

SIT



REPORT

A Situation Report on activities of San Tan Valley American Legion Post 97 Winter, 2016



Commander's Comments

The Post saw a busy time in 2015. In September, Past Commander John Dunton and I attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Pinal County office buildings in San Tan Valley. We had the general meeting on the 14th and the ALR meeting on the 15th. I attended the Post 129 (Queen Creek) meeting on the 20th and the District 4 meeting on the 23rd. The end of September had me in Indianapolis for the Combined Americanism Meeting. October was a little slower. We had the Post and American Legion Riders (ALR) meetings. On the 24th, I picked up the Post's M1 Garand rifles and our pellet rifles. On the 29th, Jim Green, Tony Gunderson and I attended the Hoot Night at a local San Tan school. We set up the Post's basketball game and handed out a lot of candy. Our game was the most popular game there and we met several new prospective members.

November was also busy. On the 4th, our Color Guard posted the colors at Central Arizona College. Several members attended the Department of Arizona Fall Conference in Tucson. Jim Green and I attended the Senior

Breakfast at 'The Gym' on the 9th. We talked about the Post and Legion in general. On Saturday, the 14th, Jim and I had a membership table set up at the C.O.P.S car show at Poston Butte High School. I presented Pinal County Sheriff Paul Babeu and Lando Voyles (Pinal county attorney) with the challenge coins the Post had purchased for them.

The ALR meeting was on the 17th of November and the 15th of December. The December Post meeting was on the 14th.

Two of our members attended the NRA level 1 coach's course in December. We need more volunteers if this program is to succeed. More coaches and several 'Range Safety Officers; are also needed.

I'm seeing a trend at our Post that I have seen at every other Post I have been to. That trend is five or six members do all the planning and work at the post events. If they get 'burned out' we will be in trouble. I encourage every member to look at our programs and help out where and when they can.

Bob Krumwiede, Commander
San Tan Valley American Legion Post 97



Officers installed at monthly meeting

Following the results of the April Post 97 meeting, a ceremony was held in May to install the following slate of officers (L to R): John Dunton, Past Commander; Tony Gunderson, Adjutant/Financial Officer; Gary

Weber, Junior Vice Commander/Veteran Service Officer; John 'Radar' Meyer, Sr. Vice Commander; and Bob Krumwiede, Commander Performing the installation was then-AZ Department Commander Andy Jaime, Jr.

Venturing crew, Boys State highlight youth programs



Venturing Crew 2116 Blake Lang, Dylan Coy, Kelsee Haws, Ivy Freeman and Trinton Bullard

The summer of 2015 was a personal growth year for seven boys sponsored by Post 97 at Boys State in Arizona and Adjutant Tony Gunderson is again talking to area high schools about opportunities in 2016. Venturing Crew 2116 has grown to six members with Patricia Coy as their leader.

The crew was just south of the Mogollan Rim by Payson in mid September doing some

caving for the weekend and a flag retirement. While Post 97 had no young men or women sign up for the American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy, the academy did graduate 28 cadets and four cadet advisors in 2015. Applications are being accepted for the 2016 academy, with a deadline date of April 15 for the activities being scheduled for July 24-30, 2016. Contact Sergeant Dan Palmer for an application form (allegadirector@gmail.com).



Post 97 honors veteran gravesites

According to veteran groups and government officials, some resting places of American veterans, abroad and stateside, are not being treated with the respect they deserve. Johnathon 'Radar' Meyer, senior vice commander of Post 97, has taken the initiative to implement a local version of a national program called Mission: Restore Bronze in the area. A recent training session in Phoenix helped Radar and other five volunteers clean and restore bronze markers of veterans and a donation of \$500 from the

wardens of the Red Rock prison near Eloy (where Radar is employed) has enabled the group to obtain supplies for bronze marker restoration in the area served by Post 97.

"In addition to the wardens' donation, Post 97 member Don Runyon helped us obtain another \$100 donation from Mountain View Funeral Home," said Radar. "We are meeting with management at the Valley Memorial Park Cemetery near Coolidge where several bronze markers are placed and talking to surviving family members about restoring the markers of their loved ones." More volunteers are needed. (radar.meyer@gmail.com)



Legion Riders on the move

On September 19 the Post 97 ALR chapter took a ride to escort the Mobile Veteran's Outreach Center from Casa Grande (where it was being prepared for use) to Florence for the ribbon cutting. As part of the ALR Chapter Legacy Run, Nov. 6-8th, some Post 97 riders stopped at Pima Air Museum in Tucson. All proceeds raised on the run went to the National American Legion Riders

Legacy Fund which provides scholarships to children of post 9/11 veterans who have died while serving their country. The Post 97 ALR chapter meets the third Tuesday of each month in the Compass Room at Encanterra Country Club, 6:30 p.m. The picture taken at the Pima Air Museum shows ALR Members (left to right) Marc Falkenhan, Jim Schurtz and Robert Lafler, standing in front of an F/A-18 Hornet (rdlafler@aol.com)



Baseball program seeks expansion

Once more the post helped develop more momentum for Legion baseball in the Area B East Valley under the leadership of Paul Lorenzen, Jim Green and Carlos Watt with a committee of dedicated individuals helping with four teams taking the field for the 2015 season and one of the teams earning their way into the playoffs. The state champions were from perennial powerhouse Tucson. Paul said the Florence Legion post has taken over the sponsorship of a team and the post in Queen Creek is being approached for a similar sponsorship in 2016. He plans to approach more schools in the mountains to

see about expanding the league even more, which will enable more boys to play teams within relatively short driving distances. The season culminated with a banquet at Encanterra Country Club in late July and a \$500 college scholarship was presented to an outstanding player, Jacob Morris (in photo, receiving congratulations and the award from Commander Bob Krumwiede and Adjutant Tony Gunderson). Strong financial supporters of the post's baseball efforts have been Pinal County Sheriff Paul Babeu (in photo with Jim Green, left, Commander Krumwiede and Paul Lorenzen receiving a check from Sheriff Paul) and County Attorney Llando Voyles.



Upcoming Post 97 events

The third annual car show has been @scheduled for Saturday, March 5, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Poston Butte High School and the second annual fishing contest is being held at the Johnson Ranch pond on

Saturday, April 9, beginning at 10 a.m. Volunteers are needed for both events. Contact Commander Krumwiede (rkrumwiede@gmail.com) or Tony Gunderson (tonygunderson22@gmail.com).