



Exalted Ruler  
Steve Smith

# ANTLER ANTICS

Vol 41, No. 12

Editor, Sally Clarch, ER

March '12

## Inaugural Ball honoring

ER, Leo Rodriquez & First Lady Lynn



March 31, 2012  
6 pm appetizers  
7 pm dinner  
grand entrance  
\$35

Chef Boyd's filet or chicken piccata dinner



music by KC Philips



tickets available at the bar on March 1st



## EXALTED RULER

Steve Smith



## LEADING KNIGHT

Leo Rodriguez



### Where We've Been

Well, here we are. The 2011 - 2012 Elk year is coming to an end. A new cadre of officers has been assembled. What has happened over the past twelve months? Certainly whatever it was took place with controversy. Controversy is often viewed through subjective eyes. Subjective viewpoints lend to bias viewpoints. This lodge has seen its share of controversy. Many members believe the House Committee is the source of that controversy.

The House Committee has made difficult and painful decisions concerning the actions of others. Every decision was made after extensive deliberation and thoughtful debate. In the end the committee made each and every decision with the best interests of the lodge in mind.

In my view, some members have voiced irresponsible criticism of the House Committee based upon non-existing facts otherwise known as rumors or gossip. Until the rumor-room becomes a responsible arena of firsthand knowledge and facts those who dwell upon its gossip are destined to be misled by unsupported dogma and worthless hot air.

### Where We're Going

In spite of controversy, this lodge is on a path of growth. The future of this lodge is in good hands. It is my belief that the members who have stepped up to accept the challenge will bring a new beginning to the horizons that are laid before us. To add support to this effort I have formed a new committee. It will be known as the Hospitality Committee. This committee will be co-chaired by Dan Martyn and Donna Leary.

Together Dan and Donna will oversee the operation of the kitchen and lounge. Dan's organizational skills and business sense, working in tandem with Donna's knowledge and experience in the food and beverage industry (particularly with regard to alcohol and catering), can only provide our lodge with a successful future. This is a team that will help us turn the corner toward growth and prosperity allowing our lodge to serve our community in ways we have only dreamed of.

As I wrote in a previous article, how would your doctor diagnose your health if your heartbeat were only ten percent of capacity? So should we evaluate the health of our lodge. Remember, by everyone doing a little we can accomplish a lot. Let us get the heartbeat of our lodge beating at a minimum of 90% of capacity. Wouldn't that be a true blessing for our lodge and our community? This is where we should be headed. Let us all strive toward this goal.

### My Thanks

To those whose support with which I have been truly blessed, and have honestly appreciated with all my heart, you know who you are. There is no need to name any of you. In fact it may be to your detriment if I did. All kidding aside, I am so grateful for your support and loving kindness.

continued on page 11

As I sit here writing this final article as your Leading Knight, it will be well into March by the time you read it and it makes me wonder where the last year went. Thanks to all of you the members, who make our Lodge so very worthwhile. I look back and reflect on all the good work we have done and will continue to do so. This is why we are Elks, to help others in need those less fortunate than we, the ones who need our assistance.

I have found through the past 5 plus years that there are some truly good people in this world who give so much in so many ways. I especially have learned as an Elk the true blessings I have in life. Remember it takes volunteers working together with one another to bring to fruition the very thing we stand for "Charity".

This coming year, I hope that we as a Lodge can continue to really make a difference in our community. Whatever you are able to contribute is never insignificant so take a look at our various activities and volunteer wherever you can. Become part of a team working towards the same goals as one.

I look forward to our coming year and am very confident that we can all promote a spirited fellowship. This year is our Lodges' 40 year anniversary giving us a lot to celebrate! Please get involved with your Lodge.

I would like to reach out to all members and ask you to give thought to become an Officer. We are still looking for members for several Officers for the 2012-2013 Officer Corp. Talk to your past and present Officers to ask what it really means being an Officer. What a great way to get to know your Lodge and your fellow members. You will also get the opportunity to meet fellow Elks from other Lodges' too! Let's make this 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary the start of another 40 years to come!

In closing, I would like to thank all of those who have given so much to our Lodge, and know that recognition for all that you have done as members will continue. I want all of you to know that your hard work and efforts has not gone unnoticed.

The Inaugural Ball this year will be on Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. It will be a great event and we hope to see you all there. Come and meet your new Officer Corp. and join in on the festivities. Be there or be square.

Respectfully,  
Leo Rodriguez  
Esteemed Leading Knight





LOYAL KNIGHT

Dan Martyn



JUSTICE

HOSPITALITY

The newly created Hospitality Committee will assist the House Committee with regard to the daytoday operations of the bar and kitchen, and will coordinate those operations with other Lodge functions, such as Lodge activities, Lodge room rentals, and special events.

Our Friday night dinners in March start March 2 with a stuffed cornish hen dinner by Myrna Block followed by bingo by Power Dave. On Friday, March 9, we will have a return trip to the kitchen by Eddie Bianchi, Chef Boyd and Jim Moye for a Market Street meatloaf dinner with garlic mashed potatoes and southern style cream corn, followed by fudge brownies prepared by our First Lady, Pam Smith. Stick around after meatloaf for dancing to the music of Moon & Sol. Chuck Busch and crew return on Friday, March 16 for the famous fish fry, and on Friday, March 23, the Wild Women on Wine return for some March Madness and Wild Women on the Bowling Machine. Friday, March 30, Terry Gicking brings back Cook Your Own Steak followed by entertainment by One Last Dance.

The big event of the month will be the Inaugural Ball on Saturday, March 31. Come down to the Lodge and celebrate with Leo Rodriguez as he becomes Exalted Ruler. Chef Boyd and crew will be preparing their fabulous filet mignon or chicken picatta dinners. For those of you who missed Chef Boyd's culinary creations on New Years Eve, this is your chance to enjoy a great dinner and a great party for Leo. Details are on the front page of the Antler.

I am happy to report that in January, with new Bar Manager ,Brooke Okray at the helm, the bar had its best month in years, and we thank our members for their patronage. We are adjusting bar prices to better reflect costs; some prices will go up and some will go down, but we are confident that the financial performance of the bar will continue to improve.

That's all for now. Please refer to the calendar for more details on meals and events, and don't forget to stop by for lunch every weekday.

Dan Martyn  
Chair Person/ Hospitality Committee  
Loyal Knight



LECTURING KNIGHT

Robert Jones



BROTHERLY LOVE



BAR PRICES  
(effective 2/12/12)

Beer

Bottles: Domestic & Non-Alcoholic \$2.50  
Imported \$3.50

Draft: Domestic Regular \$1.50  
Large \$2.50  
Imported Regular \$2.00  
Large \$3.25

Drinks

Well \$3.00  
Call \$4.00  
Premium \$5.00  
Top Shelf \$6.00  
Martinis-Regular \$5.00  
Premium \$6.00  
Martinis-Large Well \$6.00  
Premium \$8.00

Wine

House \$3.50  
Premium \$4.50  
Champagne Split \$4.00  
Corkage Fee \$5.00

Miscellaneous

Soft Drinks \$1.25  
Coffee/Tea/Snacks \$1.00

## Full Tab Collection



Friends and Family,

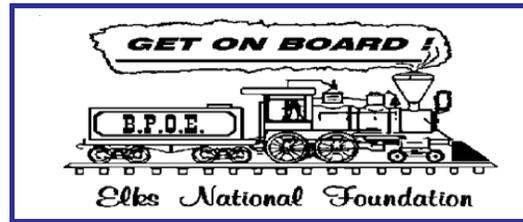
I am turning 7 months old on February 8th! I have been home from the hospital for about a month and am doing great! I weigh about 12 lbs, am 24 inches long and have grown into my 3 month old clothes! I am still working on holding my head up real strong. I found my feet and my voice this month! I yell "ah" and "aye" to get my parent's attention when they are ignoring me! I am still eating that yucky formula and am doing the best that I can with that dam bottle. The pediatrician says I might be ready to start eating a little real food soon.

Here are some highlights and photos mommy took of me this month!

- Christmas was a blast! Santa and friends brought me fun toys, clothes and a really cool swing. Mommy played dress up with me and did a photo shoot in a reindeer get-up that I am sure I will regret when I am a teenager (see attached photos).
- Aunt Karen sent me a huge Teddy Bear for Christmas! (see attached photo)
- I saw my heart doctor last week and my heart is doing really good! Looks like I won't have to have another surgery for a few years!
- Daddy bought me a rock star outfit that I paired with my Fisher Price guitar! We rocked out! (see attached photo)
- I cheered and cheered, but the 49ers just couldn't pull it off for the Super Bowl. Daddy was really upset. (see attached photo)
- I am a fashion diva these days and love donning all of the clothes that Mommy's friends gave to her at my baby showers! (see attached photo)
- The stomach flu struck the entire house last week and it was not fun. We are all feeling a lot better now!
- We have been out to dinner a few times and I have been a really good girl each time!
- I have had lots of out of town visitors come to see me this month including my Auntie Lauren, Cousins Stephanie and Weston, my Grandparents Jellander, and Dave Nakano.

I hope you are all having a great New Year! Hope to see you soon!

Love, Cameron



Congratulations to all of the Thousand Oaks ENF donors for 2011-2012. As of January 31<sup>st</sup> the Thousand Oaks Lodge has a per-capita of \$5.24 exceeding the Grand Exalted Rulers per-capita of \$4.50. We still have time to raise our numbers. As of now we are 6<sup>th</sup> in the district per-capita. Let's move up!

And with your help we will raise more money! The PERs are again sponsoring the ENF Shrimp Peel Fundraiser for the 2011-2012 Elks year is scheduled for Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup>. Refer to the enclosed flyer for more information. Reservations are required to help us order properly.

Remember ENF is in our community, In addition to Grand Lodge programs, the ENF supports local programs via Lodge grants through the Community Investments Program. Thousand Oaks has obtained some funds and is requesting more.

Again let's look at some of the ENF benefits remaining to be obtained for members this lodge year.

Emergency Education Grants : ENF scholarships for Elks families are also available. Emergency Education Grants, for college-aged children of deceased or totally disabled Elks, are due by December 31.

TAX DEADLINE : In order to get a tax break for your charitable donations in 2011, all contributions must be in the Grand Lodge ENF office on or before December 31. Get them to the lodge earlier.

Go online at [www.elks.org](http://www.elks.org) and check under ENF for available Scholarships and requirements for your children or grandchildren! If you can not go on line, call the lodge, leave your name and someone in the know will get back to you.

Tom Ryder - PDDGER - ENF Chairman



REMEMBER OUR RECYCLE PROGRAM FOR SCHOLARSHIP

**SICKNESS AND DISTRESS**

Coleen Morris-Chair  
805-241-8928

OUR CONDOLENCES TO: Jane Watson and her family on the passing of her mother

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Our Armed Forces who keep us safe; Marva D'Ambrogio welcomes cards but no visitors yet; Paul Denuccio from treatment for throat cancer;

ON THE MEND: Johnny D'Ambrogio home from the hospital for intestinal problems; also Mary Woodlief home from the hospital for intestinal problems

**ENTERTAINMENT**



March 2-Bingo with Power Dave  
March 9-Moon & Sol  
March 23-Women's Bowling  
March 30-One Last Dance

**COMING ATTRACTIONS**



March 13-Elk Ladies Installation Dinner  
March 16- Elk of the Year Dinner  
March 21- Step Up Night  
March 28- Installation of officers  
March 31- Inaugural Ball  
April 8-Kids Easter Egg Hunt  
April 20-Pin Night  
April 22- Day at the Races  
April 27-28-Ritual Contest  
April 29-Chili Cook-Off



**WE DO**

**MARCH 25**

**1:30 PM  
SIGN UPS  
IN LOUNGE**



**EASTER EGG HUNT**

April 8th 1:30 PM  
BRING YOUR  
OWN BASKET

TOYS AND FOOD  
FOR THE KIDS

**MONDAY & THURSDAY  
NIGHT DINNERS**



**CHECK CALENDAR FOR  
MENU**

**BOWLING LEAGUE FOLLOWS  
MONDAY NIGHT DINNERS**

**HOT LUNCHES  
SERVED DAILY**

**SANDWICHES, BURGERS,  
SALADS, WITH DRINK  
AND FRIES**

**BAR DRINK SPECIALS WITH  
PURCHASE OF LUNCH**

M A N N A



On Monday it was most gratifying to deliver a barrel full of canned foods and staples to Manna our local food bank. Thank you for responding to the hungry in our community from those who for one reason or another depend on our generosity to stave off hunger. It was pointed out to me that Manna is not an official Elk Charity but it is a charity we as Elks respond to because BPOE stands for 'Best People On Earth'.

We hope that when you donate to the Manna barrel in the lounge you will feel the gratitude of those who rely and appreciate our efforts so that they can carry on their daily lives. Jerry Serota

CHECK OUT OUR



www.elks2477.com



Did you Know?

- Last year the Elks provided contributions for charitable works of cash, non-cash, hours worked and miles traveled in the amount of \$57,331,735 in California-Hawaii and over \$349,529,210, breaking an all time record nationally!
- Over \$3.4 million in college scholarships is awarded annually by the Elks.
- The California-Hawaii Elks have raised over \$100,643,152.00 since 1950 to address the unmet needs of children with disabilities by developing a program of supporting services to aid these children at no cost to their families.



OPERATION FACELIFT

Tom Ryder ~ PDDGER

"OPERATION FACELIFT" continues with new projects being considered and old ones being worked. Have ideas or suggestions pass them to us. We appreciate the help. It's your Lodge!

Grunt of the Past Month

Tom Hartin - Always available when you need him!

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT SHED

The lodge has wheel chairs, shower chairs, crutches, portable potties and other items available for use by convalescing members. The problem is there is no central area for storage or disbursement of these items as the need comes up. If some one has an 8x10 shed they would donate it will be appreciated.

OUTSIDE LODGE GROUNDS LIGHTING

Most lights have been installed and turned on but there still a few dark areas where lights are scheduled to be installed. Funded

NEW PROJECT

Recycle center - Your recyclables and Rick Herrera have raised a great amount of funds for the Thousand Oaks Elks yearly scholarship awards. Have outgrown the current collection area. With the approval of the trustees and with planning by Rick and Greg Metzgas a new collection area is being drawn up. The area will be adjacent to the permanent BBQ and preparation area. Funding in progress

PROJECTS STILL SCHEDULED/WORKING

Lobby Entrance Roof - Funded

BBQ Picnic Area Gate and Fence - Funded

GRUNTS - NEED MORE GRUNTS  
PLEASE GET INVOLVED

All Projects are reviewed and approved prior to start by the Officers and House Committee and the Trustees.

Volunteers/Grunts

Your lodge is in need of volunteers. If you have some free time, consider lending a hand at an upcoming event or project. Contact the office, any officer or me to volunteer.

There is something for Everyone to help with. Its your lodge ~ Volunteer ~ Talk To An Officer or me (805-497-1853) ! !



David Naccarato, PER

It is that time of the year when we pick our "ELK OF THE YEAR". We choose an individual who stands out from the crowd. No, not just taller or louder or larger, but one involved with the Lodge. This person is always around to lend a hand. The word "NO" is not in their vocabulary. This year's Elk of the year is a secret to the rest of the Lodge. The officer corp. and past Elks of the Year vote on the newest member of the group. They are forever remembered on our Elk of the Year memorial board that is proudly displayed in our Anteroom. Take a gander and shake the hands of greatness when you are in the presence of an Elk of the year. Past recipients include:

- 73-74 Dick Lewis\* 74-75 Ernest Harter\* 75-76 Milt Mortenson\* 76-77 Frosty Miller\*
  - 77-78 John Farhat\* 78-79 Jack Henry 79-80 Bobby Clark\* 80-81 Jerry Tait\*
  - 81-82 Bob McKee\* 82-83 Bill Caims\* 83-84 Dick Churik 84-85 Bill Witney\*
  - 85-86 Bob Cissell\* 86-87 Tommy Thompson\* 87-88 Roy Cooper 88-89 Vern Ogden
  - 89-90 Vince Bailie\* 90-91 Don Steinhelper\* 91-92 Sherwood McDonald\*
  - 92-93 Jeff Enger 93-94 John Evans\* 94-95 Tom Ryder 95-96 Kirk Keeler
  - 96-97 Chuck Busch 97-98 Jerry Serota 98-99 Tommy Claunch 99-00 Frank Coley
  - 00-01 David Pearson 01-02 Ken Keeler 02-03 Gil Riding 03-04 Dick McNeal\*
  - 04-05 Ed Rice 05-06 Max Maxwell 06-07 Tom Hartin 07-08 Heb Jellander
  - 08-09 Jim Allen 09-10 Terry Baker 10-11 John D'Ambrogio 11-12 xxxxxxxx
- \* deceased

### WORLD WAR 11 HEROES

On January 26, 1945 near Holtzwihr, France, Audie Murphy and his company found themselves under attack by six German tanks and waves of infantry. While his men took cover, Murphy remained at the front, calling in directions to supporting artillery. When an American tank was disabled, Murphy climbed atop it, grabbed its 50 caliber machine gun, and unleashed it on the enemy troops. Despite being wounded, he single-handed held off the attackers before organizing his men to counter-attack. For his heroism, Audie Murphy received the Medal of Honor, The highest of his many decorations.

The recipient of the Medal of Honor for valor at Guadalcanal, Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone was among the Marines who hit the black sand beaches of Iwo Jima on



February 19th 1945. When the Marines' advance was held up by concentrated fire from a Japanese blockhouse, Basilone directed an attack to eliminate the enemy position. Free to move off the beach, Basilone led the Marines forward to near the Montoyana Number One airfield. He ordered the Marines to hold the ground "come hell or high water" while he went back to get reinforcements. As he ran forward with a fresh group of Marines, a mortar exploded in their midst, killing John Basilone. In an instant, the Marine Corps had lost one of its greatest heroes



A big thank you goes out to member Gary Erland who is also heavily involved with the VFW who meet here monthly in our conference room. Gary takes discarded electric mobility units and overhauls them and donates them to Veterans who may need another mode of transportation around the house. Having seen the unit the lodge donated to me to use around the grounds being in such disarray he asked if he could take a look at it. It was decided it needed a couple of batteries and to overhaul the speed controller. I bought the batteries and Gary took them and the cart home and worked on it for about two weeks. He even lent me a Cadillac of electric carts to use in the mean time. Gary brought it back and it all works fine. When I have to take the trash out to the dumpster it helps a whole lot. Using arm power and balancing the bag of trash on my lap sometimes makes more of a mess but with electric power makes it much easier. So to Gary Erland I say thank you for your help and proving "Elks Care Elks Share". Now with the one I have at home from PER, Harry Brockwell and this one at the Lodge I hope I don't get soft.



The House committee sent out a survey for feed back on the operation of our Lodge. Out of 406 mailings we received five back. One was placed in the box not filled out but I hope you at least bought a drink. The ones that were filled out pretty much had the same answers on all of them. At the house committee meetings they will be reviewed. Seems 401 members are happy with the status quo. (Is that how you spell quo)? Let me know.



### WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS



James Andrews with sponsor Ben Rieger



Randy Hays with sponsor David Naccarato, PER

### YOUR LODGE SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

40th Anniversary of BSA Troop 754. The Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge did themselves proud with their representation and provided the BBQ Beef and Chicken for the assemblage that gathered and paid homage to the leaders, Scouts, Eagle Scouts and 300 parents and friends who honored the occasion. Three Elk members have been Scoutmasters of Troop 754-Bart Vanderlip, Greg Metzgus and Bill Stenberg., which has produced over 60 Eagle Scouts. Jerry Serota



*Elks - Partners In Scouting*



Isaiah Matute won first place for 9 year olds at District Hop Shoot. He was a winner at our Lodge's local contest.





Pat VonWittenberg  
Konejo Kampers

The El Konejo Kampers began our camping year with a bang. Many of us had not been camping since our Thanksgiving campout in mid November and were experiencing motorhome withdrawals. Our first campout of the year is traditionally at Travel Village in Valencia and this year was no exception. We had a nice group of people turn out including one of our newest members, Jim Porter and his girlfriend, Sherry Jones. Jim is a thirteen year Elks member and is currently a Trustee. You may remember Jim and Sherry from the charity basket delivery in December - their photo using a brand new UPS truck was in the Antler Antics. Folks enjoyed having the newbies around and shared stories, advice and traditions with them. Also present were John and Cherri Peterson who came down from Washington along with Vinnie, their dog. Cherri would disappear during the day to take classes and join us all later.

Ed and Donna Colleran hosted the campout this month. Both Ed and Donna still have jobs, so they come out on Friday when most of the rest of us have been there a day or two and are quite settled in. Well, they arrived after dark to find an empty section for the El Konejo Kampers as we had all decided to take the party to Don Cuco's Restaurant and enjoy the Happy Hour instead of cooking. Some Happy Hour - it lasts from 2 pm to 10 pm - those folks have an awful lot of HAPPY. We arrived before dark and got home well after dark. The Colleran's took it all in good humor. Saturday, when the majority of the activities take place, Donna was ready for a mini meltdown. She described it as being "disrupted." She experienced computer problems, then printer problems, and finally curling iron problems, which she says is the worst. Still, her infectious laugh and her ability to laugh out loud at herself are admirable. She subscribes to the adage "If you can't beat them, join them." Everyone truly appreciates how Donna can take a potentially difficult situation and turn it into fun. Just when both Ed and Donna felt they had everything under control and we had finished our Saturday brunch and were in the middle of selling raffle tickets prior to our meeting, Donna was informed that we were in the wrong clubhouse room and we had to vacate. By this time she didn't know whether to scream, cry or laugh, but since everyone grabbed tablecloths, raffle prizes, tickets and anything else belonging to us and had it set up in the new room within 3-4 minutes, she didn't have to choose. You guys did a great job, thank you.

Being January, and since I have been on Weight Watchers since September, it was cute to watch everyone deciding what to eat and if they should break their new year resolution to lose weight. Each meal was a challenge and an opportunity for success. You'll never hear it from me about who kept the resolution and who didn't. Suffice to say at least four of the ladies walked regularly and two went wild walking 4 miles a day.



One of my warmest memories (pun intended) was the group sitting around the campfire in the evening talking to each other and in small groups. Dogs on leashes and chairs akimbo, everyone jacketed, scarved and gloved so looked like a typical family, with its parent-types, clown-types, and the others just enjoying the outdoors and each other. This is a great group and I'm proud to belong.

Jessica Stull, El Konejo Kampers  
Secretary



Kampers at Valencia (l-r) Mary and Mike Flannery,  
Ed Colleran, Cheryl Templeton & Jessica Stull

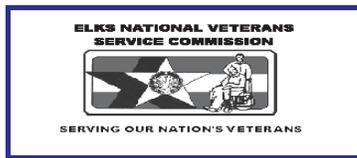
UPCOMING KAMPOUTS

- March 9/10-Newport Dunes
- April 13/14-Bakersfield RV
- May 18/19-Kenney Grove
- June 8/9- Ventura Ranch
- July 13/14- Lake Lopez
- August 10/11-Santa Maria
- September 7/8-Camp Comfort
- October 12/13-Santa Barbara Elks
- November 9/10- Kenney Grove
- December 9-Brunch

visit the website:

<http://elkonejokampers.oaksdata.com>





February was pretty quiet for veterans services and events. The monthly bingo and karaoke were successful as always; we bring smiles to a lot of faces. There also were many donations of clothing and toiletries and movies. Books are not requested as there is insufficient space for any more. There is always a need for ladies underclothing and casual wear at the Sepulveda V.A. Hospital. Whatever you can think of for ladies in a hospital will be welcome; 2<sup>ND</sup> Friday each month.

Watch your calendar for March. Our first Veterans Muster will be scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 in the lodge room. All veterans are welcome, members or not. There is no scheduled program. This is for old war stories and whatever you want to talk about. We will honor the MIA/POWs and our own departed veterans. The screen and microphone will be available for anyone to address the group, or just sit and

chat. Sandwiches and snacks will be available and of course the bar is open. There is no charge, but any donations will go to our veterans program.

Veteran for the month: John Leadam, Korean War Please see or call Carl Lanterman; (805) 630-8110, carl1nto@roadrunner.com, if you want to help extend our military involvement. We also want to help active military members when we can.

Thank a Veteran- free postcards provided by Xerox and the link is on our Veteran's Page <http://www.elks2477.com/veterans.html> - a moment of your time will give someone..who is laying their life on the line for your freedom.the knowledge that someone cares



Jerry Feldman with Sam Weiner --see story below

## Your Lodge Serving Our Community

- \*Hosting Blue & Gold Ceremony at Lodge
- \*Providing karaoke at Saticoy Vets monthly
- \*Doing bingo party at Sepulveda Veterans Hospital monthly
- \*Hosting blood drive for the community
- \*Participating in BSA Court of Honor
- \*Sponsoring an appreciation dinner for youth in our community
- \*Participating in CVD and Chili Cook Off
- \* Holding Toys 4 Tots drive
- \*Being a partner in Special Kids Day at CVD
  - \*Hosting flag retirement ceremony with Boy Scouts-open to the public
- \* Cooking for Brownlympics & Scouting Events
  - \* Providing use of lodge room for Girl Scouts Bridging Ceremony
  - \* Giving VFW free monthly meeting room
- \* Sponsoring hoop shoot for local youth
  - \* Providing meeting place for community clubs
  - \* Preparing and delivering food baskets

ELKS AND FRIENDS. TODAY SEVERAL OF US WENT TO THE VAMC SEPULVEDA TO VISIT WITH OUR SENIOR VETERANS AND PLAY BINGO. WE LOADED THEM UP WITH TOILETRIES AND HAD A GREAT TIME TALKING WITH MANY OF THEM.

NEXT TIME YOU ARE ON YOUR COMPUTER, GO TO THE INTERNET AND JUST TYPE IN "SAM WEINER POW" YOU AUTOMATICALLY BE ON THE WEBSITE AND AMONG OTHER FEATURES SEE THE VIDEO OF SAM TAKEN AT OUR T.O. LODGE AND LISTEN TO HIM PERSONALLY TALKING ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCES, OF HIS PLANE BEING SHOT DOWN, BAILING OUT, LANDING IN A CLEARING, CAPTURED AND HIS TIME AS A POW.

I SPOKE WITH SAM AND AT HIS AGE IS A VERY DELIGHTFUL AND WONDERFUL MAN TO SPEAK WITH. I HOPE IN FUTURE VISITS WITH OUR T.O. LODGE WE ALL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET SAM. HE SAYS HE'S LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR NEXT ELKS BRUNCH.

OUR SENIOR VETERANS ARE VERY APPRECIATIVE OF OUR LODGE VISITS AT BOTH THE SEPULVEDA VAMC AND VETERANS RETIREMENT HOME IN VENTURA. THANKING US IS ALWAYS IN THEIR EYES. MEET THEM AND SHARE THE EXPERIENCE.

BEING AN ELK IS SHARING GREAT EXPERIENCES.

JERRY FELDMAN

Exalted Ruler Continued from page 2

I am especially thankful for the efforts, guidance and loving oversight of Myrna Block, Dan Martyn, Greg Metzgus, Tom Ryder, and without question, our Secretary David Nacarrato. Dave stimulated my conscience on so many deliberations and knocked me in the head so many times that only I can appreciate the frankness of his criticism, always expressed with kindness. Thanks Dave.

There are others who have eased the experience of my term as your Exalted Ruler. They are those who have supported my wife. Pam received caring guidance by several Past First Ladies whose advice aided her in representing your lodge with dignity and respect. They were very supportive and loving in their understanding of her role as your First Lady. Pam wishes to thank Kathy Ryder, Barbara Metzgus, Myrna Block, Madeline Brockwell and Cornelia Meehan.

I know this list can be exhausting, but I need to try mentioning others. Angie Prizzi, Dave Herrera, Carol Fredericks, Max Maxwell, Tom Hartin, Ben Reiger, Jim Millen..... on and on and on. Without such selfless dedication to our lodge we could not be as efficient and effective as a community service organization. These members and others need to be commended for their efforts and dedication.

There are also those who act in groups to support our lodge. Without their collective effort we would not enjoy the added enhancement they provide. I am of course speaking of the Elks Ladies and the "ever present" El Konejo Kampers!

- The Ladies are always organizing their own events, but I want them to know I will always remember their efforts in supporting other events. The decorating, the organizing and all of the "behind the scenes" work they provide.
- The Kampers are stalwart. Constantly, month after month hosting a stellar breakfast second to none and always a moneymaker. Their contributions to our lodge through their efforts should stand as an example to which we should all aspire.

Now, some of you may not be aware of (or may have forgotten) that we have a public relations team in place that constantly lets our community (and surrounding communities) become aware of who we are and what we do.

- Oh boy, where do I begin. Okay, let's begin with the Camera Bug. Jerry Senrota. He has been clicking at us and posing us and telling us to say "Cheese!" for so long how can I not acknowledge him. I have learned a lot from him and he has not always been so patient. It is his frankness and no "BS" approach that I have come to appreciate. Someday, somewhere another camera bug lurks in the shadows. For now, thanks Jerry.
- Oh yes, our Editor in Chief. Tirelessly she works. Constantly, hammering on those of us who are required to write monthly articles for the Antics. Sally Claunch, like a duck, calm on the surface yet paddling like mad underneath. She never complains, she always smiles and she always expresses a positive attitude or comment. In spite of all of the challenges

she has faced, the Antics is published. And, need I remind you of the perils she and Tommy have endured. Nonetheless, the Antler's Antics was delivered on schedule. Thanks Sally

- Okay. There is a little known and rarely hailed segment of our public relation team. In fact they may not even consider themselves part of such a team. I am speaking of Gerry Gillis and Steve Buchinsky. These gentlemen care for, maintain and operate in parades and other functions the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge Train. They have escorted Pam and I in the Santa Maria (a very rainy experience), Simi Valley and Ventura Parades, which provided our lodge with delightful publicity and exposure. They have also driven the train in the Moorpark Parade and other events where children have been in attendance and enjoyed rides upon the train. These dedicated members enjoy what they do and so do we. Thank you Gerry and Steve, it has been an honor for Pam and I to be a part of what you do for our lodge.

Now let me go no further, if there is any Exalted Ruler of this lodge who forgets to recognize the one and only, tried and true, constant pillar of stability in this lodge it ain't gonna be me baby. Eddie Rice, I am so profoundly thankful for the inspiration and leadership you have provided our Bar-be-Q Teams this year. You have performed beyond the call in a variety of ways, and I am especially grateful. Thanks Eddie.

#### How do I end all of this?

Kindness. Kindness in thought, word and deed. Those are words heard at the first station of every member's initiation. This is precisely how we are expected to treat everyone, not just members, but everyone, even those with whom we disagree or have conflict. It is my prayer that those members, and you know who you are, who need to re-embrace this tenant of Elkdom will do so and bless us with their fellowship of kindness.

In January I initiated members into our lodge for the last time as your Exalted Ruler. Those members are special to me simply because, they will be the last representation of whom we are as I have tried to impress upon our membership. Thanks to James and Randy for choosing our lodge as their venue of community service. We welcome their brotherhood.

And now I will end with this, there is no other organization on earth, yes on earth, that represents our Country with such honor and dignity (Not withstanding our Military). No other organization so uniquely American than the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Our small but powerful lodge impacts the lives of so many, young and old. Pam and I have been honored to serve each and every member of this lodge. Thousand Oaks Lodge #2477 is exceptional in all that it does throughout the communities it serves. It is the dedication and commitment of the members of this outstanding lodge that places us in the forefront of community service.

God bless you all. It has been my honor.

Fraternally in Elkdom,

Steve Smith, Exalted Ruler

Thousand Oaks Lodge #2477

2011-2012 COMMITTEE  
CHAIRPERSONS

THE ELKS LADIES  
Alice Kennedy

2011-2012 COMMITTEE  
CHAIRPERSONS

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: Karen Naccarato  
2ND VICE PRESIDENT: Melinda Pekow  
SECRETARY: Lynn Rodriguez  
TREASURER: Charlotte Gessler  
AUDITOR: Beth Kozlowski  
TELEPHONE: Patti Serota



PARLIAMENTARIAN: Pat Peterson  
CHAPLAIN: Marilyn Cissell  
MAJOR PROJECT: Niki Case  
SUNSHINE: Cornellia Meehan  
HISTORIAN: Carol Fredericks  
CVD: Alice Kennedy & Pat Peterson

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, the Elks Ladies will be hosting the Sunday morning breakfast. As usual, the breakfast will be scrumptious from eggs and bacon to fantastic omelets. We look forward to seeing everyone there to support the Elks Ladies. As always, this is a great way to meet and greet people.

It's that time again..... March 13<sup>th</sup> is the Ladies Installation Dinner. Come meet our new officers and enjoy the great dinner. Spouses and friends are all welcome to meet our new officers, to come enjoy the Installation Dinner, and to support the Elks Ladies. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Installation.

The new slate of officers for 2012-2013 are: Cornelia Meehan, President; Lynn Rodriguez, First Vice President; Melinda Pekow, Second Vice President; Jean Miraglia; Secretary; and Charlotte Gessler, Treasurer.

This year will be a great year. We would like to see new members join the Elks Ladies to attend our meetings, which is the first Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. of every month. The meeting is quite enjoyable and informative. After the meeting we all enjoy dessert hosted by the Elk Ladies and also time to get to know each other.

Take care and God Bless,  
Melinda Pekow

Past First Lady and Elk Lady Eula McKee would like to hear from you.

Her address is:  
193 Cottonwood Ln.  
Monticello, AR 71655.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Rubye Metzger-1  
Jet Perry-1  
Angie Prizzi-1  
Hyllis Riding-5  
Dee Ansell-6  
Crystal Dool-11  
Jessica Stull-25



BECAUSE OF YOU

ALTHOUGH IT IS STILL WINTER, GOD,  
SPRINGTIME CAN'T BE FAR AWAY  
WITH DAFFODILS AND BUTTERFLIES  
AND MORE TREES BUDDING EVERY  
DAY.



THE BEAUTY IN NATURE SURROUNDS  
US,  
FROM MOUNTAINS, OR BEACHES OR  
BRIGHTEST STARS,  
SUCH BLESSINGS SHOW YOUR LOVE  
FOR US.  
BECAUSE OF YOU, ALL THIS OURS.  
AMEN

Elk Ladies Beach Party Fundraiser



The Elk Ladies Beach Party, spearheaded by Niki Case ( pictured on the left with Beth Kozlowski) was a successful function both raising monies for Major Project and presenting a fun filled evening- as you can see in the pictures. Tom Ryder took riding a surf board to a brand new level without spilling a drop of wine. As always Niki outdid herself soliciting door prizes for the af fair.

**OFFICERS 2011-2012**

**TRUSTEES**

EXALTED RULER - Steve Smith  
 LEADING KNIGHT - Leo Rodriquez  
 LOYAL KNIGHT - Dan Martyn  
 LECTURING KNIGHT- Robert Jones  
 SECRETIARY - Dave Naccarato, PER  
 TREASURER - Myrna Block  
 TILER -  
 ESQUIRE - Grant Thistle  
 CHAPLAIN - Terry Gicking, PER  
 INNER GUARD- JB Bre  
 ORGANIST- Karin Spreights  
 OFFICER AT LARGE- Greg Metzgas, PER

David Stull 1 Year  
 Donna Leary 2 Year  
 Jim Porter 3 Year  
 Carl Lanterman 4 Year  
 Sam Frankl 5 Year

2011-12 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS-reporting to Exalted Ruler

ANTLER ANTICS: Sally Claunch, PER, Editor  
 Jerry Serota: Photographer  
 Calendar: Sally Claunch, PER  
 Distribution: Alice Kennedy  
 HISTORIAN/SCRAPBOOK: Jerry Serota  
 GREETER: Dorothy Murray  
 NEW FACILITIES: Tom Ryder, PDDGER  
 OPERATION FACELIFT: Tom Ryder, PDDGER  
 LODGE RENOVATION: Dan Martyn

PARLIAMENTARIAN/PRESIDING JUSTICE: Dick McCann  
 LODGE VISITATIONS: Steve Smith  
 AUDITING: Chet Kozlowski, PER  
 ELKS TRAINING: Terry Gicking, PER  
 BEQUESTS & LIVING TRUSTS: Leo Rodriquez  
 MEDIATOR: Boyd Lindquist  
 PROTOCOL: Myrna Block  
 BBQ TEAMS: Eddie Rice:

2011-12 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS-reporting to Leading Knight

MAJOR PROJECT/PURPLE PIG:  
 David Naccarato, PER  
 SICKNESS AND DISTRESS: Coleen Morris  
 ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION:  
 Tom Ryder, PDDGER  
 MEMBER CONTROL. COM.: David Naccarato, PER  
 Investigation: Alan Hardie

David Naccarato, PER: Stray Elks  
 Terry Gicking, PER: Orientation  
 CHARITY BALL: Hospitality Committee  
 CHRISTMAS BASKETS: Leonzo Rodriguez  
 CHARITY DINNERS: Hospitality Committee

2011-12 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS-reporting to Loyal Knight

LODGE ACTIVITIES: Jim Moye  
 Lynn Rodriguez: Public Relations  
 Sally Claunch, PER: Americanism  
 Bill Stenberg, PER: Flag Retirement Ceremonies  
 Barbara Gibbs: Memorial Service  
 Gov't Relations: David Naccarato, PER:  
 Lodge Picnic: Hospitality Committee-Jim Moye

2011-12 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS-reporting to Lecturing Knight

YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Rick Herrera  
 David Naccarato, PER: Hoop Shoot  
 Grant Thistle: Soccer Shoot  
 Robert Jones: Drug Awareness  
 Sally Claunch, PER,: Kids Christmas Party  
 Bill Miller: Scouting  
 Rick Herrera: Scholarship

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:  
 Tom Hartin: CVD  
 Paul Stein :Law Enforcement & Fire Fighter  
 Apprec. Dinner  
 CHRISTMAS TREE LOT: Ben Reiger-chair  
 Herb Jellander & Eddie Rice -co.chairs

**HONOREES**

ELK OF THE YEAR- Johnny D'Ambrogio, PER  
 OFFICER OF THE YEAR- Rick Herrera  
 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR- Bill Miller

**EDITOR'S CORNER**



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



### HONOR ROLL

- Coleen Morris
- Karin Speights
- Terry Gicking, PER
- Jon Anderson
- Greg Metzgus, PDDGER
- Robert Jones
- JB Bre-
- Revenue from candy bar sales
- Paul Stein
- Steve Smith

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Paul Denuccio-1           | Kevin Metzgus-16          |
| Harvey Flam-1             | Michael Idol-17           |
| Rubye Metzgus-1           | Phillip Johnson-19        |
| Leslie Smith-1            | David Puente-19           |
| Rick Spampinato-1         | Don Peterson-20           |
| Mac Hays-2                | Richard Wade-20           |
| Alan Van Cleave-3         | Jill Williams-20          |
| Ronald Collins-5          | Douglas Bevan-21          |
| Dee Ansell-6              | Jay Schmidt-21            |
| John Henry, PER-7         | Gary Erland-22            |
| Tom Hartin-8              | Richard Goldner PDDGER-24 |
| Mark Rediger-8            | Kevin Porter-25           |
| Richard Romani-9          | Robert Revell-25          |
| Pete Jackson-10           | William Jones-30          |
| George Meehan PER-10      |                           |
| Bryant Burns-11           |                           |
| Robert Thornton PDDGER-11 |                           |
| Tont Lerner-12            |                           |
| Carmine Prizzi-12         |                           |
| Timothy Kelly-14          |                           |
| James Porter-15           |                           |



COME BY AND RECEIVE YOUR FREE BIRTHDAY DRINK

### Help Fund



### Our Scholarship Program

Bring your aluminum cans, plastic and glass bottles to the Lodge

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

Please do not drop off non deposit plastic items for recycling.

for example:

- Milk bottles
- Engine oil bottles
- Plastic alcohol containers (IE Tequila)
- Medicine bottles
- Plastic cups
- Salad dressing containers
- Aluminum foil



Thank You for your continued support, Rick

### FROM THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE PROPOSED AND WILL BE BALLOTTED ON: MARCH 7, 2012

- Daniel Hawkins, sponsored by John Moran
- Patricia Heckathorn, sponsored by Carol Fredericks
- Dainis Eglitis, sponsored by David Naccarato

- Richard Johnson for life membership
- George Hawkins, reinstatement

### YOUR LODGE ON YOUTUBE---HOORAY

On the right hand side you will see videos. Just below them there is a link called see all. Click that to see all of them <http://www.youtube.com/user/elks2477>

### CRYING TOWEL



- January 4th capsule drawing Russell Oviatt Not Present
- Lucky 13 Dan Martyn no winner
- January 18th capsule drawing Robert Jones Present "Winner"
- Lucky 13 no winner
- January 25th capsule drawing Richard Whitmire not Present
- Lucky 13 Randall Hays no winner.

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Elks Ladies  
of Thousand Oaks  
Elks Lodge #2477

General Meeting  
every month on the  
1st Tuesday 7:30  
P M



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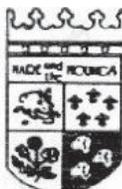
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Monday-Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday  
 10 am-8 pm  
 Wednesday & Friday  
 10 am- to closing  
 Sunday  
 9 am-8 pm



\*House Committee meets the second Wed. of the month at 7 p.m. followed by Officers' Meeting in Conference Room  
 \*Trustees meet the second Wed. at 6 p.m.  
 \*Your input is valued. Your attendance is welcomed.  
 Come for dinner and stay for the meetings.

## PAST EXALTED RULERS

1972-73 *Marvin D. Smith	1998-99 Chet Kozlowski
1973-74 Erle Pittman, PDDGER	1999-00 Richard Goldner, PDDGER
1974-75 *Richard Flake	2000-01 Jacob Panczak
1975-76 Bill Wagner	2001-02 John D'Ambrogio
1976-77 John E. Henry	2002-03 Don Booker
1977-78 *Robert McKee, PDDGER	2003-04 Greg Metzgas, PDDGER
1978-79 *Frank J. Rindone, PDDGER	2004-05 Jay Block
1979-80 *Edward F. Stogsdell	2005-06 Sally Claunch
1980-81 *Frank "Tex" Hastie	2006-07 David Naccarato
1981-82 * Robert Hardy	2007-08 Catherine Koeritz
1982-83 *A. John Nichols	2008-09 George Meehan
1983-84 John Nau	2009-10 Terry Gicking
1984-85 Vern Ogden	2010-11 Harry Brockswell
1985-86 Dan Snyder	
1986-87 Bill Lloyd, PDDGER, DL	By Affiliation:
1987-88 John E. Henry	1981-82 Robert L. Thornton, PDDGER
1988-89 *Ted Lipka	2001-02 Bill Stenberg
1989-90 Don Skinner	1999-00 * Ralph Vester
1990-91 Don Ansell	2002-03 Russel Robison
1991-92 Gary Sleight	
1992-93 Tom Ryder, PDDGER	
1993-94 Jim Wallace	
1994-95 *George Pekow	
1995-96 Gil Riding, PDDGER	
1996-97 *Jack Loughran	
1997-98 John Kelly	*Deceased

The ANTLER ANTICS is published monthly in Thousand Oaks, California as the official Bulletin of the Thousand Oaks Lodge no. 2477 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks of the United States of America, 158 Conejo School Road, P.O. Box 2110, Thousand Oaks, 91358. Publication of the ANTLER ANTICS is an activity of the Lodge and contributions and interesting and pertinent reading material and photographs are welcomed. Photographs MUST be identified and captioned or they will not be published. Deadline for receiving ALL material for publication is the 5th of each month.