



HOG WHISPERS...

Volume 9

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December 2009

Arkansas SMART Hogs Newsletter

2009 Chapter Officers

President:

Ralph Jungels

Vice President:

Marion Spivey

Secretary:

Pat Maglievaz

Treasurer:

Joella Huddleston

2009 Appointed Positions

Muster Master:

Bill Corroum

Newsletter Editor:

Bill Corroum



Upcoming Events

8 Dec Christmas Party 1100
Red Lobster
N. Little Rock, AR

Please Submit Items:

Bill Corroum

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7 Foxboro Cove
Jacksonville, AR 72076
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Your input will be **GLADLY**
accepted

Arkansas SMART Hogs March in Branson Veterans' Day Parade
Led by **Past Hogs President and National 2nd Vice President, Christian Eck** (with Multi-Service Flag), **First Sergeant Glenn Foster** and **Command Sergeant Major and Hogs President Ralph Jungels** carry the Chapter Banner. Flanked on the right by **President-Elect Ann Lowry** and on the right by **"Disciplinarian", Jim Rixmann**, who seems about to rap the knuckles of someone of the rest of the Marching Hogs who's talking in ranks! Rumor has it that a number of girls swooned and several grown women passed out upon seeing these two gallant warriors in Service Dress (that still fits)! Please see another parade photo on page 2 and the Branson Muster Report on page 3.

Ya Better Watch Out!

The Arkansas SMART Hogs Christmas Party will begin at 1100 on Tues, 8 Dec at the North Little Rock Red Lobster, 3707 McCain Blvd. (501) 753-4000.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN
by Ralph Jungels

Just a little note about the muster in Branson and other activities. The muster was very well planned and organized. Pat, Andy and Ann did a great job. There were many, many people at the parade and we had a great time along the parade route. I had a letter handed to me from one of the 3rd grade boys watching the parade, which thanked the veterans and a little information about himself. I had a great

feeling after I read his letter. I sat down and wrote him a letter telling about myself and my hobbies and other information that he had asked about, I believe we all had a great muster, great activities, and I hope to go back some time in the future.

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving, and hope to see you at the Christmas dinner on the 8th of December.

Ralph



Other Hogs Parade Participants Ride in the Percy's "Our Penthouse Puller"
Shown here (l to r) are **Sandy Percy**; **Cathy Meren** (partially obscured); **Marion Spivey**; **Sarah Easterling** (from Biloxi, MS, a Hogs Recruit) and **Dolly Autrey**.

BRANSON MUSTER REPORT

by Pat & Andy Maglievaz, Muster Hosts

On November 4 everyone got into the ABC Campground and set up their rv's. That afternoon everyone met at Andy and Pat Maglievaz rig for happy hour furnished by the hosts. Everyone was happy to see each other since some had not seen the Hogs in many months. We had a total of 22 Rigs attend the muster with 3 rigs attending from Texas, one Hog member from Alabama. Everyone talked till it was too cold to stay out.

Nov 5 Coffee and rolls were served and all present spoke of their day's plans. Some went to the Vietnam War Memorial while others stayed around and got acquainted again. Most attended the Opening Ceremonies for Veterans week. Reports stated that the opening ceremonies were quite wonderful and entertaining. Happy Hour followed in the afternoon with happy campers telling about their day. That evening many of the campers attended a veterans concert featuring Barbara Fairchild along with the Good Sam group that was staying at the campground.

Nov 6 Coffee, rolls and hot chocolate were served and everyone gathered their chairs around to plan the day. The Hog meeting and elections were held in the afternoon followed by Happy Hour. A potluck dinner was held that night with everyone enjoying the friendship and meeting fellow SMART members we didn't know from Texas.

Nov 7 A Pancake breakfast was furnished at the campground which everyone enjoyed. A free day to discover Branson and many of the members attended shows around town. Happy Hour again found everyone excited about the shows and renewal of some old friendships.

Nov 8 Coffee and rolls were served and everyone planned their days. Many members went to the church services that Barbara Fairchild held in one of the theaters. Following the service, Purple Heart awards were spoken about by many families of fallen soldiers. Most came back in tears and told us they barely made it through the service. Happy Hour followed late afternoon with everyone staying till heavy coats were required.

Nov 9 Biscuits and sausage were served for

breakfast. Members spoke of shows they were going to see that day and reviewed shows previously seen. Everyone lined up that evening for a caravan to Starvin Marvin's for all the crab you can eat buffet. It seems our host for the muster was really hungry for crab since that was all she ate. Everyone had a good time and went home very full, especially Pat.

Nov 10 Coffee, rolls and Hot chocolate were again served and those who braved the cold that morning sat out and talked about a little bit of everything from solving the world's problems to what to have for dinner.

Happy Hour followed in the afternoon. Some practiced for the parade, what a laugh, no straight lines for our parade marchers. Even the attempts at marching orders failed. Just wish I had my camera ready. Members again stayed till it got too cold outside to be comfortable.

Nov 11 Coffee, rolls and Hot Chocolate were served for the last time, some decided it was too cold to come out since it was about 45 that morning. Everyone gathered to go to the Veterans parade in downtown Branson. Tom Percy drove his truck with some of the SMART members in the back. The Hogs followed the truck carrying flags from the Navy, Marines, Army, and Air Force. American flags were carried by the people who walked behind the truck. Thanks to Glen Foster and Ralph Jungels for wearing their Army uniforms, they still looked great and made the girls swoon. Pat Foster reported 3 bald eagles that flew above them for most of the parade with one swooping down right over the Hogs. It was if God was saying "Thank you for your service". Pat cried when she told of the letter given to Glen during the parade thanking him for his service, it really touched their heart.

Nov 12 everyone unhooked their rigs and came around to say good-bye. Such a sad time to know it would be months before we all saw each other again. The Hogs have become such a close group and enjoy the company when we meet. With sad eyes we left one by one while Bill Corroum watched to make sure everyone got off ok.

Branson Muster Attendees

Chapter Members:

Pat & Andy Maglievaz,
Muster Hosts

Ann Lowry, Muster Host

Dolly & A. C. Autrey

Jim & Doris Case

Kathie & Bill Corroum

Carolyn & Christian Eck

Ilse & Joe Esquibel

Arlene & John Farrell

Pat & Glenn Foster

Lois & Jim Hough

April & Richard Jones

Edye & Ralph Jungels

Cathy & Ed Meren

Sandy & Tom Percy

Allie & Jim Rixmann

Juanita Rohde

Marion Spivey

Members of Texas Texans:

Kay & Lee Ferguson

Peggy & Randall Fix

Janet & Hamid Wright

Guests:

Jennie Garrick

Former Hogs Member

Sarah & Bill Easterling

Prospective Member

Binnacle List*

From our Chapter Chaplain, Christian Eck:

Sherman "Butch" and Gerri Smith, Van Buren, AR.

Both are still recovering from the accident in Louisiana that occurred when he suffered a stroke. Butch is currently staying in a son's home after a period in a rehab facility. He has a long way to go, physically, but he was talkative and good humored during our two visits. As a Louisiana native, he will probably relocate to a VA Rehab facility in the Shreveport area where he qualifies for reduced-rate enrollment. During our two visits, he was talkative, alert and good humored. Gerri is doing a lot better than Butch but suffers greatly from severe back pain. She visits Butch daily, enjoys limited shopping and other visits.

Howard and Marguerite Martin are doing very well.

They live in a comfortable, warm and nice home on the outskirts of west Fork right next to their daughter, Jan. They will no longer be RVing and have sold their rig. Howard said he practically "gave it away". They still have their RV storage building and pad with hookups and would welcome anyone who stops by. (Ed Note: Please Call ahead!) Howard is busy taking care of Marguerite, with help from a part-time home care giver as well as Jan. Marguerite has her "spells" but usually is attentive and talkative. She is in the early stages of dementia and is pretty much confined to their home.

Also:

Kic Wheeler is much improved after a new doctor prescribed new medications that abated all the pain.

Lew Dellinger - Ruby got him to delete some medications after she go "fed up with the doctors". Now, he's nearly back to the old Lew! However, they have not used their rig for over a year and Ruby doesn't expect to travel soon.

* On naval ships, the binnacle is the large device on the bridge that's used to take bearings on navigational points. In the old days, a list of men unfit for duty was posted on the binnacle.

Personal Affairs Suggestions

WARNING: ID Theft - 2010 Census

Extracted from the Better Business Bureau Website:

The big question is - how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? The Better Business Bureau offers the following advice:

- If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.
- Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they

claim they need it for the U.S. Census. While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, it will not ask for Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers nor will employees solicit donations.

- Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail or in person at home. However, they will not contact you by e-mail, so be on the look out for e-mail scams impersonating the Census. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an e-mail that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau. For more advice on avoiding identity theft and fraud, visit www.bbb.org

A License Plate for \$3.75/year!

I was browsing around on our Super Chapter Web Site the other day, when I noticed two links to veterans' benefits. I clicked on "Veterans Benefits By State" and downloaded a slide presentation that lists the types of benefits we enjoy. Going further, I went on the Arkansas Dept. of Veterans Affairs site and found a ton of resources, including some most of us have never heard of. If you scroll down the left column, you'll find hyperlinks to information about contacts for assistance, cemeteries, veterans

Parade homes, remembrance activities, veterans resources and discounts for license plates. What? I can register a vehicle for \$3.75/year! Wow! Yep, you click on the license plate icon and go to a DFA page with all the information.

Don't stop there. Go back up to other links and you'll probably find a lot of other benefits and resources that might make your life a little more pleasant.

Another great job by our Webmaster Sandy Percy!

Today's Recipe: White Bean - Tomato Dip by Valerie Smith

Makes about 2 cups of dip

Ingredients

- 1 - 14 ounce can Northern White Beans, rinsed and drained
- 1/3 cup vegetable broth
- 1 clove garlic minced
- 1/4 cup sliced sun-dried tomatoes
- 3 Tbsp virgin olive oil
- 1 tsp minced parsley

Directions

Heat the broth in the microwave until almost boiling, about 1 minute.

Put garlic and dried tomatoes into the hot broth to cook the garlic and reconstitute the tomatoes.

Put all ingredients together into a food processor and blend until smooth.

Serve with grilled bread, sliced vegetables,

Hogs Trip to 2009 National Muster by Christian Eck

Chris & Carolyn Eck, Sonny & Joella Huddleston and former members Buzzy and Jeannette Duckworth drove in a caravan to the 2009 National Muster in Lacy, WA. We were joined there by Martin & Jonnie Sjostrom, Dick & Ida Duffy, A. C. & Dottie Autrey, Joe & Ilse Esquibel and Juanita Rohde. Our Hog contingent displayed a chapter banner that was designed and made by Frank & Ruby Miller and R. C. & Ann Lowry in the early days of our chapter.

The trip west included visits to many national treasures, including Yellowstone, Glacier and Yosemite National Parks as well as the Badlands, Crazy Horse Monument, Devil's Tower and the Buffalo Bill Historical Museum. There were many stops for delectable meals, with a few opportunities for great wine tasting expeditions.

At the National, the Hogs Chapter members parked together and proudly displayed our historical banner. We enjoyed muster activities with many informative and enjoyable, cohesive events. The muster staff excelled in planning and execution. Christian Eck was elected by a large margin as SMART National 2nd VP, having been challenged by two very good and respected candidates. Aside from national muster activities our Hogs shopped on our own, enjoyed tours, social hours, meetings and made some new friends while renewing past friendships and "catching up".

Following the muster, some of our members visited Vancouver Island and Victoria, British Columbia. So beautiful! Be sure and take passports when crossing the border. That's essential now. We then headed south thru Oregon and Northern California, taking in the giant Redwoods, San Francisco and Napa Valley....more wine!. Later, we RON'd at Edwards AFB and then visited Boron and national monuments such as Mesa Verde, Ship Rock, and other national treasures.

Back in Arkansas, we visited the "Butch Smiths", Martins and Alice McConnell before finally arriving home. What a trip! We'll record more details later for those who are interested.

A Few Tidbits from the Retiree Office

- Retiree Luncheon: December 11, 2009, Reservations Required. \$12.00 per Person. Call by December 9, 2009 for Reservations.
- 19th Medical Group Holiday Hours: the Med Group Will Be Closed Dec. 4, Dec 24, Dec 25, Dec 31, Jan 1, Jan 18, and Jan 28.
- Operation Cookie Drop: the **Operation Cookie Drop for Base Dorm Residents** Is from 6 Am – 10 Am, Dec 17 at the Conference Center. If You Would like to Drop Your Cookies off the Day Before You Can at the Retiree Activities Office.

Ed NOTE: If you want to contribute some cookies, bring them to our Christmas Luncheon. Kathie Corroum will get them to the Retiree Office.

Questions/Comments, Call Retiree Office at (501) 987-6095 or 1 (877) 815-3111.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

“VIAL OF LIFE” Project

John and Arlene Farrell kicked off a very important project at the Branson muster. It's called the “Vial of Life”

The intent is to place critical medical information in a place where emergency responders will find it easily during a crisis. The Farrells distributed a vial (tablet container like you get at the pharmacy) to each person, along with an instruction sheet and a Medical Health Form. The idea is to fill out the form, roll it up, put it in the Vial and place the Vial prominently in your refrigerator. This should be done at home and taken with you when you hit the road. How many Branson participants (like me) left the Vial in the RV when they got home?

The instruction sheet and Medical Information Form are posted on the Hogs Web Page. If you were not at the Branson muster, PLEASE go on the site, download the forms and obtain a container for you and your spouse. Then remember to put the containers in your fridge; and keep the information current!

This is really an IMPORTANT program that could avoid life-threatening errors at critical times. Thanks to John & Arlene for a great service to our chapter members.

CORRECTION

In the 10-year summary of muster locations and highlights, recently published to the Web Page under the Muster Master link, we failed to include a BIG highlight. Everybody on Marion Spivey's “rolling muster” to Renfro Valley, KY, attended a great concert by Glen Campbell. No doubt, this is the first of many updates, due to the editor's failing memory!

Have a look at the Web Page & pass on your own Corrections!

- COMEDY CORNER -

“Dog & Cat” - A Heart-Warming Story

Adam was walking in the garden and cried out to God, "You used to walk with me every day. Now I do not see you anymore. I am lonely here, and it is difficult for me to know how much you love me." And God said, "I will create a companion for you that will be with you forever and who will be a reflection of my love for you, so that you will love me even when you cannot see me. Regardless of how selfish or childish or unlovable you may be, this new companion will accept you as you are and will love you as I do, in spite of yourself." And God created a new animal to be a companion for Adam.

And it was a good animal. And God was pleased. And the new animal was pleased to be with Adam and it wagged its tail.

And God said, "Because I have created this new animal to be a reflection of my love for you, his name will be a reflection of my own name, and you will call him DOG." And Dog lived with Adam and was a companion to him and loved him.

And Adam was comforted. And God was pleased. And Dog was content and wagged his tail.

After a while, it came to pass that Adam's guardian angel came to the Lord and said, "Lord, Adam has become filled with pride. He struts and preens like a peacock and he believes he is worthy of adoration. Dog has indeed taught him that he is loved, but perhaps too well." And the Lord said, "I will create for him a companion who will be with him forever and who will see him as he is. The companion will remind him of his limitations, so he will know that he is not always worthy of adoration." And God created CAT to be a companion to Adam. And Cat would not obey Adam.

And when Adam gazed into Cat's eyes, he was reminded that he was not the supreme being. And Adam learned humility. And God was pleased. And Adam was greatly improved.

And Dog was happy.

And Cat didn't care one way or the other!

