

# THE SCUTTLEBUTT

## Happy Holidays



Association

Veterans Mo Merry Christmas



## 2010 Holidays Issue

### Inside this Issue

Marine Corps Birthday, Presidents Corner, Texas Honor Ride, Lone Star Rally, The Iowa Report, a bit of history, and, a whole lot more...

December 2010

# THE SCUTTLEBUTT

December, 2010

## Happy Holidays

Holiday Issue

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Happy Holidays Members,

I am honored to have been asked to produce the "Holiday Issue" of your newsletter, It has been a very busy year and it is difficult to accept that it is coming to a close, I for one have found myself running behind all year long trying to prepare for my impending retirement and I am sure all of you are just as overwhelmed as I am with the closing of 2010 and also as excited as I am at the prospects for 2011.

I hope everyone of you have a wonderful holiday experience and a very prosperous 2011.

Sina and I bid each and every one you very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

God bless all of you and God Bless America.

Semper Fidelis, Frater Infinitas,

Jim Gibson (Curly)

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Please remember this is your association newsletter.

**Sgt at Arms**

[Rob Snyder](#) (Buck)

Let us know what you think...

Send your suggestions, news articles, photos, rides, events and etc...

**Newsletter Editor**

Open

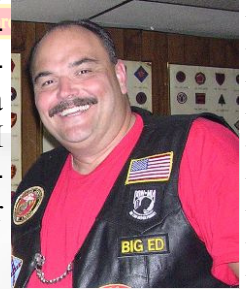
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# THE SCUTTLEBUTT

## From the President

### “Bear Facts”

By: Oso



What do the holidays mean to you? Now that we are in the holiday season, every individual finds that they may mean one thing or another depending on the individual. Personally, I always find myself not only enjoying the moment of it all, but more importantly, a time for remembrance and reflection. My earliest recollections like the majority of you I suppose, is that of being a small child at family celebrations in the company of adult family members who have long since passed. I always find it special to think back on their smiles, laughter and kindness shown.

However, the memories that come back to me the most were those of my times in service. I recall my first year out in California having just arrived at Camp Pendleton not six days before Christmas and being taken in by a Marine in my outfit whose family resided in East Los Angeles. His family welcomed me into their home and made me feel as part of their own.

Then there was the time I was on a West-Pac float before the start of Operation Desert Storm. Our ship pulled into port in the Philippines and it was a mad rush to make it to the phone center early in the morning in order to speak to my family back in the States who were all gathered together for Christmas Eve.

We have all been there during both times of war and peace. Some of us have experienced both sides of the coin in having been both the service member and then later in life, being the parent of a service member who was or is gone for the holidays. Take the time this holiday season to look back and recall the fond memories of yesteryear whatever they may be, and remember that more bright memories are on the horizon.

Reflecting on the past of our own Association, one cannot help but feel the sense of accomplishment. This could not have been done without teamwork and a hard core work ethic, which has helped lay out the foundation for us to continue growing upon. Just recently our Brothers in Iowa were granted their own Charter and will continue to grow as we have. The granting of this Charter signified a great milestone that was initially foreseen and talked about at our very first meeting before we even had a name chosen for our Association.

We are at the point now that as we move into the future we can truly focus on the enjoyable aspects of the Association and the true reason everyone sought out membership which is to ride and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow Marines. The Board has recently met and will presenting ideas and proposals at a future meeting in which you will find yourself reaping more rewards from membership within the Association than ever before.

We are in exciting times and I look forward to moving into 2011 with each and every one of you. So once again, take the time this Holiday Season to not only recall the past, but to look towards the future.

Ginger and I wish each and every one of you a Very Merry Christmas!

Semper Fi,

Oso

## U. S. Marines - Semper Fidelis Veterans Motorcycle Association

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Lone Star Rally

By: Shanghi



This year's Lone Star Rally was one of the best ever - good crowd, lots of vendors, good food and drinks, plenty of great bikes. Friday, after setting up our hospitality tents at 24th and the Strand, hanging out and visiting for a couple of hours with folks that stopped by, several of us left to attend the Ronald McDonald House Benefit Party which was held at the Rooftop Garden Restaurant a couple of blocks down on the Strand. The entry fee to attend this event gets you cold beer, wine, soft drinks, setups, snacks, dinner starting at 1700 hrs., a live band, door prize drawings and a great balcony view of the Strand. There is also a silent auction as well. All the proceeds from this party goes to help the Ronald McDonald House in Galveston with their expenses. It's really a great deal for a great cause. We would periodically leave the party and go back to LZ McLeod (new name for our tent location) to visit with folks that were there taking a break, having a cold one or getting something to eat at the Mediterranean Chef Restaurant. Mazen, the owner, has been really great and let's us set up our tents on the sidewalk (at no cost) next to his place every year which is really a super location. His waiters take excellent care of us and the food and drinks are always good. Saturday we had more friends and first-time visitors than ever before show up at the LZ. We met new Marines as well as Army, Navy and Air Force Vets and shared some laughs and great stories with them. Heck, we even had a retired Marine, Brigadier General stop in this year! Our tents and association signs are definitely "Marine / Veteran Magnets". As always, there were hundreds of great looking bikes rolling up and down the Strand and parked all over the place. The weather was great all weekend which really helped increase the attendance. Everyone I visited with said they were having a great time. Looking forward to doing it again next year. Ride safe -Shanghi

U. S. Marines - Semper Fidelis Veterans Motorcycle Association

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Texas Honor Ride

By: Shanghi

On November 13th, our association attended the Texas Honor Ride. We got a little wet and cold on the ride to San Antonio but by the time we got there the weather changed for the better and it turned out to be a really great day. Once again our association was one of the sponsors for this terrific event. Visiting with some of the wounded veterans and listening to them and their families tell about their recovery was really awesome for me - what a great group of Americans. As you can see below, it all came together perfectly thanks to the assistance from a lot of caring folks donating their time and efforts to make it happen - Take a look at the article below—OOH-RAH!!!

Semper Fi - Philip (Shanghi)

From Terry Muilenberg, President, Texas Honor Ride -

We've been hard at work this past week and a half finalizing the bike counts and head counts and merchandise sales and donations from the Texas Honor Ride to BAMC on Nov 13th. It all shows that we had a GREAT Texas Honor Ride this year. We had 485 bikes and 10 cars show up and go on the ride. Including passengers there were 644 people on the ride. And that doesn't include the police escort bikes and wounded warriors that rode to BAMC. When you add those in we had well over 500 bikes on the ride. That's down a little from last year but considering the rainy weather we had in Houston on Saturday morning that's a really good turnout. Anybody who didn't ride because of the weather missed a great day in San Antonio.

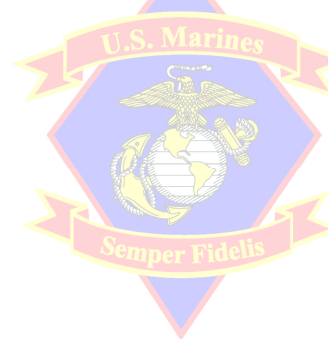
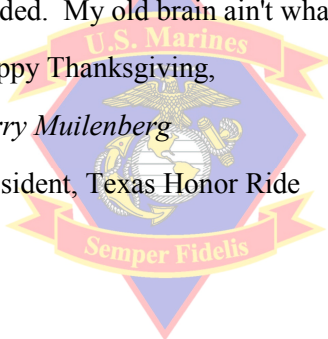
The total money taken in for the day (including advanced registrations) was just over \$36,000. Adding that to everything we raised during the year, we were able to present a check to the Warrior and Family Support Center in the amount of \$119,215. A very generous Texas Honor Rider then pledged \$785 to make the total an even \$120,000. What a great way to thank our wounded warriors who have sacrificed so much for us and the freedom that we enjoy in this great country of ours.

I would like to give a great big THANK YOU to everyone who had a part in making this year's Texas Honor Ride the biggest and best ever. Thank you to all the THR committee members and volunteers for all their hard work. Thanks to the Blue Knights for escorting the rides and keeping us safe. Thanks to Rudy's BBQ and Blue Bell Creameries for keeping our hunger satisfied. Thank you to CMA for handling registration and parking & traffic control. Thank you to the American Legion Riders from Converse, TX for handling the Buc-ees gas stop. Thank you again to the American Legion Riders for organizing "Operation Overpass", what a great sight that was. Thank you to CoVan for providing the motorcycle transport chase vehicle. Thanks to Stevie Mac's Dance Machine for providing some great music and entertainment. Thank you to everyone who showed up at all of our events to support our wounded warriors and thanks to all of the THR donors. And most of all, thanks to our wounded warriors for their sacrifice. Also, thank you to Judith and the staff and volunteers at the Warrior and Family Support Center for taking such good care of our wounded warriors and their families. I would also like to give a special Thank You to SGT Belinda Lewis for her beautiful rendition of the National Anthem. (If I missed anybody, please don't be offended. My old brain ain't what it used to be and I may have forgotten someone.)

Happy Thanksgiving,

Terry Muilenberg

President, Texas Honor Ride



## U. S. Marines - Semper Fidelis Veterans Motorcycle Association

# THE SCUTTLEBUTT

### Catching up

By: Gunny

Marine Corps Birthday to the HEARTS Museum

11-10-10

Gunny led a small group of members (Phillip and Emma Cullen, Bob Hanna, and member applicant Jessie Gonzales) to the HEARTS Museum. The weather was great and as well as the celebration. Old friends were seen and new interests to our Association were made. The ride was uneventful until Gunny's motorcycle began to act up. Ultimately stranding him for almost six hours in the rain on the north freeway. Needless to say Connie was frantic and the tow service was incompetent to say the least, which led to Gunny's bike sliding down the loading ramp on its side and onto the edge of the street. Gunny's concern over the condition of his bike and future opportunity to continue riding overrode his intense desire to put the tow driver in a chokehold.

Blue Knights Toys for Tots Rides

11-28-10

Gunny, Connie, Vinny, and Gunny's son-in-law Brian attended the T4T ride sponsored by Hooters and San Jacinto Harley Davidson. The ride was escorted by the local Blue Knights chapter. The route took us to NASA where a group photo was taken at Rocket Park. From there the group rode to rd Bluff Hwy, to Genoa-Red Bluff then along the Beltway 8 feeder to the Hooters next to San Jacinto HD.

117th Annual Toy Run

12-11-10

The Association's Annual Toys 4Tots ride began with most of the attendees having breakfast at Kelly's. Upon finishing breakfast Gunny patched in two new members, Steve Furman and Jessie Gonzales. Next time you see these two Marines please welcome them aboard. This year the ride was a little more exciting as we were lined up behind the Leathernecks. A small group of Banditos and Pistolas MC led the formation and as we rode up I-45 the lead Bandito was giving hand signals to assign Road Guards. Gunny led the Association members and friends and took notice that the Road Guard group was running low on people. WRONG! Next thing Gunny knew he Travis Peaco, and Cujo were the next contestants on 'Who wants to be a Road Guards.' Needless to say we all got our turn to be Road Guards and while the group was broken up a bit we all ended back together at the end of the ride formation.



## U. S. Marines - Semper Fidelis Veterans Motorcycle Association

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**Marine Corps History** "We do justice to our future by remembering our past" **By: Buck**

Marines here are few dates in our history for the months of December, January, &, February.

Semper Fi—Buck

**1700's**

Jan 27, 1778 – Captain John Trevett leads twenty-six Marines in capture of Fort Nassau, Bahamas.

**1800's**

Dec 24, 1814 – U.S. and Britain sign treaty ending war.

Feb 20, 1815 – Capt. Archibald Henderson leads Marines in Constitution's victory over Cyane and Levant.

Jan 27, 1837 – Col Henderson wins Battle of Hachee-Lustee Swamp against Seminoles in Florida.

Jan 15, 1865 – 365 Marines in naval landing force attack Fort Fisher at Wilmington, North Carolina.

Feb 15, 1898 – 28 Marines among 250 Americans killed when cruiser Maine is blown up in Havana Harbor.

**1900's**

Dec 7, 1933 – Navy Department creates Fleet Marine Force.

Dec 7, 1941 – Japanese attack U.S. Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor. Marines try to fight back.

Feb 13, 1943 – Birthday of women Marines.

Dec 26, 1943 – 1st Marine Division lands on Cape Gloucester, New Britain.

Feb 19, 1945 – 4th and 5th Marine Divisions assault Iwo Jima, raise flag on Mount Suribachi four days later.

Feb 20, 1962 – Marine Lt. Col John H. Glenn, Jr. orbits the earth in first manned American space capsule.

Feb 28, 1967 – PFC James Anderson Jr. is the first black Marine to win the Medal of Honor.

Jan 20, 1968 – North Vietnamese open battle against 26th Marines for Khe Sanh.

Nov 10, 1975 – Marine Corps celebrates its 200th birthday.

Dec 20, 1989 – Marines are part of force that tries to capture Panama's dictator, Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Jan 4, 1991 – Marine helicopters evacuate 281 people from U.S. Embassy at Mogadishu, Somalia.

Jan 16, 1991 – Operation Desert Storm begins.

Feb 24, 1991 – Marine 1st and 2d divisions, breach Iraqi line.

Dec 9, 1992 – Marines land in Somalia to rescue foreigners.

**2000 and beyond**

Feb 29, 2004 Marines land in Haiti securing the airport in Port-au-Prince

Jan 26, 2005 30 Marines and 1 Navy Corpsman killed in CH53E Super Stallion Helicopter crash during operations near the Iraq – Jordan border.

Dec 2, 2005 10 Marines killed by an IED while on foot patrol in the Sunni Triangle near Fallujah, Iraq.

Dec 21, 2006 4 Marines charged with Haditha killings.

Jan 18, 2010 more than 2200 Marines arrive in Haiti to bolster the relief effort in aftermath of devastating quake.

Right now "Dark Horse" 3rd Battalion 5th Marines, out of Camp Pendleton, CA is continuing to make history in the Helmand province of Afghanistan. They have lost 19 Marines since October. Our thoughts and prayer are with our troops stationed throughout the world.

# U. S. Marines - Semper Fidelis Veterans Motorcycle Association

## THE SCUTTLEBUTT

### Iowa Members Report

By: Stutz

Marines,

Iowa Alpha Company held their first meeting as an official Company on Thursday December 9th at the Hilltop Lounge in Des Moines. In attendance were Chad Stutzman, Dennis Jones, Dennis Hosey, Scott Dittmer, Mike Christensen, and Daymond Wolff. Scott Tudor who couldn't make it was voted in as Treasurer/Secretary.

Item Discussed included Monthly meeting times and venues, Toys for Tots Volunteering, Colors were presented to Scott Dittmer, Iowa Alpha Company Certificates were handed out to those in attendance, Due to Holidays, Weather and schedules our next meeting will be in February.

Before our meeting we enjoyed supper together including pasta, frog legs and fried chicken.

Semper Fi,  
Stutz

