

# The Bonnyman Gazette

Monthly Detachment Newsletter

www.mclknox.org

September 2009

## Commandant's Corner



-by Jeff Tegzes

Greetings, Marines!

This year's Mud Run was a tremendous success. All of us can be very proud to be part of this very popular and well organized Knoxville event. I heard many comments from runners that this year's run was the best one yet. Our success is the result of our constant desire to improve the run and a wealth of dedicated Marines and volunteers. There are so many Marines, Young Marines, and volunteers that work on the run that it is impossible to recognize them all. However, there are a few who deserve special recognition. Gene Furrow and Karl Ekstrom continued to be the backbone of this event and did their usual fantastic job with the year-long, day-to-day

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*Bonnyman Gazette items are due to Editor Virgil Young (call 675-4004 or e-mail to vlyoung@chartern.net) by the 15th of each month.*

## Upcoming October Activities

We have the following two major events coming up in October:

**Knoxville Stand Down for Homeless Veterans** - Plans are nearly complete for a one-day fall Stand Down for Homeless Veterans on Friday, 16 October, at an area church. (We'll provide more details at the 29 Sept. meeting.) We have now set up a Stand Down website at [www.kavsd.org](http://www.kavsd.org) (KAVSD stands for Knoxville Area Veterans Stand Down) where you can get more information. Based on a number of indicators, it appears we may get the largest number of homeless vets we've ever had at this one so we'll need a lot of help. If you can help, sign up at the 29 Sept. meeting or call Volunteer Coordinator Bette Jean Berry at 983-9510.

**4th Annual "Jim Peacock" Pistol Match** - This year's event will take place on Saturday, 24 October, at the Volunteer Rifle and Pistol Range on Rifle Range Road in North Knoxville. The gate will open at 0800 and shooting will start at 0900. You can shoot any revolver or pistol that uses centerfire cartridges and has a barrel length of 6 inches or less. If you bring 100 rounds of ammunition, you'll have plenty for the shoot. The course of fire will be: 10 round slow fire from 25 yards; 10 rounds slow fire from 15 yards; 10 rounds slow fire from 7 yards; 5 rounds rapid fire (4 seconds) strong hand from 7 yards; and, 5 round rapid fire (4 seconds) weak hand from 7 yards. The course will be shot twice, with the best score being counted. The cost will be \$20. Please sign up at the 9/29 meeting or call Associate Member Gary Miller at 719-2856 to let him know you'll be shooting.

## Detachment/Auxiliary Meeting on 9/29/09

The next monthly meeting will be at the Navy Operational Support Center/ Marine Corps Reserve Center, 2101 Alcoa Hwy., on Tuesday, 9/29/09, beginning at 1730.

During the business meeting starting at 1830, we'll discuss the results of

the 2009 Marine Mud Run and the Detachment Picnic as well as upcoming activities like the Pistol Shoot, Marine Corps Birthday events, the Christmas Breakfast and others. Don't miss it!

# Odds & Ends

**Veterans Day Events** - We'll have our float in the Knoxville Veterans Day Parade again this year on Wednesday, Nov. 11th. We'll have more information about it next month. We've already reserved two tables for the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council (ETMAC) Veterans Day Luncheon at The Foundry that day - this year's honor service is the US Navy. The cost of the luncheon is \$25 per person - you can reserve a spot at one of the table by giving a check or cash to Paymaster Laimon Godel. They've put a limit of 450 seats for

the luncheon and all those seats should be taken.

**Birthday Ball** - The Reserves have scheduled this year's Marine Corps Birthday Ball for Saturday, 14 November, at the Crown Plaza Hotel and tickets are now available at the Reserve Center. Tickets for Marine Corps League members are only \$10 apiece for the first two tickets and \$20 after that. The Point of Contact at the Reserve Center is Marine Sgt Larkins (522-2414). At our last Detachment meeting, we voted to pay the way to the Ball for every Detachment member (and his/her spouse)

who is a WWII veteran. If you are a Detachment member who is a WWII veteran and you have not already been contacted by Jr. Vice Lloyd Morris, please call him at 717-9250 - he'll help make the arrangements, including transportation arrangements if you need them.

**Detachment Christmas Breakfast** - The annual Christmas Breakfast will be on Saturday, 5 Dec., at Middlebrook Gardens. The cost for the first 60 people is \$11 thanks to an anonymous donor - after that the cost goes up to \$12.25. You can sign up and pay at the 29 Sept. meeting.

## 2009-2010 Detachment Officers (with contact phone #)

### Commandant

Jeff Tegzes (865-988-6247)

### Junior Past Commandant

David Hatfield (865-577-7303)

### Senior Vice Commandant

Lee Rhinemiller (865-458-2550)

### Junior Vice Commandant

Lloyd Morris (865-717-9250)

### Adjutant

Virgil Young (865-675-4004)

### Paymaster

Laimon Godel (865-690-1272)

### Chaplain

Leroy Brown (865-806-2837)

### Judge Advocate

Bud Fitzgerald (865-966-5879)

### Sergeant-at-Arms

Bill Ackerman (865-806-9868)

## 2009 Marine Mud Run - The Best Ever?

Was this the best Mud Run ever? I don't know - you tell me. The weather was perfect for running - cool with a slight overcast. The parking went smoothly because of the advance planning. Registration of the 1,233 registered runners went flawlessly, partly as a result of the early package pick-up from Fleet Feet by about 58 percent of the runners. The race started right on time at 0900. There were no bottlenecks at the obstacles, largely as a result of the fact that the Reserves built the obstacles much wider

this year. There was plenty of mud because of all the rain as well as the work of the Marines dumping thousands of gallons of water into the pits over the days leading up to race day. The top finisher took almost four minutes longer (18:09 in 2008 to 22:05 this year). The bagels didn't run out until the very end and there were leftover oranges, bananas and drinks. The hamburgers and hotdogs provided for the workers by the Devil Dogs were delicious! I don't know - what do you think?

## Young Marine Report - by Unit Commander Virgil Young

On 5 Sept., two YM parents who are teachers, Mrs. Teryl Magee and Mrs. Sarah Thacker, presented a class on effective study skills. The PowerPoint presentation they used has been added to the unit website so it will be readily available as a resource. At the final formation, I announced that Adult Leader Joe McCarter, Sr., the unit's long-time XO, had been selected as the Unit's Adult Leader of the Year and that YM MGySgt Patrick Lawson had been selected as the Unit Young Marine of the Year. Each was subsequently selected at the Battalion

and TN Regiment level, as well, so will compete for Division honors next.

About 60 YM, Adult Leaders, and YM parents assisted with the 2009 Marine Mud Run on 19 Sept., doing everything from presenting the colors at the beginning to helping hand out awards at the end. They also helped with registration, helped prepare the fruit, bagels and drinks available to runners after the race, handed out water to runners at two water points during the race, handed out and collected race timing chips, picked up trash,

and helped in numerous other ways. Two YM teams got to run the race courtesy of the Detachment. The YM also handled registration for the Kids Mud Run after the main race when about 60 kids got to run a race that ended in the large mud pit.

On 20 Sept., our unit helped the Marine Reserves as they held a "Family Day" celebration at the Reserve Center. The YM ran the children's games, the cotton candy machine, and the sno-cone machine for the event, letting the Marine Reserve parents spend the day with their children.

## Commandant's Corner (Cont.)

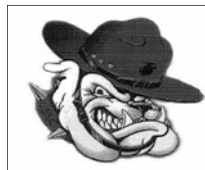
*(Continued from page 1)*

preparation. Sergeant Flowers of 4<sup>th</sup> CEB did a spectacular job leading the Delta Company Marines to build the race site. Also, Virgil Young and the Young Marines were ready and willing to do anything to make the race run smoothly. Thanks again to all who made this year's Marine Mud Run a day to remember for over 1200 runners.

I hope that we can maintain the momentum for the Homeless Veteran's Stand Down in October. Many volunteers will be needed for this worthy event. Also, our Thanksgiving Safety Break is not far off. If you can't make the meeting to sign up, call the Junior Vice ASAP to get on a

shift.

Semper Fidelis, Jeff



## NEWS FLASH!

Christmas Breakfast Coordinator George Sexton wants to know what "real" SOS is made out of. He says some "old salts" claim it's made from ground beef while others swear it's made from dried beef. Let him know your opinion at the 29 Sept. meeting or call him at 573-7537. The winning side will determine what the SOS served at the Christmas Breakfast will be made of. (Is this an officer/enlisted thing?)

## Membership

We swore in no new members at last month's meeting. Since then we have received one new application for membership from Marine W. Remi Taylor, 174 Marble View Dr., Kingston, TN; served 4/52-4/60; recommended by Marine Jeff Tegzes. We'll vote on Remi's application at this month's Detachment meeting.

The following are members due for renewal in the near future:

**Oct.** - Jeff Ball, Harry Cate, Tommye Kelly, Philip Kentfield, Nathaniel King, Ken Oakley, and Charles Smelcer. **Nov.** - Bob Evilsizer, Larry Henry, Patrick Hogan, Edgar McDonald, and Ted Scotese.

# Recent Pictures of Interest



*Young Marines present the colors before the start of the 2009 Marine Mud Run.*



*And the first wave of runners is off ...*



*You don't want to finish without your shoes ...*



*Did I mention we had plenty of mud?*



*Another satisfied customer ...*



*I guess these ladies won't need their spa mud bath treatment this week ...*

## Auxiliary Report - by Connie Sexton

Greetings, everyone.

By the time we meet late this month the Mud Run and the annual picnic will be over. Hope everyone can participate. We will have a full schedule over the next few months. Stand Down is set for 16 October. Hope to see you there also.

We are also going to visit our oldest member, Eleanor Ekstrom, on 21 September. We sent a one hundred dollar contribution to the Quillen VA Medical Center this year and a one hundred dollar donation to the Fisher House project in Murfreesboro.

Cookies by Doris Ekstrom this

month.

See you at the monthly meeting, as well.

Connie

## Chaplain's Report - by Leroy Brown

Greeting, Marines.

We had a successful Labor Day weekend Safety Break thanks in part to two new helpers, Marines Coleman (Jack) Spitzer and Bob Brown. I enjoyed hearing some new sea stories. Thanks, Jack and Bob, for helping with the set-up and thanks to all our other volunteers.

The Mud Run was a huge success thanks to the outstanding performances of all involved: the Marines of Delta Company, the Young Marines, Detachment

members, the Radio Club and all volunteers who put forth a great effort. I haven't heard any negative feedback from anyone - everybody seemed satisfied. The mechanical mule got another good work out. I really enjoyed giving rides and answering questions about it. Big Jim Williams is the only person I know who can burn up a hot dog by boiling it in water, but they were good anyway. Thanks, Jim. We only had one embarrassing moment when one of our members got stuck - seems we need to start a

refresher driving course, or at least one that covers releasing the safety brake!

It was good to see Marine Jim Ferrell out and about. Some of our members are still having medical problems. Let's keep our ailing members and our country and our men and women in uniform in our prayers.

We need addresses of people who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Let me or Bill Henson have those addresses.

Semper Fi, Leroy

## Upcoming Activities

### October 2009

1st - YM Adult Staff Mtg.  
10th - YM Drill  
13th - MCL Officers Meeting  
16th - Stand Down for Homeless Veterans  
17th - Fall Dept. Staff Mtg (Lebanon)  
24th - "Jim Peacock" Pistol Shoot  
- YM Drill  
27th - MCL/Aux. Monthly Meeting

### November 2009

5th - YM Adult Staff Mtg.  
7th - YM USMC Birthday Ball  
10th - 234th Marine Corps Birthday  
11th - Veterans Day Parade/Luncheon  
14th - "D" Co. Reserve Birthday Ball  
17th - MCL Officers Meeting  
21st - YM Drill  
24th - MCL/Aux. Monthly Meeting  
27th-29th - Thanksgiving Safety Break

### December 2009

3rd - YM Adult Staff Mtg.  
5th - MCL Annual Christmas Breakfast  
- YM Toys for Tots Collection  
8th - MCL Officers Meeting  
19th - YM Swim Quals and Christmas Party

**The Bonnyman Gazette**

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**Application for Membership**

**Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Detachment # 924, Marine Corps League  
Knoxville, TN**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Home Ph.# \_\_\_\_\_

Business Ph.# \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

Date of Enlistment/Commissioning \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ Date of Discharge/Separation/Retirement \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

Type of Application: ( )New( )Renewal Type of Membership: ( )Associate ( )Regular

I hereby apply for membership in the Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Detachment, Marine Corps League, Department of Tennessee, and enclose \$35.00 for one year's membership, which includes a year's subscription to the Marine Corps League quarterly magazine. I certify that I have served as a U.S. Marine for more than 90 days, that the character of my service has been honorable, and if discharged, I am in receipt of an honorable discharge. I am attaching to this application proof of my honorable discharge/service (retired military ID, DD-214, Honorable Discharge Certificate, etc.).

(Sponsor's Name) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

Upon completion, return to your sponsor, or mail application to



**LT. ALEXANDER BONNYMAN DETACHMENT #924  
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
PO BOX 145  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901**

**(Include your \$35.00 dues payment - check or money order payable to "Marine Corps League" - plus proof of honorable service, which is required by our Detachment.)**