



The

Boondocker

Gold Country Det. #885
Grass Valley, California

2011-2012 Officers & Staff:

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<i>Jr. Vice Commandant:</i>	Jim Brodeur
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Commandant's Message

As summer draws to a close, the Detachment has been busy. The "Re-Qual" day was a rousing success and we are planning a second one on Sept. 17. If the date changes everyone will be notified.

The Detachment picnic was very well attended and everyone had a great time. My thanks to Skip and Felicia Rankin for hosting this at their beautiful home. You two are the perfect hosts.

On Sept. 10 the Nevada County Consolidated Veterans Council will be hosting a "e-waste collection day" in the Vet's Hall parking lot. This fundraiser will buy new double paned windows in the Remembrance Room. Each of the county's vets' groups will be supplying one representative to assist the commercial recycling company (Gary Miller has volunteered for this detail). Please bring any of your old electronic waste such as old computers, printers, modems, telephones, toasters, small appliances, etc. We get paid by weight, so bring lots of heavy e-waste.

The County has delayed expanding our office into the room adjoining the MCL office. This room is currently being used as a storage area by the Purple Heart group, but they are moving 'soon'. If anyone has any ideas

on how we can best use this area, please let us know.

Vandalism and damage on the Memorial Walls at Memorial Park continues and seems to be getting worse. The American Legion has been doing an outstanding job trying to stay ahead of it by removing graffiti and replacing damaged granite plates on top of the walls, but it has gotten way out of hand lately. The Grass Valley City Council has given us permission to install security cameras and signs to increase a reward for turning in vandals. This reward will be posted at \$1000, instead of the City's maximum of \$100. Grass Valley Signs will donate the metal signs. All of the area vets

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No Regrets

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Happy Birthday!!!

September:

- Alan Kilborn
- John Wallen

October:

- Rick Barringer
- Burt Duer
- Steve Hoss
- OK Steele
- Peter Waskowitz
- All Marines!!!

From the Adjutant's Desk

On Saturday, 10 September, from 09:00 to 13:00 there will be an e-waste collection in the parking lot of the Grass Valley Veterans Memorial Building (GVVMB). This collection is sponsored by the Nevada County Consolidated Veterans Committee (NCCVC) and operated by California Electronic Asset Recovery (CEAR). The purpose of the e-waste recovery is to raise funds to replace the old windows in the Remembrance Room. The current windows are single pane and not energy efficient.

Attached is a flyer that explains the kinds of e-waste that will be acceptable.

If you have any of the items on the list and would like to put them to good use please donate them on Saturday the 10th.

See the CEAR ad on the next page.

Semper Fi,

Gary,

Adjutant

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groups are being asked to contribute to this fund and I have committed the Detachment to contribute our share at \$250. A commercial company has volunteered to donate \$2000 worth of cameras but we have to pay them to install the cameras. Current cost is projected to be about \$2000 to install. The Amer. Legion has raised about \$1400 towards this and Orlo Steel has agreed to add \$800 -\$1000 from the Memorial Wall maintenance fund. Hopefully the signs and cameras will be installed in early September.

John Bynes continues on the planning of two new memorial walls at the park. It seems that we are close to getting final City approval to start construction. John is hoping to have the new walls finished by Memorial Day, 2012. These two new walls will be large enough to handle up to 1200 new name plaques. Plans are working to get all of these plaques advertised, sold, and money collected before actual construction starts so that we can pay for the construction and purchase of the plaques without using any of the existing maintenance budget. We are also looking at how to do some architectural changes to the walls to stop the destructive vandalism of skateboarders. I have found a supplier of "truncated dome" walkways; these are the yellow speed bump types that you see on highways between the lanes. This type of speed bump will stop the skateboarders from skating down the walkways then jumping up onto the side/top of the walls. We're also looking at adding 3 foot high posts with chains between them in front of the walls. This will also help to stop the skateboarders but allow public close access to the name plaques. Hopefully, the cameras, rewards, and architectural changes will stop, or at least slow, the constant vandalism and graffiti. We'll see.

Sometime in the fall we will be getting a visit at our monthly meeting from the MCL Dept. of California Commandant and some of his staff. They will be available to update us on new rules from National about uniform changes, dues changes, and anything else you want to ask them. I will announce the date of their visit when confirmed, it may be in Oct. or Nov.

Dave Voors will be attending the September national convention for Toys for Tots, 2011. This will be held again in Virginia. Voors will registered us with National and update him on new protocols, rules, contacts, etc. As usual, we need Marines to volunteer for Toys for Tots distribution day in December. Keep it in mind as we will be asking for a 'maximum effort' by all hands. Finally, don't forget our own Marine Corps Birthday party. We won't be doing a formal ball, but instead will

be repeating last year's very successful gathering at the National Hotel on November 10. Last year we had dozens of Marines dropping by that we had never seen before. Everyone was extremely pleased with the attendance and we are eager to do it again.

That's all I got for you.

Semper Fi,

Dan Baldwin, Commandant Detachment 885

(Adjutant's Message continued from page 1)

FREE
E-WASTE COLLECTION FUNDRAISER
 For Nevada County Consolidated Veterans Council (NCCVC)
 Saturday, 10 September 2011
 9 AM to 1 PM
 Grass Valley Veterans Memorial
 Building Parking Lot

NCCVC has partnered with CEAR to recycle all of the collected e-waste. CEAR is a CA State approved Collector & Recycler of Electronic waste. NCCVC is made up of the five Veterans Organizations that are housed in the Grass Valley Veterans Memorial Building (GVMB).

These five members work with Nevada County in recommending programs and improvements to the Building to further the activities of the Veterans in the community. The purpose of this e-waste collection is to raise funds to replace the windows in the Remembrance Room on the second floor of the GVMB.

We will accept: monitors, televisions, desktop and notebook PCs, VCRs, Stereo equipment, speakers, keyboards, mice, PDAs, digital cameras, zip drives, telephones, cell phones, printers, copiers, laser and multifunction scanners and fax machines. We completely shred all hard drives at our securely monitored facility.

We cannot accept: Household appliances (ie: refrigerators, washers, dryers etc.) furniture, hazardous household waste including batteries, car batteries, paint, pesticides, used oil, cleaning supplies, fluorescent light bulbs, tires etc.

Questions regarding this event? Contact, event coordinators Margie Buhler and Sue Gill at (530) 265-4878

CEAR
 California Electronic Asset Recovery

Nuts Rummel's Hole In One...

Sort Of by: Allen C. Bevilacqua, Leatherneck Magazine, 1996

There was in those days a local tradition having to do with the daily firing of a sunset gun to accompany the lowering of the colors at the closing of the day. Every evening at colors, in addition to the duty field music sounding "Retreat," a firing party from the guard of the day would fire one blank round from an old 3-inch deck gun, one of a pair that formed the saluting battery flanking the flagpole in front of Marine Barracks. Old-time residents of the community could not recall a time when it had not been so. Its execution never varied.

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Detachment Scuttlebutt

The Detachment monthly meeting for August began at 1805 and ended at 1910. Commandant Baldwin covered sick and infirmed: Katherine McCammon, Don Herfurth's wife, General Steele, Estaban Salinas. All are recovering well.

The Detachment remains solvent with:

General Fund Balance	\$3,341.47
Adopt- a- Squad	\$8,994.62
Memorial Wall Fund	\$8,279.45

Discussions continued about the memorial wall vandalism; as well as, the new-build of space for 1248 new tiles for names. Grass Valley has given approval of installation of 3 closed circuit cameras. The city will also supply additional signs prohibiting skate boarding and vandalism.

There will be a 2nd Requalification Day 17 September 2011. Let the Adjutant know if you plan on being there. It will be at the Nevada City Sportsman's Club Range again. The Detachment fee for the picnic is \$75, each participating member pays a \$3 shooting fee.

Here's a bulletin: Fox News reported that a documentary movie will be hitting theaters in New York City and Los Angeles called *Semper Fidelis; Always Faithful*. The movie is an expose' about carcinogens found in the drinking water at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987. If you were stationed there during this period be aware of the implications. Issues caused by these carcinogens caused birth defects, and a variety of cancers.

Just in: Commandant Baldwin has been called to service with FEMA in New Jersey for 1-3 weeks. He will be inspecting disaster housing damaged during the recent hurricane. Our regular meeting will be conducted by the Jr. Vice Commandant.

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Each evening at the appointed time, the color detail and the firing party would march to the flagpole and take their positions under the supervision of the commander of the guard. The duty field music would take his post to the rear of the color detail; the officer of the day would appear from within the Marine Barracks to stand smartly at the head of the steps leading down to the street; and the commander of the guard would count down, "Five, four, three, two, one, EXECUTE!"

BOOM! Would go one, blank, 3-inch round. Hands would come to the salute, and the duty field music would sound the lingering, melancholy notes of "Retreat" as the flag was

slowly lowered. Except for the precise, clockwork movements of the color detail all else was a scene carved from marble, fading sunlight reflecting from glistening shoes, polished brass, and sparkling silver. As the last notes of the salute faded away into nothingness, a hush settled upon the motionless figures silhouetted against the sun's last rays. It was a most impressive ceremony.

And then, one moonless night in the waning hours of the midwatch, a shadowy figure emerged from the gloom and stole silently up to the saluting battery. Carefully, ever so carefully, the mysterious figure eased open the breechblock of the No. 1 gun and produced from inside his shirt a diaphragm fashioned from a bit of cardboard. The figure then stealthily inserted the device into the breech, seating it all the way forward in the chamber. Glancing furtively about to make certain he was still unobserved, the man of mystery quietly eased the breechblock shut and tripped the firing mechanism.

The click of the trigger was barely audible in the stillness of the night. To the silent figure, though, it sounded like the crack of doom on Judgment Day. He waited a moment to see whether this faint noise had attracted anyone's attention. Confident that he remained undetected, the intruder slipped noiselessly to the muzzle of the gun and filled it from breech to muzzle with golf balls from a large paper bag. With one last precautionary look about for curious sentries, the dim figure slipped back into the shadows and anonymity.

In due time "Reveille" sounded; the barracks square reverberated to the routine of roll call and physical drill under arms. The morning chow formation marched off to the mess hall, trailed by the usual persistent stragglers, who would attempt to evade the watchful eyes of the sergeant of the guard and slip into line.

Another day was beginning, and the sun's appearance above the horizon was marked by the raising of the colors, the old officer of the day was relieved by the new, and the ceremony of guard mount flashed to the roll of drums and the clarion call of bugles.

The day wore on, and the myriad tasks of a busy shipyard were tended to. In dry-docks, steel-grey ships of the line, in for overhaul and refitting, swarmed with safety-helmeted workers readying them for their return to the Fleet. Across the Elizabeth River, the hull of the battleship USS Kentucky, destined not to be completed, stood. The reliefs of the guard waxed and waned; sentries were inspected, marched off and posted by meticulous corporals of the guard.

Eventually, as the day drew to its close, the evening color detail, immaculate in crisp, starched khaki, gleaming

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leather, sparkling brass, and dazzling white accoutrements, took position as it did each day throughout the year, fair or foul. A blank 3-inch round was loaded smartly into the chamber of the No. 1 gun, and the commander of the guard intoned, "Five, four, three, two, one, EXECUTE!"

KABLOOM! Golf balls filled the evening sky like a meteor shower. The duty field music stood dumbstruck, the silver bugle poised at his lips-- silent. The officer of the day froze with mouth agape, his sword arrested halfway into the salute. Only the voice of the commander of the guard broke the awesome silence. "Jeezus!" he murmured, as a cloud of golf balls obscured the setting sun.

It was spectacular in the manner that only truly amazing occurrences are spectacular. Some golf balls cleared the reservation, to bounce about in adjacent residential streets. Others soared completely out of sight, to land who knows where. Most, however, in the manner of all projectiles, landed in a beaten zone, the maximum density of which lay immediately across the grass parade

ground that fronted the Marine Barracks. Specifically, they pretty much blanketed the building that stood directly downrange. This was a stately, handsome, three-story brick example of classic Georgian architecture. Its entire first-floor front elevation was taken up by a magnificent glassed-in porch. It was the residence of the admiral commanding the Fifth Naval District.

(For the rest of the story, see next month's Boondocker)

Upcoming Events

- **Sept 10, 2011 — NCCVC Fund Raiser 0900 — 1300**
CEAR electronic hardware collection as fund raiser.
- **Sept 12, 2011 — Regular Meeting**
1800 at the Grass Valley Vet's Hall. Be on time and bring a friend!
- **Sept 17, 2011 — ReQual Day Picnic**
1300 'til 1700 at the Nevada County Sportsman Range
- **Sept 20, 2011 — Staff Meeting — 1730**
3rd Tuesday of every month



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