers conducting weapons handling drills; live-fire ranges with small arms, heavy machine guns and rockets; and vehicle mounted assaults. The training offered a chance for the BLT 2/2 Marines to sustain some of the core capabilities that help make the 26th MEU a highly-flexible reaction force. Marines and Sailors from



MEU's Combat Logistics Battalion – 26 helped facilitate the exercise by providing transportation and logistics support. The 26th MEU departed the North Carolina Jan. 6 on a routine deployment as the landing force for the Bataan Expeditionary Strike Group. In addition to USS Bataan (LHD-5), the strike group is comprised of the USS Oak Hill (LSD-51), USS Shreveport (LPD-12), USS Nitze (DDG-94), USS Vella Gulf (CG-72), USS Underwood (FFG-36) and USS Scranton (SSN-756). The Bataan ESG is currently supporting maritime security operations (MSO) in the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command area of operations. MSO help set the conditions for security and stability in the maritime environment, as well as complement the counter-terrorism and security efforts of regional nations. These operations deny international terrorists use of the maritime environment as a venue for attack or to transport personnel, weapons or other material.

## New Sgt. Major of the Marine Corps

MCL News

www.mcleague.com



Commandant Gen. James Conway, of the Marine Corps, has announced that Sgt. Maj. Carlton Kent will be the next Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. The announcement was made from Camp Pendleton, Calif. Sgt. Maj. Kent will replace Sgt. Maj. John Estrada, who has held the Corps' top enlisted position since June 2003. "The Sergeant Major is

'known quantity' to Conway because he has been I MEF's senior enlisted Marine since Conway commanded that unit in Iraq in 2004.", said Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Thompson, who served above Kent as Sergeant Major of Marine Corps Forces Pacific. Thompson describes Kent as, "An advocate for junior Marines and a war fighter from the word go."

## Uniform Code-Marine Corps League

Adopted National Convention Boston 1988-Effective 1/1/87

Revised National Convention Cherry Hill-8/94-Effective 9/1/94

Revised and Re-Formatted Convention Cleveland-8/05-Effective 8/12/05

### VIII. LAPEL PINS

The following lapel pins may be worn only on the

red blazer or the Evening Dress Jacket. The Past National Commandant Pin may be worn inboard with the National Marine of the Year outboard. National Marine of the Year may be worn inboard with a Past Department or Detachment Commandant Pin (only one past commandant pin). Kennel Devil Dog of the Year Pin may be worn outboard of National Marine of the Year. The Chapel of Four Chaplains, MCL Membership, or Retired Marine lapel pins may also be worn. (Although there are several types of MCL Membership pins, i.e. Past Commandant, Life Member, Five Year Membership, Ten Year Membership, etc., only one MCL Membership pin should be worn.) Whatever pins are approved for wear, only two pins may be worn at any time – wearer's choice. Only one (1) miniature ribbon of individual choice may be worn above the lapel pin on the red blazer or evening dress jacket, provided miniature medals are not worn on the evening dress.

### IX. NAME-TAG

The UNDRESS Uniform and CEREMONIAL Uniform provide that an optional name-tag may be worn. A name-tag should not be worn with other uniforms.

### X. MEDALLIONS

The medal and ribbon presented by the Chapel of Four Chaplains or the Department Marine of the Year Medal and Ribbon (for those Departments that award this device) may be worn with the CASUAL or FORMAL DRESS Uniform (male and female) in lieu of the Military Order of Devil Dog collar at the option of the awardee. Only one such ribbon and medal may be worn at any time.

## eGazette Could Be Yours

The new software that I'm doing the newsletter with, I'm able to send it to you, via email in a portable document format (PDF). So you can now get the newsletter as you would in the mail but in color. To help cut the costs of printing the newsletter and postage and you have access to the internet as well, have an email address, you can sign up for the eGazette just by sending me an email at [kenj7@clearwire.net](mailto:kenj7@clearwire.net). You will need the Adobe Reader and you can download it free from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com).

*No one should pass an American in uniform without saying, "Thank you, we are grateful. Always mindful that they are prepared to risk all their dreams so that all of us can reach ours.*

(Secretary of Defense, William Cohen at the Memorial Ceremony for the service members that died aboard the USS Cole.)

## God Bless The United States of America and in God we Trust