

Flathead Legionnaire Newsletter
Kalispell American Legion Post 137
Serving The Greater Flathead Valley

July 2013

Post Phone Number- 406-309-2746

Editor – Keith Sibbert – 212-0016



Commander's Corner

Summer may have finally arrived and with it our new membership year. The American Legion has a membership goal of an all-time high 3.3 million members by 2019, the centennial year. As part of that the goals for all posts were increased dramatically this year. Our goal for the 2014 membership year is 215, an increase of 25 from our 2013 goal but only 13 more than our end of year membership of 202.

With this in mind we need everyone to renew as early as possible and talk to other veterans about becoming members. Remember you can renew online at <http://legion.org/renew>.

With the emergence of summer comes the end of our fiscal year. We had an extremely successful year in both revenue and membership. We were able to generate over \$10,000 through raffle ticket sales thanks to the work of many of our members at gun shows, Snappy Sports Senter and the Sportsmans Show this past spring. We reached an all-time high in membership of 202 members. We have also been able to do some much needed maintenance on the building. Thank you to all who have donated their time, money, labor, and materials. It is greatly appreciated by us all.

We will be having our annual summer picnic on July 7th at 2:00 p.m. It will be preceded by a short meeting beginning at 1:30 p.m. We will conduct our raffle drawing at the picnic as well. Come out for some good food, fun, and fellowship and see who gets their choice of the shotgun, rifle, or cash. It might even be YOU!!! Hope to see everyone there.

Ray Anderson

Post Officers

<u>Commander</u>	Ray Anderson	270-7933
<u>Vice Commander/Historian</u>	Ron Bauer	756-6160
<u>Adjutant/Public Relations</u>	Keith Sibbert	890-2097/(C) 212-0016
<u>Service Officer/Finance Officer/Trustee</u>	Lee Hesper	752-5075, (C) 270-8267
<u>White Marker Chairman/Trustee</u>	Bob Bigler	756-3130
<u>Chaplain/Parliamentarian</u>	Richard Williams	857-2467
<u>Sergeant at-Arms</u>	David Falcon	257-2258
<u>Boys State Chairman/Trustee</u>	Ron Boespflug	257-4816
<u>Oratorical Chairman</u>	Geo Johnson	755-3467/(C) 270-1061

Summer Picnic Time

The Legion Family Summer Picnic will be held Sunday, July 8 at 2:00 p.m. The monthly Post and Unit meetings will be held prior to the picnic at 1:30 p.m. The drawing for the winner's choice of a shotgun or rifle will be conducted at the meeting/picnic. This will be a potluck with hamburger, hot dogs, buns and lemonade provided by the post.



**Last names beginning with A – M bring salads or hot dishes;
N - Z bring desserts, chips or relish tray.**

Job Fair



The Flathead Valley Job Fair was held April 18th at Flathead Valley Community College in the Arts and Technology Building from 12:30 – 4:00 p.m. Veterans got early entrance. Legion Chaplain and Parliamentarian, Richard Williams and Commander, Ray Anderson (left) and Auxiliary President Darlene Johnson



assisted with sign-in. Over 100 veterans attended the event that featured more than 40 employers who were actively seeking workers.

Highway Cleanup

Our highway cleanup was held Saturday, April 27th. We had a good turn out for this event. Thanks to everyone who came out!!! See you again next spring.



American Legion Riders



The season got kicked off with a wet ride in Thompson Falls for the Memorial Day parade. Three bikes and one escort vehicle participated. There were 2 WWII veterans riding in the escort vehicle. There are currently 5 more rides planned: 4th of July Parade in Kalispell, the Northwest Montana Fair parade Aug 16 in Kalispell; and Sander County Fair in Plains Saturday Aug 31st. There are also rides planned in Polson and Ronan dates to be announced at a later time. If you have your motorcycle endorsement and are a Legion member join the Legion Riders and get involved in these enjoyable events.

White Highway Fatality Marker Safety Program



Our annual White Marker maintenance was conducted on May 11. Again we had plenty of participation which made the work much easier. Thank you to all who helped. It is greatly appreciated.



Unfortunately with the recent rash of traffic fatalities our marker count now exceeds 100.

American Legion Boys State

Boys State was held June 9th through 14th at Carroll College in Helena. We sent 6 boys this year. Pictured at right from left to right are Haakon Sande - FHS, Thomas Owens - FHS, Joseph Wisner - FHS, Joey Olsen - GHS, and T.J. Herriot - FHS, Not shown Ian Wheeler – GHS. Thank you to all who contributed time and money to this very worthwhile program. If you know any 2013-2014 high school juniors let them know about this program. Contact Chairman Ron Boespflug if you have questions.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

To mark the 12th anniversary of the attacks of 9/11/2001 we will be conducting our annual Freedom Walk. Let’s continue the trend of past years and make this our biggest Freedom Walk ever. Please invite friends, family, acquaintances – especially our public servants and military members. We will meet at the American Legion Hall at 1:30 p.m. and walk to Depot Park for a short ceremony. Bring flags, appropriate signs and everyone you know. The Legion Riders are committed to attend. See you all there.

Elections



Elections for Post Commander and Vice Commander were conducted at the April 22nd meeting. Current Commander Ray Anderson and Vice Commander Ron Bauer were both elected to another term. Congratulations and thank you both for your willingness to serve.

Department Convention

The 2013 Convention will be held in Lewistown at the Yogo Inn, June 28 -30. Delegates from Post 137 are George Haegele, Keith Sibbert and Ray Taylor.



Grounds Maintenance

Here is the Building and Grounds schedule for July through October. If you are unable to do maintenance during the time scheduled please attempt to swap with someone else. Once a swap has been arranged or if one cannot be found contact the Commander, Ray Anderson, 270-7933. Don’t wait until the day of or the day before you are scheduled to ask to change. It takes time to find a replacement. **WE COULD ALSO USE MORE VOLUNTEERS TO HELP US MAINTAIN THE APPEARANCE AND SAFETY OF OUR GROUNDS.**



Name	Number	Dates	Name	Number	Dates
Geo Johnson	755-3467	6/23 – 7/6	Ray Anderson	270-7933	9/1 – 9/14
Richard Williams	857-2467	7/7 – 7/20	Keith Sibbert	890-2097	9/15 – 9/28
Ron Boespflug	257-4816	7/21 – 8/3	Ray Powell	257-5250	9/29 – 10/12
Ron Bauer	756-6160	8/4 – 8/17	George Haegele	752-1109	10/13 – 10/26
Lee Heser	752-5075	8/18 – 8/31			

Schedule of Events

July			
Thursday	7/4	All Day	Independence Day – Legion Riders in Kalispell Parade
Sunday	7/7	1:30 p.m.	Post and Unit 137 General Membership Meetings
		2:00 p.m.	Legion Family Summer Picnic
Saturday	7/20	1:30 p.m.	Columbia Falls Veteran’s Home Birthday Party
Friday	7/26	9:00 a.m.	Unit Coupon Sorting and Potluck
Friday – Sunday	7/26 – 7/28	All Day	Gun Show Flathead County Fairgrounds

August			
Wednesday	8/14	5:00 p.m.	Post Officers Meeting
Saturday	8/17	1:30 p.m.	Columbia Falls Veteran’s Home Birthday Party
Friday	8/23	9:00 a.m.	Unit Coupon Sorting and Potluck
Monday	8/26	7:00 p.m.	Post and Unit 137 General Membership Meetings

September			
Friday – Sunday	9/6 – 9/8	All Day	Gun Show Flathead County Fairgrounds
Wednesday	9/11	1:30 p.m.	Annual Freedom Walk
		5:00 p.m.	Post Officers Meeting
Saturday	9/21	1:30 p.m.	Columbia Falls Veteran’s Home Birthday Party
Monday	9/23	7:00 p.m.	Post and Unit 137 General Membership Meetings
Friday	9/27	9:00 a.m.	Unit Coupon Sorting and Potluck

Post Everlasting

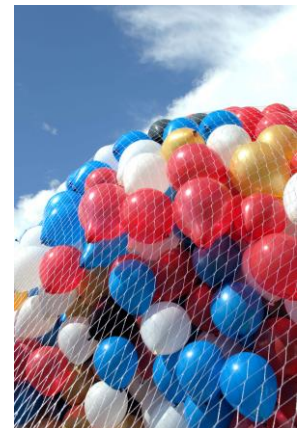
<u>Name</u>	<u>Departed</u>	<u>Continuous Membership</u>
Rolland Stiele	May 2013	7
Russell O. Lammert	June 2013	23

Auxiliary Unit 137 Memorial Day Balloon Launch



The Auxiliary Unit held their rain dampened balloon launch on Memorial Day at Lawrence Park. While the weather didn’t cooperate the community did. There was an outstanding turnout from the Unit, Post and community supporters. The rain and cooler weather prevented most of the balloons from “launching” however the event remained a huge success. Three members of the press

were present and did a tremendous job of covering the launch on KAJ and Fox/ABC and in the Daily Interlake.





AUXILIARY NEWS

Happy Summer to you all! I can't believe how fast the time is flying by, especially now that Summer is nigh! (I wasn't really trying to wax poetic)



Our Poppy Day was the best ever! Thanks to the Legionnaires that helped man some locations. The donations increase when the public sees the veterans themselves involved.

Our balloon launch on Memorial Day was a success for the most part. We made our goal of 2,000 commemorative balloons sold and then some. We had TV and newspaper media coverage. The weather wasn't cooperative, but we had the Post flags, a 21 gun salute, and our Jr. Shannon Simpson playing the national anthem on the flute so the occasion was celebrated with the patriotic souls who braved the weather. Many thanks to Jeanna Sibbert, the Post Honor Guard, the Post for lending the flags, Shannon and all those who worked so hard on this project.

Welcome to our newest member, Alida Tinch!

It will soon be time for our State Legion Convention in Lewistown. There are four Auxiliary members attending, and also attending the L.E.A.D. course on Thursday, June 27 the day before. It is always a good time and we learn a lot to better serve our veterans. We will be bringing new twin size quilts or comforters and pillowcases for the new mental health wing at Ft. Harrison. These include a beautiful quilt Dee Hesel donated as well as 21 handmade pillowcases brought by Alida and made by her friend.

Thanks to Linda Benson, Al Miller, Janel West and many others for continuing to save and collect coupons. Remember, not too old. They are only good for 6 mos. past expiration and we have to allow for shipping time. The bases are very appreciative and we get thank you notes almost every month from one of the overseas bases. Our coupon days are usually the 4th Friday of the month 9AM-done with a potluck. Please join us, many hands make light work! Thanks everyone!

Our July meeting will be brief; the same time as the Legion meeting, the day of the Post picnic July 7 (see elsewhere in this newsletter for more information.) Hope most of you can come!

This is the beginning of my 2nd year of this two year term as your President. How we have grown since we started! We continue to do more for our veterans as we grow as well as the activities we have been doing, such as the monthly birthday parties at the Vet's home. Please consider becoming involved in our activities--it is so rewarding! Just call any officer and let them know what you would like to help with.

Have a wonderful Summer!

Darlene Johnson
President 755-3447

Your other Auxiliary officers are:

Vice-President:	Nadine Roach	755-2253
Secretary:	Judy Collins	752-0198
Treasurer:	Jeanna Sibbert	890-2097
Chaplain:	Mina Henke	755-6943
Historian:	Ann MacCary	755-0388
Sgts-at-Arms:	Linda Benson	857-3192 and Ardith Lingle 752-0159



The Flathead Legionnaire

Veterans Serving Veterans



The American Legion
Post and Unit 137
P.O. Box 10164
Kalispell, MT 59904



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DID YOU KNOW?

1. The Fourth of July was officially declared a national holiday until 1941.
2. Not all members of the Continental Congress were in favor of making the Declaration of Independence official, but those that were, were die-hard. Apparently one man rode 80 miles to Philadelphia on horseback to break a tie in support of our nation's freedom.
3. Blast! An estimated \$211 million has been spent importing fireworks to the U.S. from China.
4. There is a 1 in 4 chance that one of the hot dogs or sausages you consume this weekend originated in Iowa.
5. There were approximately 2.5 million people living in the United States on July 4, 1776. Today, there's roughly 309.6 million. Just a little bit of an increase, no?
6. The first real July 4th party was held at the White House in 1801.

7. Technically, Independence Day should be August 2, 1776. That's when a majority of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, 50 of the 56 to be exact, put pen to paper.
8. 68.3 million cases of beer are sold on Independence Day around the country.
9. Unfortunately, the Fourth of July ranks as the deadliest holiday of the year, and I can't help but wonder if No. 8 has anything to do with it.
10. Eleven places in the United States have the word "independence" in their names. The most populous one, with more than 116,000 people is Independence, Missouri.

http://thestir.cafemom.com/in_the_news/122552/10_surprising_july_4th_facts

