



George Meehan,
Exalted Ruler



ANTLER ANTICS

Vol 38, No. 4 Editor, Sally Claunch, PER July '08

Reaching Out in Elkdom



July 11th

stuffed pork dinner
guest bartender
karaoke following dinner
\$11



Fish Fry

July 18th

\$7.50

**One Last Dance
band**

Fried Chicken

July 25

Renegades band



\$10

Elk Ladies Appreciation

Luncheon

July 26th



11:30 a.m.

OPERATION FACELIFT

Tom Ryder, PDDGER



The “**OPERATION FACELIFT**” committee Continues to work on select projects. Work has been going at a snail’s pace due to the lack of available workers. Need some volunteers! HELP

Operation Pride

The most important **Operation Facelift Project!** Help keep your lodge buildings and grounds presentable. There is a lot of loose garbage and litter around the lodge. Please help us pick it up and deposit it in a garbage container. Let’s get some pride in what we have, make our facility more presentable to our members, neighbors and the community!

New Facility – A project of Operation Facelift could be relocation to a new property! The Exalted Ruler has set up a committee to coordinate all efforts to locate a facility for us. Somewhere in our community there is a building and grounds that can be made suitable for our use. It is up to us all to be looking for this property. Please help us find it. When looking, some considerations to be taken into account are:

- Need a building approximately 12,000 square feet in size, preferably in an industrial area.
- Would like approximately 3 acres or more of land. Need separation from neighbors!
- Need parking available for 170 cars, some parking could be shared with adjacent facilities.

The Exalted Ruler and several members met with a commercial real estate firm to discuss the approximate worth of our current property and what might be available in our community. Also we discussed the types of funds available for the trade and/or financing of a new facility. Some interesting concepts were put forth and will be discussed in later articles.

Parking – Area Clean up and relocation of the wooden fence in front of the rental property is approximately 50 percent completed. Some grading will be done after the dumped BBQ wood is cleaned up so a general parking plan can be developed.

Operation Green Up – Rick Herrera and crew continuing to keep shrubs, flowers and flower beds looking great!

Outside Painting Of Facilities – A member has volunteered to paint our building at a minimal cost. We are waiting an estimate of his costs and when he could paint. Now that dry weather is here, the “shaggy” fence behind the new flower bed is to be painted so as to blend in with the new apartment buildings on both sides of us. Paint has been donated.

Repair/replace Lodge Building Roof – Effort is on hold at this time.

Remodel Ladies Lounge – Project is on hold at this time.

Update Lodge Electrical Wiring – Effort being studied and determination of extent of effort required to be outlined.

Property Line Stabilization – Material has been dumped at the lodge for stabilization of existing assumed line. Planning to move a storage container from its location next to the wood storage area to the side of the property so as to create a site barrier screening our back parking area from traffic on Conejo School Road. Planning to go to the city and find out what the status of the project for the lot next to us is. Recycle area and new garbage container enclosure part of project.

Saturday BBQ Area - Fence and Gate. – About number three on our current priority list of projects planned.

New Front Entry Door – On hold at this time..

Your lodge is always in need of volunteers to help with various Lodge functions. If you have some time on your hands, consider lending a hand at an upcoming event or project. Contact the office or any officer or me to volunteer some time. Thanks to all those who already given of their time! You are greatly appreciated

NEEDED

Kitchen – cooks, helpers, specialty cooking teams ~ Painters – general - no talent required manual laborers (Grunts) ~ grounds keepers (gardeners)

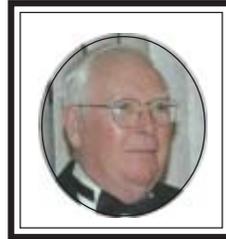
2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS



EXALTED RULER George Meehan

2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

ANTLER ANTICS: Sally Claunch, PER, Editor,
Jerry Serota, Photographer
Calendar: Tom Ryder, PDDGER
NEW BEGINNINGS:
HISTORIAN/SCRAPBOOK:
GREETERS: Dorothy Murray
PUBLIC RELATIONS:
OPERATION FACELIFT: Tom Ryder, PDDGER



BUILDING MAINT.: Max Maxwell/Tom Hartin
PARLIAMENTARIAN: Bill Lloyd, PDDGER, DL
LODGE VISITATIONS:
BBQ WAGON:
AUDITING: Chet Kozlowski, PER
ELKS TRAINING: George Meehan
SHOE TOURNAMENTS: Mike Budenski
BEQUESTS & LIVING TRUSTS: Robert Jones
PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Reaching Out in Elkdom

Reaching Out in Elkdom, my theme for this year, was recently demonstrated to me by four brother Elks. It made my heart jump with joy. This is how it happened. In the autumn of last year, brother Elk, Dean Nash, made plans to fix up his mobile home porch. He bought all the products he thought he would need for the project. Unfortunately, he got sick and the project had to be put on hold. Carol came to the lodge inquiring if we had any people who could do the project and that Dean would be happy to pay for their services.

Well, Terry Baker, Max Maxwell, Tom Hartin and Jim Mullen all went and looked at what needed to be done and all contributed some work to the project. However Max and Jim put in two solid weeks of hard work and did a professional job. They made that porch look like it came out of a magazine. They did a beautiful job. Dean and Carol were more than pleased with the outcome and they have tried to pay them for this fine work... but these gentlemen said, "no" they were just helping out a brother in need.

I am so pleased and happy and proud of these guys. They actually expressed my theme to the limit.

Now, unfortunately, Dean's health has not improved as well or fast as we all had expected, and he needs all of us to pray for his return to good health and join us again at the lodge.

In other news around the lodge, four of your officers went to the State Convention in San Diego. Meetings were interesting and informative and hopefully will help us be better at our jobs.

July is fast approaching and Cornelia and I will be off to Grand Lodge Convention in Anaheim. It seems as though everyone who goes to this convention walks away feeling that Elkdom is all that we ever imagined it could be. It really reaches the hearts of all those giving and

receiving. I look forward to the experience and hope some of you will be able to make it also.

The State Vice President has started his visitations to the lodges. His visit to Thousand Oaks is June 18. We hope many of the members will be able to attend and welcome V.P. David Coleman and his Lady, Kim to Thousand Oaks 2477. We hope a warm reception will help them to enjoy their visit.

I would like to thank Dave Pearson for putting on the golf tournament in May. As a result our charities have added funds for youth and veteran activities.

I have appointed a new committee to explore and find a suitable new property for a Lodge facility. They are: Tom Hartin, Tom Ryder, June Leadam, Alan Hardy and Jerry Gillies.

That's all for now. See you at the Lodge.



Dean Nash thanking Max Maxwell for the new porch.



Sally Claunch, PER Editor
 claunchsally@gmail.com
 articles are due the 5th of the month
 send as a word document

Hats off to Raven West for making possible the cabaret nights at the Lodge. The talent has been outstanding. Please do not miss the next event.

TRUSTEES REPORT

After reviewing losses in the kitchen budget and costs, the Trustees recommended the Lodge fewer Sunday breakfasts.

Recommended and approved by membership to move \$100,000 from New Facilities Fund account at Morgan Stanley to Indymac for higher interest rate.

OFFICERS HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORTS

The House Committee is enacting a dress code for after 6 pm: no tank tops or clothing with demeaning statements.

The office will lease a new color printer.

Due to lack of volunteer cooks and attendance at Sunday morning breakfasts, fewer meals will be offered.

Corrine gave monthly update-sales are improving over last month.

House Committee meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Trustees meet the first Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Your input is valued. Your attendance is welcomed.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS 805-495-0577

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Dean Nash; Gus Chinnery is in ICU; Ruth Wagner wife of PER, Bill Wagner fell and hurt her back

ON THE MEND: Tom Hartin from heart surgery

**REMEMBER CARDS AND CALLS
ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED!!!**



COMING ATTRACTIONS

July 6-10-Grand Lodge Convention
 July 11-12-Kampers at Kenney Grove
 July 26-Elk Ladies Appreciation Lunch

August 8-9-Kampers at Malibu

September 6-Lodge Picnic at Lodge



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 27-Black and White Dinner Dance and Show fundraiser for ENF & Major Project featuring Buddy to Show

2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS	LEADING KNIGHT Raven West	2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
MAJORPROJECT/PURPLEPIG: David Naccarato SICKNESS AND DISTRESS: Sally Claunch INVESTIGATION: Bob Arbetman ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION: Tom Ryder, PDDGER		CHRISTMAS BASKETS: Raven West INDOCTRINATION: Dave Naccarato, PER MEM. CONTROL. COM.: Herb Jellander CVAC: Tom Hartin COMMUNITY RELATIONS: CHARITY DINNERS: Raven West

Reflections on CHEA State Convention 2008

Writing for a monthly newsletter a month ahead of publication is either an exercise in prognostication, or a recollection of events which transpired weeks ago. Instead of making an attempt to predict the events which have not as yet occurred in June, I would like to write about a few of the highlights of our California-Hawaii Elks State Convention which took place on May 14-18 in San Diego.

Our own West Central Coast District is comprised of 12 Elks Lodges and I've met many of their officers and made many friends during the past six years at ritual contests and district visitations, but this was the first time that I was surrounded by so many Statewide Elks in one location. Of course, the hospitality suites were welcoming, but so were the business sessions where we all experienced the full effect ELKDOM has on our country and those we serve.

From the Grand Exalted Ruler to our own State President, everyone spoke of their pride at being a member of our organization. When the band from Santa Barbara Lodge #613 performed in the courtyard of the hotel, Elks and other guests alike came out onto their balcony to join in singing "God Bless America". The applause and cheers which followed was amazing.

At 11:00 pm we were all joining hands for our Eleventh Hour Toast, when a newly married young couple came into the courtyard. The man was dressed in a Marine uniform, and when they paused to hear our toast, we gave him a round of applause which he acknowledged with a salute.

Our Major Projects raised close to three million dollars, and we met several of the individuals who benefited from our charity. The speakers talked of our Veterans, and how the monies we collect have given them new hope when they've returned from fighting for our country in foreign lands.

My father was the charter member of his Lodge in New York and a member for over 50 years before he passed away last June. Participating in the memorial service touched me in ways I cannot put into words. As I proudly wore the Elk Tooth he had given me when I was initiated, I

could feel his presence every moment of that convention knowing, in spirit, he was by my side.

Yes, there were some long-winded speeches, a few jokes that didn't quite go over, but the message was always the same; Elks Care, Elks Share. The hard work that all of us do in every lodge is so needed and so appreciated by those who we serve. The Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, the Veterans, The Dictionary Project, Purple Pig, Scholarship and Americanism to name a few of the community services this organization, this Brotherhood and this Lodge participates in is, in truth, the very cornerstone of ELKDOM.

This year we are fortunate to host the National Convention in Anaheim. I urge anyone who is able to make the drive south and experience the true meaning of Charity, Justice, Fidelity and especially Brotherly Love.



Your Lodge Serving the Community

Providing monthly Bingo Party and an outing for the Vets by Jim Kellogg and Crew

Scholarship Chair, Rick Herrera, giving scholarships to local winners at senior awards nights

Be an Elk volunteer, call the office with your name and phone number

2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

LOYAL KNIGHT Terry Gicking

2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

CONEJO VALLEY DAYS: Ed Rice
LODGE ACTIVITIES: Dave Naccarato, PER
SCOUTING: Bill Miller
HOOPSHOOT: Dave Naccarato, PER
WED. NIGHT DINNERS: Terry Gicking
DRUG AWARENESS: Robert Jones
STRAY ELKS: Herb Jellander



MOTHER'S DAY: Rick Herrera
ENTERTAINMENT: Corinne Richeson
WED. NIGHT TICKETS: Leo Rodriquez
**LAW ENFORCEMENT & FIRE FIGHTER
 APPRECIATION:** Scott Dool
PRESIDING JUSTICE:
YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Robert Jones

WOW! Talk about hitting the ground running. We've had the Inaugural ball, Ritual contest, Conejo Valley Days, Mothers Day, Father's Day, Flag Day, throw in some great breakfasts, lunches and dinners, a few extra BBQ's, 3 great Cabernet Nights and top it with a cruise to Ensenada and wham! Here's July! Just goes to show, we have something for everyone. Now add in rising gas prices, and that makes going away this summer a little tougher! Which makes coming down to the lodge with all of this activity look that much better! (what a stretch!)

We kick off July's activities with Friday the 4th. The lounge will be open from 10 am-6pm with picnic style munchies available for purchase. We will not be having a breakfast on that Sunday, due to a cook shortage. But after that we are offering up some of the best cooks and entertainment this lodge has ever had.

On Friday the 11th, we have stuff pork loin by Vickey Eagan, along with Karaoke and we also will be starting our new guest bartender nights! OMG you say! Who could it be? Let's give you some hints. Her best friend is cooking that night, oops did I say her? Ok, and it's a karaoke night and she loves to sing! She helped guide this lodge thru one of its toughest times and I'm proud to call her and her husband my friend, my favorite PER, Catherine Koeritz. WOW! What a kickoff!

Then if that's not enough to start things off, we have breakfast on Sunday from Abe and some old friends putting together a wonderful spread! Then on the 18th, we have the fish fry by Chuck Busch with dancing entertainment by One Last Dance! This band packed the dance floor the last time they were here. We had a huge crowd for the 11 o'clock toast because nobody wanted to go home. And the band loves playing at our lodge!

Then on that Sunday we get breakfast from Power Dave! It's Waffle Mania and Chicken Fried Steak! Man I'm getting hungry just typing about it. Then for our last weekend in July, we have Brother Bill Dennison doing his huge fried chicken breast. We also have the Renegades band for dancing entertainment. They also fill the dance floor. Then for breakfast on Sunday the 27th, we have the Kamptown Special crew from El Conejo Kampers.

Check the calendar for our great dinners before the meetings on Wednesday nights.

So as you can see, we have the month of July covered with all kinds of fun and food. We do this for you, our members. Don't be left out. Come be a part of it! (ps. The comedy night cabaret was a great! If you weren't there you missed out! Thanks Raven! and thanks to all who attended!!)



Ritual Coach, David Naccarato, PER presenting Raven West, Leasing Knight with a first place shirt

**Back by popular demand
 one performance only
 Krazy Crew
 August 17th
 Bobby William's
 steak and egg breakfast**

ENTERTAINMENT



July 11 karaoke
July 18 One Last Dance
July 25 Renegades



Lunches are now being served again on Mondays-Thursday. New chef, Bryan Gicking, invites all to sample his cuisine

Corinne Richeson, Lounge Manager

Breakfast 101

David Naccarato PER,



We had our "WAFFLE MANIA" last Sunday June 1st. Thank you to those who supported our breakfast. Here was the final tally
 Peaches and cream 5
 Blue Berry 5
 Chocolate Chip(measles) 1
 Monkey Business 3 (bananas and walnuts)
 Strawberry's fields forever 4
 regular breakfast 14

Hopefully look for it again in July. Lately there are not enough teams and not enough patrons. To cook for 5 or 50 it's the same cost and the same amount of work. You don't want to run out and there is no way to predict how many customers you will have. They tell me there was a time when it was a slam dunk to put on a breakfast or a Friday night dinner. I remember first joining in Aug. 2000 if you didn't come early on a Friday you didn't eat. Now were losing cooking teams on Friday due to too much work for too little return. We can turn it around. We need to support our lodge by supporting our cooking teams. Waffle Mania team was Karen Naccarato on plate set up scouting chair, Bill Miller on grill Bob Arbetman on toast and window and Jeri Miller on window and delivery and yours truly on eggs

Big thanks to my team and all who came out for waffle mania. If eating Sunday breakfast is a priority for you members, please support the crews in July.

They are back in the fall...
Wild Women on Wine Dinner

Dream Train Rolls On...

Speaking of a dream team. This lodge has a dream team. We took our train up to the Santa Maria rodeo and parade so our Exalted Ruler could ride in the back and bring awareness of our disabled children programs. The Elks were out in force with participation from Lompoc, Santa Barbra, and of course Santa Maria. Now to get the train up there took Terry Baker, as head crew chief to get that train running smooth and loading it on the trailer. The trailer was on loan from member Jim Rochford. Jim also met us up there and unloaded for me. Karen Naccarato acted as engineer and I towed up ,towed back and clanged the bell. Steve Chizar unloaded for me when we got back to the lodge. It took a whole team to get the job done. We did succeed in getting the word out that the Elks are alive and well and doing the work we say we do.

I could think of many reasons not to take the train all that way but we don't take the easy way out. The look on the kids faces when we come down the street. They tire of hay bales and toilet paper. We are under our own power colorful, and making noise and have a purpose. Look for us August 2nd in Ventura for their parade and remember "Elks Care Elks share"



Cornellia and ER, George Meehan waving to the crowd at Santa Maria rodeo parade while Karen and David Naccarato drove the train.


Inviting all children, grandkids of Elks to attend meeting of Junior Elks
July 13th 1 pm
 on outside patio
 hot dogs and sodas will be served

HAPPENINGS AROUND OUR LODGE



Jerry Serota and Sally Claunch receiving 2nd place CHEA Community Image Brochure and 1st place Bulletin Award from ER, George Meehan



Boy Scout leaders presenting Bart Vanderlip, Tom Hartin, Bill Sternberg and Greg Metzgu with appreciation plaque for cooking at Boy Scout Jamboree



Cornellia and ER, George Meehan with CHEA theme child picture at state convention



Eagle recognition dinner at Reagan Library Lodge's sponsored troops Eagle Scouts with (l-r) Greg Metzgu, Bill Miller and Bill Sternberg



Ritual Coach, David Naccarato presenting Greg Metzgu with a first place plaque for Lecturing Knight



OUR NEW MEMBERS—Richard Gorino and Dena Pederson with sponsor Heather Maddox (center)



Bill Miller, Scouting Chair

This is why we do it!!!!

We had another Scout meeting with our Troop 871 boys at Casa Pacifica. One of the boys had finished his 2nd Class Rank requirements, had completed his Scoutmaster conference last week and was scheduled for a Board of Review today. We asked Bill Hurley, a retired Troop 761 Scoutmaster and a former FBI agent to chair the review, which also included a couple of Casa staff members. The boy passed his review and is now our first Troop 871 2nd Class Scout.

One of the things that was mentioned to Bill by the staff during his review was that last week he decided to go AWOL from Casa and had some of his belongings AND his scout shirt under his arm as he began walking towards the exit. Ingrid Cleffi, who is our scouting committee chair at Casa saw him, asked where he was going and was told that he was leaving.

She said that he couldn't take his scout uniform with him so he dropped it on the ground and continued to walk towards the gate. After a few steps he stopped and looked back at the shirt. He stood there for a moment, and then he went over, picked up his scout shirt and went to his dorm room.

We have another boy who just joined us a few months ago. We met him at a Casa luncheon for a large group of volunteers where the boys were to perform a Flag ceremony. We only had two boys in the Troop at that time and when we arrived one of them was throwing a tantrum and was not going to be allowed to participate. So we went into the auditorium and saw a couple of the boys that used to be with us and asked them if they could give us a hand. We got them into Scout shirts and were reviewing the ceremony to refresh their memories when another boy, Nick, came over and seemed interested in what we were doing. So we asked him if he wanted to become a Scout; he said yes so we put a shirt on him too.

He was very helpful but didn't show up for our next few meetings. Then Greg Metzgas, who has been functioning as our "Assistant" Scoutmaster, arranged for our boys to tag along with Troop 754 on one of their shorter hikes and began to focus on some backpacking training. He brought a tent and let the boys set it up on the lawn. We started with just two boys that day and by the time the tent was erected; we had a group of five or six, including Nick, all helping out. After that Nick has been a regular and is

well on his way to completing Tenderfoot. He told us today that he gets to go home (Sacramento) on June 13th for good - and asked us to get him the address of a Scout store in that area. He plans to join a Troop when he and his mom get settled and continue with the program. He's one of the very bright spots for us - eager to learn and lots of fun to be with - and we wish him well.

Eagle #46

On Sunday June 1, 2008 an Eagle Scout, Court of Honor was held at Teledyne Scientific Center for Paul Matthew Armer, a member of BSA Troop 754 and the son of Pauline Matthews and Lee Armer. He is 17 years old, lives in Newbury Park and goes to Chaminade Prepetory School, participates in the Marching Band, and plans to major in Architectural Engineering.

Family and friends came to celebrate this happy occassion. Less than 2% of the boys in scouting reach this goal. Paul is the 46th Eagle Scout to spread his wings from Troop 754 which is sponsored by Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477.

Milestones in Scouting, he served as Patrol Leader, Asst. Patrol Leader, chaplain's Aide, and Den Chief.

Paul's Eagle project benefited the Conejo valley YMCA in Thousand Oaks, California. He supervised over 20 volunteers to refurbish a cabana structure used by children at the YMCA Summer Day camps. It was in great need of repair and painting. It was becoming unsafe for the children to use the structure. Fixing the door, painting the walls of the structure on the inside and outside and painting the eaves of the roof on the structure were his challenges.

Paul would like to thank Do It Center, Home Depot and Roadside Lumber for donating supplies to his project.





**Meet Our New State
Vice President for the
West Central Coast
District.....**

David Coleman

David Coleman was born in Warner Robins Georgia on July 10, 1962 and moved to California 6 months later. He settled in Simi Valley in 1971 with his parents where he attended school, and graduated from Simi Valley High School. He received the Outstanding Student of the Year award. He attended California State University of Northridge and majored in Business Administration.

He was an Assistant Coach for 7 year's for the CSUN Women's Softball team, which won 4 National Championships, in Div II in the NCAA. He enjoyed all aspects of softball, whether it was playing, coaching, umpiring, or scorekeeping. While playing softball is when he was asked to join the Elks. He joined the Elks in 1997 and after 3 months was asked to be an officer, and was Exalted Ruler in 1999-2000. He has served as district committee chairman on Public Relations, Membership, and Membership Retention.

He currently resides in Simi Valley with his lady of 14 years, Kim Tachibana. They are both employed by Verizon Business, and David has been in the Telecommunications industry for 26 years. They both enjoy bowling, fishing, camping, and attending the Rodeo and PBR.

CALIFORNIA-HAWAII ELKS ASSOCIATION THEME CHILD 2008-2009



At the California-Hawaii Elks Association state convention held in San Diego on May 14-18, 2008 the theme child Alejandro Martinez was named for the Elks Major Project Inc. Alejandro was just 27 weeks in his pregnancy and weighed only 2 lbs. 6 1/2 ounces when he pushed his way into this world. When presented to over 1,000 Elks in the auditorium he was all smiles and lit up the stage.

Exalted Ruler George Meehan of the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477 was proud to have donated \$11,125 from his Lodge. Moneys were raised by special charity events and BBQ's by hard working Elks. Over \$2, 900,000 was raised by over 94,000 Elks for the Elks Major Project, Inc. aid to physically handicapped children. On the final day of the convention Exalted Rulers from California and Hawaii walked across the stage with their donations. Jerry Serota, Secretary



The dress code after 6 pm-

**please no tank tops
please no clothing with
demeaning language**

**Have you filled your Purple
Pig this month????**

**A coin a day---they'll walk.
talk, see, and play**

WHAT IS THE GLUE THAT BINDS US TOGETHER?



Jerry Serota, Secretary

It is the bonds of fraternalism and the feeling of being surrounded in the loving and caring arms of family. When we lose a member of our family it is especially painful and with that loss we mourn. That is why as ritual requires we have an Elks funerals and a yearly memorial.

As the Secretary it is our duty to log these events and take note. At this point we go over the list of unpaid members and a cloud passes over our heart. The thought occurs to us how many of our membership are facing the grim reaper or cannot overcome the adversity of current events. How many will lapse their membership. If you are overcome by adversity there is a standing relief to help you through the storm and you will not be left in the lurch.

As we attended the California-Hawaii Elks State Convention and was introduced to Alejandro Martinez a lump caught in my throat and a quiet sob passed my lips for this child has Cerebral Palsy. In the 27th week of his pregnancy and just 2 lb.6 1/2 ounces and just 14 inches long he fought his way into this world and was all smiles for the 1,000 Elks present in the auditorium. It is children like him that we try to keep our Elks family together so that children like him will not be left without our help. By renewing your dues you are reaffirming the commitment to disabled children, the veterans in our hospitals and promoting Americanism in our youth.

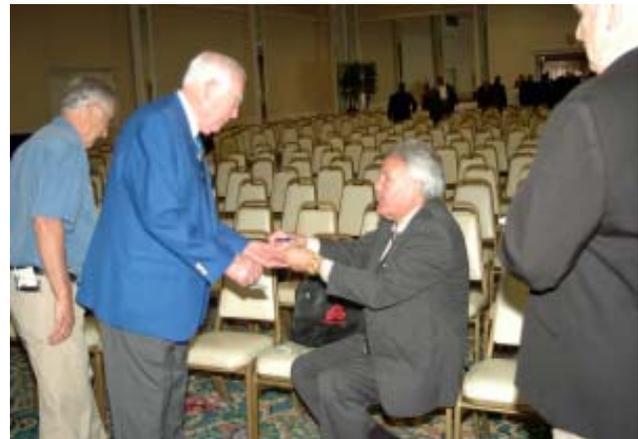
Mail your membership dues today in the greatest family of all B.P.O.E. "The Best People on Earth."



Alejandro & parents at CHEA convention



CHEA , Editor Ian Lanouette and ER George Meehan at CHEA Convention



David Stull and E.R. George Meehan get their membership card signed by GER, F. Louis Stulsberger



Fred Bianchini, CHEA Public Relations Chairman with 2nd Place plaque for Community Image brochure to the Thousand Oaks Lodge with Jerry Serota

Share the Excitement

Sponsor a new member.

Applications are available in the lounge or office



**Pat VonWittenberg
Konejo Kampers**



MAY CHILI COOKOFF AND OTHER THINGS AT KENNEY GROVE

Amazing turnout even though it was on the warm side.

There's been a bit of confusion, if that's the word, about our July campout originally scheduled for Flying Flags. Beverly Erickson was notified IN WRITING in May that the fees for our reserved sites has been increased to \$75. YES, I KNOW, the Kamprats have a different rate, how or why, sorry I can't answer that question! It is what it is.

With the price of gas still on the rise, and with basically no time to find another campground, it was the decision of the officers, based on availability (virtually NO choice) we will be returning to Kenney Grove in July. Bill and I are wagon masters and with a lot of help from some friends, I believe we're gonna have an unusual, really enjoyable campout.

Nope, ain't gonna tell you what special plans we have, you'll just have to wait till ya get your flyer.

We were really pleased to have some Kampers we haven't seen in quite a while. We hadn't seen Ron and Iris Schwartz for over a year. Would you believe, we still recognized each other? Good to see you again. Actually they have been freed of teenager problems with both their girls off to college. In fact, they've been so freed, they've joined an additional camping group - is this divided loyalties?

Beverly called Marva to get an update on her health and lo and behold, Marva asked if there were still spaces available - - they wanted to come camping. It was great to see both of you and especially see that Marva is feeling much better.

And would you believe, Jack Henry ventured out. Ya just never know what moves or motivates that man.

The Erickson's Chili Cook off for the May campout is becoming more popular every year. The LaFarrs brought guests, Mary and David Hobert and their delightful offspring Stephanie and Patrick (young, good-looking adults). Mary claimed to have been working really hard, but I seem to recall seeing Steph doing a lot of time at the stove.

Personally, I was delighted to find Mary is interested in quilting also. We spent more than a few minutes talking "quilting".

Cook off contestants: Donna Colleran (defending champion) - Chili Brats; Debi Drake - Dragon Lady Chili; Debbie LaFarr - M & M Chili; Wayne LaFarr - BOHICA Chili; Cheryl Templeton - Meow Mix Chili; Mike Flannery - Mike's Firehouse Chili; Frank Coley - Girley Chili - Sweet and Wonderful; Mary Hobert - White Lightning Chili (and it was white and quite tasty).

If you weren't cooking, at least you must participate in judging or helping Beverly keep score.

Thought poor Doris Newcomer was going to have an anxiety attack over the judging requirements. She made it though without feeling faint. Gotta say, Bill and I have

judged some ICS (International Chili Society) cook offs and our Kampers did a better job of cooking than some of the "circuit" cooks. There wasn't a one in the bunch that made ya wanta go "YUCK". Actually it wasn't that easy - - but then again take a good look at ALL our Kampers. Do you see any evidence of "bad" cooks? ? ?

Winners were the three D's. First - Debi Drake; 2nd this year - Donna Colleran and 3rd Debbie LaFarr. There's always a bit of friendly competition, but the competition between Debbie and Wayne - - especially when Deb beat Wayne got a bit comical.

Casadorie, which I'm sure is misspelled, was a welcome guest among the cooks - and got the best of a couple of them.

It's spring - and a few people were having problems with bugs. All varieties of commercial bug repellants were being used. I found the herbal, homeopathic whatever ya call it, Lavender Body Oil and Bounce sheets kept me entirely "bug free". There had been an email round sometime ago about using Bounce sheets, it advised that the Post Office distributes or encourages their mail carriers to stick a sheet in their pockets to repel all sorts of bugs. In fact, a few years back when the Kampers were a Lake Cachuma, we were being visited by bees. Got out the Bounce and - - away they went.

Also read WD-40 keeps flies off cows, supposed it would work on people? Allegedly the main ingredient is FISH OIL - and the makers say there's nothing harmful to humans. Some people even use it on arms, hands and knees to relieve arthritis pain (think I'm gonna try that) kills insect stings also.

Hope to see ya'll soon.

Upcoming Campouts

July 11-12 Kenney Grove

August 8-9 Malibu

September 12-13-

Santa Barbara Lodge

October 10-11 Simi Valley

visit the website:

<http://elkonejokampers.oaksdata.com>

to join call Bev Erickson 495-9715





Jerry Serota, Secretary

Our Elks Team at the Brownie Olympics

Just got back from witnessing the Brownie Olympics in action. To see the young ladies in action doing the obstacle course of kicking a soccer ball through designated markers, carry a tennis ball under their chin, balance on a beam, crawl through a tunnel, get in a potato sack and hop to the finish line brought a smile to my lips.

Bill Miller our Committee Scouting Chair and his side kick Jeri and Terry Baker were our Elks on the scene cooking up over four hundred hot dogs for the hungry young Olympians after their competition. They not only cooked but were responsible for donating all the food. Over \$250 was earned to fund this worthy event a demonstration of Elks committed to our youth



Bill and Jeri Miller and Terry Baker cooking for the Brownie Olympics

Did you Know?

The Elks provided over \$160 million in charitable works last year.

Over \$3.4 million in college scholarships is awarded annually by the Elks.

Of Gardening Angels

Children & Roses,
So Much Alike ...
Protected,
They Blossom & Spread their Petals
Lack Of Attention,
Aphids & Thrips ...
Create Quite A Fit
They All Need ..
.A Gardening Angel

Of Dichotomies

Fat Chance,
Thin Chance ...
So Little & Less

No Matter The Meaning,
Difference Minute ...
To One In Despair

The Difference Is Moot,
They Give the Same Pain



HOW DID THE ORGANIZATION CHOOSE THE NAME "ELKS?"

The Order of Elks was formally organized on February 16, 1868, in the City of New York. Its full corporate name is "Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America." Its declared purposes are to practice its four cardinal virtues, Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; and to cultivate good fellowship.

The animal from which the Order took its name was chosen because a number of its attributes were deemed typical of those to be cultivated by members of the fraternity. The elk is distinctively an American animal. It habitually lives in herds. The largest of our native quadrupeds, it is yet fleet of foot and graceful in movement. It is quick and keen of perception; and while it is usually gentle and even timorous, it is strong and valiant in defense of its own.

A representation of the majestic head of the male, with its spreading antlers, was adopted as the first badge of the Order,

2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS	LECTURING KNIGHT Greg Metzgu, PSVP	2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
AMERICANISM: Grant Thistle FLAGDAY/FLAGRETIREMENT: Robert Jones SCHOLARSHIP: Rick Herrera GOVT.RELATIONS: Scott Dool MEMORIALSERVICE: Rick Herrera NATIONAL SERVICES: Jim Kellogg KIDS XMAS PARTY: Chet Kozlowski, PER		GOLFTOURNEY: Dave Pearson LODGE PICNIC: Joe Clancy & Ed Bianchi David Naccarato/Tom Hartin MEMBERSHIP: Every Lodge Member CHRISTMAS TREES: Herb Jellander Bill Sternberg, PER/Terry Baker EL KONEJOKAMPERS: Mike Flannery

Elks to team up with the Vietnam Veterans Assistance Fund

The Order of Elks, as part of the “Army of Hope” program is teaming up with the Vietnam Veterans Assistance Fund (VVAF) in a national initiative to raise funds to assist soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Proceeds from this program will help benefit veterans in healthcare, homelessness issues, and a smooth transition back to civilian life.

Donation cans, on which the Elks logo will be inscribed, have been delivered to our lodge. These cans are also inscribed with a tribute to Michael F. Manning who directed the Elks National Veterans Service Commission for over 14 years. Michael passed away in July of 2007. It is requested that these cans be “adopted” by an Elk member and placed in local “mom and pop” stores, delis, lodges, etc. Each member in charge of the can will collect the proceeds on a monthly or bi-weekly basis for one year and turn the proceeds into the lodge office with a note stating that it is money collected from the Army of hope donation can program.

The donation cans are numbered and are now available. I have been asked to keep track of where they are placed so control of them will be through me, your Lecturing Knight. You can get them by either calling me (805 498 5495) or picking them up at a lodge meeting. I can also arrange to deliver a can to the office for pick up by you at your convenience.

On November 10, 2007 F. Louis Sulsberger, our Grand Exalted Ruler, addressed thousands of veterans assembled on the Mall in front of the capital in Washington, D.C. for the 25th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. In that speech he told of our commitment to our veterans and that at this time our help is needed more than ever. Let’s show our returning soldiers that we stick by our pledge when we say, “So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.”



Donation can for Vietnam Veterans Assistance Fund



**THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!**

David Pearson for spearheading the golf tournament---a true Elk

Ben Reiger & Jim Allen for splitting the oak for the BBQ wagons--hard working Elks

<p>2008-2009 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</p>	<p>THE ELKS LADIES Jessica Stull</p>	<p>2008-2009 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</p>
<p>1ST VICE PRESIDENT: Pat Peterson 2ND VICE PRESIDENT: 3RD VICE PRESIDENT: SECRETARY: June Leadam TREASURER: Diane Isaman AUDITOR: TELEPHONE: Patti Serota</p>		<p>PARLIAMENTARIAN: June Leadam CHAPLAIN: Marilyn Cissell MAJOR PROJECTS: Niki Case CVD: Alice Kennedy & Marilyn Cissell HISTORIAN: SUNSHINE: Shirley Kozlowski</p>

As of this writing we have not had the Father's Day Brunch, but I'm sure it will be smashing. Not because we are serving champagne – but because Pat Peterson and her Committee are hard at work to ensure a fitting tribute to Dad and the other men in our lives. We'll report further next month.

Conejo Valley Days is behind us and it was another rousing success. The first big thanks goes to Marilyn Cissell and Alice Kennedy – co-chairs and the second one goes to Olga who jumped right in there to take over when Marilyn came down with pneumonia. These ladies really worked hard to make it run smoothly for those of us working the gates. You know there are so many people to thank where CVD is concerned. All of you who worked the gates, who cooked and wrapped the hamburgers for the Special Children's day, to those who helped with the children and everyone who worked in the food wagon are to be commended for your generosity and hard work. Its fun, but it is hard work, but oh, so worth it as you will read about later in this article.

The Ladies had a successful Books 'N Bake sale on May 16th while I was away with my husband at the Elks Convention in San Diego. Wow, what an impressive event. Several of the sessions were open to everyone, so I attended more for the educational factor than anything. There is too much to tell but I want to focus on just one area – Major Project. Most of you know that in California we contribute our Major Project dollars to help with hearing and vision testing, and therapy for children. For me, it was nameless, faceless children. After a PowerPoint presentation of the poster child, 4-year old Alejandro Martinez, there was not a dry eye in the auditorium – and it was full! Next, they introduced his mother who told the story of his birth and its numerous complications. This baby was so small she could cover it with her hand. His progress was rocky and at eight months they discovered he had cerebral palsy to add to his other difficulties. Suffice to say the Elks Occupational Therapist, Mavis Johnson, a real person told us about Alejandro and then introduced the child himself. This is a boy who smiles so much; you just have to know he has the support and love needed to ensure his development. In his tiny voice, scooting along in a contraption that provides



JULY

- 11 Bette Pape
- 22 Audrey Huffman
- 24 Joan Massicotte
- 28 Frances Bodenhammer
- 30 Barbara Booker

THE RUTS IN LIFE



Marilyn Cissell

Alone, we can do nothing, God,
just treading water, we're so tired.
If we pick up a Bible Lord
and read your words, we are inspired.

Could we be in a rut so deep
that only you can understand?
Time after time, we try to change,
when will we reach to grab your hand?
Amen

mobility for him, he said very clearly with grace and humility "Thank You." He is soon turning five years old and the Elks (forgive me for not knowing who exactly) presented him with a little red car that he could get around in. A happier child could not be imagined. And, as for those tears we all shed, they magically transformed our faces into smiles and lifted our hearts. This was the moment we felt proudest of our affiliation with Elkdom. As if that wasn't enough to jumpstart my heart, here comes the "March" where all the ERs present their lodge's Major Project checks. I was so proud of George as he walked across that stage and gave more than \$11,000 from Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge, knowing that the Elks Ladies played a part in that, and was publicly recognized for it. In about an hour's time I saw over \$2.9 MILLION pledged to support the Major Project. What a magnificent experience.

HONOR ROLL

A COIN A DAY



- 2 Marshall Matz
- 3 Marc Donovan
- 5 Don Booker, PER
- Dick Rogge
- Steve Santa
- 9 A.L. McLoud

- 10 Mike Flannery
- 12 Chet Kozlowski, PER
- 13 Wayne Foss
- Bill Smail
- 14 Lester Hight
- 16 Ron Maddox
- 17 Al Larson
- Patrick Lynch
- Roy Sapp
- 19 Mike Brunton
- Don Sabol

- 21 Marshall Schreiner
- 22 Daniel Carpenter
- Debbie Hawthorne
- 24 Raul Arevalo
- Jim Rochford
- 26 Don Ansell, PER
- Donald Kerins
- John Leadam
- William Wilkinson
- 27 Donnie Long
- 28 Walt Eagan

JULY



- Scott Dool
- Rubye Metzgun
- Boyd Lindquist
- James Bragg
- Jay Block, PER
- Myrna Block
- Max Maxwell
- Tom Hartin
- Bob Arbetman
- Robert Jones
- Tom Walsh
- David Naccarato, PER
- John Peterson
- Terry Gicking
- Greg Metzgun, PSVP
- Duke Kopacz

- Cherri Peterson
- Tom & Kathy Ryder
- Century Club

- Greg & Barb Metzgun
- Millenium Club

**FROM THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE
PROPOSED AND WILL BE BALLOTTED ON
July 16, 2008**

Robert Fleming wants associate membership

CRYING TOWEL



5-07-08 Capsule Drawing 150.00 #1846 Norman Panczak
Lucky 13 no winner

5-21-08 Capsule Drawing, \$175.00 # 640 Stephen Pence
Lucky 13 no winner;

5-28-08 Capsule Drawing \$200.00 #1765 John D'Ambrogio
Lucky 13 no winner;



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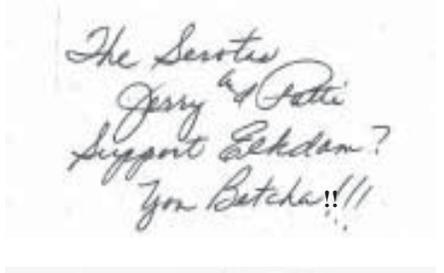


**Drop off at Wed. meetings
or at Sat. BBQ by rear
entrance to the bar parking
lot**

**Thanks-
Rich Herrera
Scholarship Chair.**

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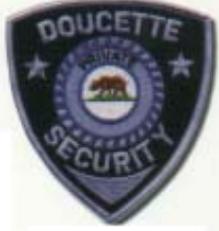
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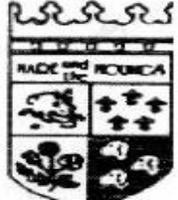
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1997-98 John Kelly	

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