



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS POST 1340

FEBRUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER

In The Wind For Veterans

CHRISTMAS AT THE ORPHANAGE

Man! I love waking up the morning of a big adventure. You pour down some hot coffee, maybe grab some breakfast and then start your pre-ride activities. You rub her fenders down, double check her rear end and her headlights. Then you go fire up your scooter and ride off.

Today is our annual Christmas trip to the American Legion Children's Home. Fifteen of our Oklahoma City Post 1340 members meet in Guthrie and head to Ponca City.

The American Legion Children's Home was established in 1928 as an orphanage for children of veterans who could not provide care for their young. Land and funds for the first dormitory were donated by E.W. Marland, Conoco Oil man and past Governor of Oklahoma. The facility now serves as a Home to 64 children, ages 11 – 18, which have very diverse needs caused by loss of family, depravity, abuse or neglect. Since opening, the Home has served approximately 8,000 children and still stands as the only American Legion Children's Home in our nation.

Post Commander Big Jim Craig played Santa with a twist, walking into each dorm room wearing a complete Santa outfit plus a scary clown face mask. He explained that this visit was from Biker Santa. Each child was offered any of five different cold weather biker masks or head covers. The kids got right into the biker spirit, donning various combinations of leather "Red Baron" aviator caps to "Jesse James" leather bandanas for their Santa picture. Each child received a stocking filled with candy, goodies and a \$50.00 Wal-Mart gift certificate.

Post 1340 riders raise funds each year for their missions of support for veterans and their children through raffles, poker runs and their big annual 4th of July Rally. The Post meets at Charley's Last Stand and membership is open to veterans and those who love veterans through the Ladies Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion. Post 1340 is the only post comprised predominately of motorcycle riders.

As the kids expressed their sincere gratitude for the visit and gifts, we left with fond memories of the smiling faces and with just a little sadness in our hearts that these 64 kids could not be living at their own homes with their own families.

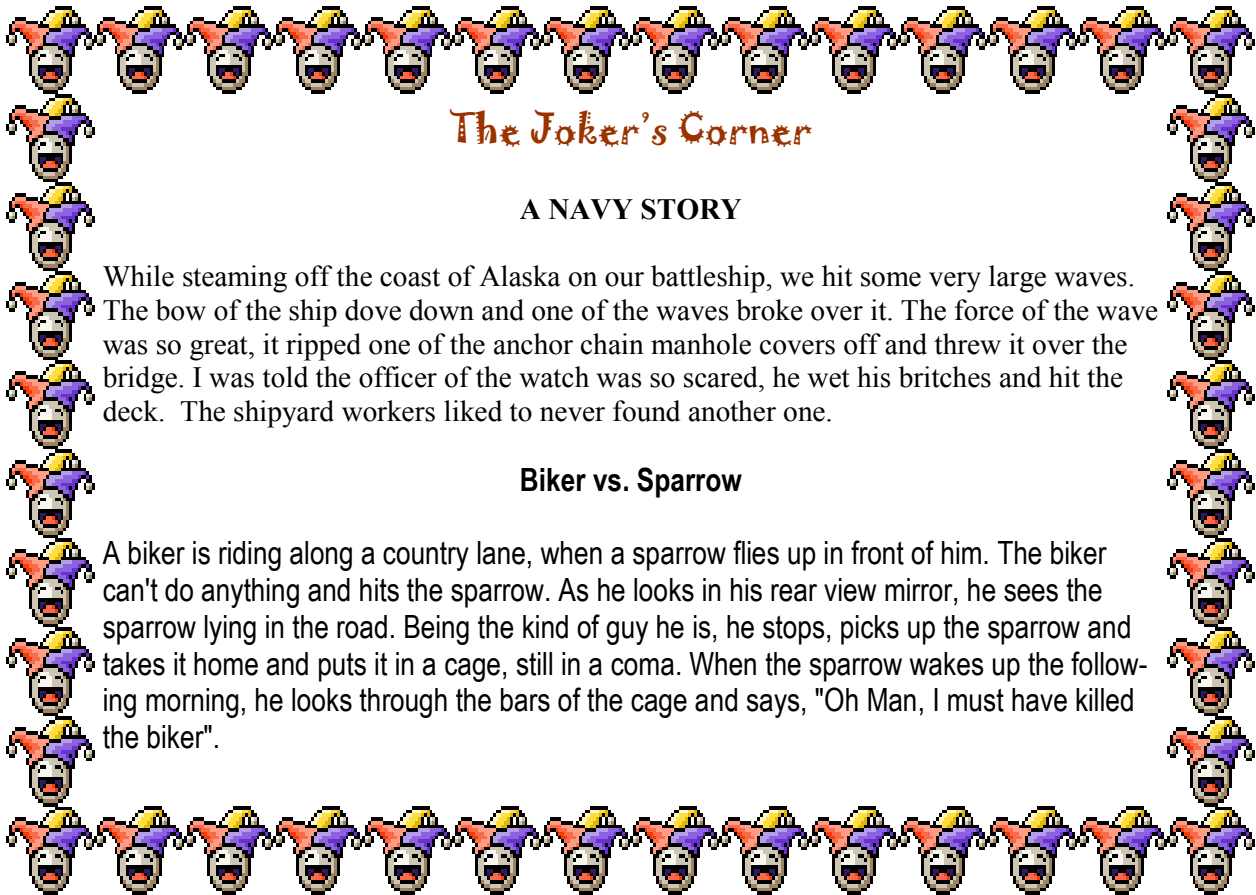
Many thanks go to the American Legion for providing these kids with a safe environment, good nutrition and a first-class education.

Big Jim

Bio of Finance Officer: Rex Warlick

A 1969 graduate of Carney High School in Carney, OK, Rex went on to complete his first year of college at Northern Oklahoma Junior College in Tonkawa, OK. In January of 1971 he joined the Air Force and was off to boot camp in San Antonio and technical school at Keesler AFB, MS. Upon completion of technical school Rex was assigned to the USAF Security Service as a "Ditty Bop" (Morse Systems Operator) and served his first tour of duty at Hakata Annex in southern Japan. With the wind down of the hostilities in Viet Nam many of the USAFSS personnel were retrained into more needed specialties and Rex once again returned to Keesler AFB to retrain into the Personnel career field. That was followed with a tour at McConnell AFB, KS and then on to Tinker AFB, OK. While stationed at Tinker Rex retrained into the Data Systems side of the Personnel office and found his niche for the remainder of his Air Force and Civil Service careers.

In 1981 he separated from the active Air Force with 10 years and 11 months of service and became the Personnel Data Systems Manager for the 507th Air Force Reserve unit located on Tinker. In 1985, after 4 years as an Air Reserve Technician, Rex became the Chief, Personnel Data Systems for the Civilian Personnel Office at Tinker AFB and shortly thereafter, in 1987, obtained his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Central Oklahoma as a Computer Sciences major. In 1991 he accepted a position with the Department of Transportation (DOT) as the Consolidated Personnel Information Systems Manager for the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center. That same year he requested and was placed in retired status from the USAFR. Rex went on to serve in many positions within the DOT, the final one being one of the lead analysts on the project to consolidate the DOT and DOI Personnel and Payroll Systems. In April 2006, with 36 years combined Federal service, Rex retired. He has been a rider since his teen years, lying out for the years he was raising 5 sons and buying his first Harley in June 2000, the month after his youngest two graduated from high school. He is on his 3rd Harley and well over 100,000 miles since mounting up again. He has been married to Debi Warlick of Washington, PA since Sept 1980. Debi retired from federal service in 2008 and they both now enjoy riding and the extra time retirement allows them to spend with their 8 grandkids. Rex has been a member of Post 1340 since 2002 and looks forward to many more years of fellowship and roads with friends.



The Joker's Corner

A NAVY STORY

While steaming off the coast of Alaska on our battleship, we hit some very large waves. The bow of the ship dove down and one of the waves broke over it. The force of the wave was so great, it ripped one of the anchor chain manhole covers off and threw it over the bridge. I was told the officer of the watch was so scared, he wet his britches and hit the deck. The shipyard workers liked to never find another one.

Biker vs. Sparrow

A biker is riding along a country lane, when a sparrow flies up in front of him. The biker can't do anything and hits the sparrow. As he looks in his rear view mirror, he sees the sparrow lying in the road. Being the kind of guy he is, he stops, picks up the sparrow and takes it home and puts it in a cage, still in a coma. When the sparrow wakes up the following morning, he looks through the bars of the cage and says, "Oh Man, I must have killed the biker".



Post Commander: **Big Jim Craig:** cmdr@alr1340.org
 Vice Commander: **Henry "Q2" Bass:** vcmdr@alr1340.org
 Adjutant: **Robbie Wicker:** adjutant@alr1340.org
 Webmaster: **Rex Warlick:** web@alr1340.org

Sons of the American Legion Commander, Detachment 1340
 Rick Vasquez: SALCmdr@alr1340.org

State Wide Detachment Meeting at OK State SAL Headquarters
March 27th at 10am, 2311 N. Central, Oklahoma City, OK

Auxiliary President **Teresa Wicker** auxpres@alr1340.org
 Auxiliary Vice President **Dina Smith** auxvp@alr1340.org
 Auxiliary Secretary **Christi Carter** auxsec@alr1340.org
 Auxiliary Treasurer **Michelle Rose** auxtres@alr1340.org

Auxiliary Meetings are on the 3rd Friday at 8pm @ Charley's Last Stand

Legion Post Meetings are the First Tuesday at 7PM
and the
Third Saturday at 10AM at
Charley's Last Stand located at 4415 SW 3rd St, Oklahoma City, OK.

Upcoming Post Events

- February** - Post Meetings on 2nd and 20th
- Feb 20** - Meeting cancelled due to US manning a booth at JW Bike show
- Feb 20 and 21** - Post 1340 Booth at Jeff Williams Bike Show
- Date TBD** - Post 1340 visit to Norman Veterans Center
- March** - Post Meetings on 2nd and 20th
- Date TBD** - Poker Run
- Mar 28** - Jeff Williams Bike Swap meet at OKC fairgrounds
- April** - Post Meetings on 6th and 17th
- May** - Post Meetings on 3rd and 15th
- May 31** - Ride around the State Capital and War Memorial Ceremony
- Date TBD** - Visit to American Legion Children's Home (ALCH) in Ponca City
- June** - Post Meetings on 1st and 19th
- June 13** - Jeff Williams Bike Swap meet at OKC fairgrounds
- July** - July 4th Ride and Rally at Charley's Last Stand
- August** - American Legion Legacy Run
- September** - Poker Run
- October** - Auxiliary Dice Run
- November 11** - Ride around the State Capital & War Memorial Ceremony
- Date TBD** - Post 1340 Visit to Norman Veterans Center
- December** - Date TBD - Annual Christmas Visit to ALCH