

E-Tombeau

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The Official Newsletter of Duryee's Zouaves, 5th New York State Vols, Co. C

The 5th New York Co. C and the WCAR participate in the Long Beach Civil War Reenactment at El Dorado Park

The men of the 5th and ladies of the WCAR participated in the Long Beach reenactment and living history event in Long Beach the weekend of July 30th and 31st.

Reenactor wise, the park was filled with many members representing the Union and Confederate Armies, as well as many men and women doing civilian impressions. In all, four battles were fought in a very picturesque setting which was a genuine treat to the small crowds that paid high fees to attend and park. The event was in competition with Navy Week in Long Beach, which offered a free tour of the USS Abraham Lincoln and other military ships which were docked in the Long Beach Harbor.

The temperatures were high, which is expected at this time of year. However, the mature trees offered ample shade from the sun which helped both the public, and participants while in the camps.

At the event, the officers of the Union Army of the West voted Scott Brigadier General. Scott modestly accepted the honor, given to him because of the respect his fellow reenactors have for his leadership and knowledge of Civil War military tactics. Jeff Wildman and his wife Kris cooked dinner for the unit.



The 5th at Long Beach

The Zouaves Go Rolling Along

The reenacting season brings the need for many rounds so on August 21st, Steve and Lynn hosted a round rolling party at their home. Darren, Scott, Paul, Ralph, Dan, Kris N., Don, and Steve rolled 800 rounds, enough to carry the group through the Moorpark event. Lynn prepared lunch for the men, which was eaten on their covered patio. The unit is always well fed for their round rolling efforts. Thank you one and all for your help. "Rolling our own" saves the unit a lot of money, compared to buying them commercially made. Inventory of uniforms and equipment were taken as well.

Huntington Beach is a Hit!

The local Civil War "event of the year" for us is Huntington Beach over Labor Day weekend. The event is free to the public for both parking at Huntington Central Park and admittance, so the crowds are always large. Before each of the battles, The Union soldiers assembled for the Dress Parade, where the commanding officers were able to see how many troops they had, announce the orders of the day, and give the generals an opportunity to address the soldiers. The public loved watching this!!

The WCAR set up their tent on the edge of the Union Camp, right in front of the Dress Parade area, so they had "front row seats" to view the troops. Many people came by to ask about women's roles in the Civil War. Most expressed surprise to hear how much they contributed to the war effort, mostly as civilian volunteers, and sometimes as soldiers who "snuck in" to the military pretending to be men.

The weather cooperated, with no rain or extreme heat. Many participants slept Saturday night in the park. Jeff cooked. The Irish Pub was banned this year by the city, who owns the park, which was a bit of a disappointment. When the crowds left, the dominoes came out, and a period correct kind of fun began lit by candles and lanterns. Stuart donated his folding chair to the WCAR. Lynn and Steve provided dinner for all unit members on Sunday after the event, at their home.



Dress Parade prior to a battle at Huntington Beach

Moorpark Reenactment turns into

“The Mud March”

A Letter from Ed Mann

My fellow reenactors,

You may have been to the Moorpark event for each of the past ten years, and these events may mostly blend together so that you cannot remember if something happened in 2006, 2007, or 2008. I have to say that all of you who were there this year will remember this event for a long time to come. It is already being referred to as "The Mud March."

We were hit on Friday night with much more rain than expected. Once it started it continued through almost the rest of the night. When we arose on Saturday morning, the Confederate command tents, the civilian encampment, the sutler area, and the battlefield (all of which had been disked in advance of the event) were pretty much a muddy bog. Jennifer Christy, the civilian coordinator, reported that she found a pool of water under her cot with a frog in it. Notwithstanding, those in the combatants' encampments in the walnut orchard and on the grassy lawn were very damp, but the ground absorbed the rain fairly well there.

Although the rain had passed, the skies were still very gray on Saturday morning, and the first impulse was to cancel the event that day. (Some reenactors and spectators were told this, at least for a brief period.) As it turned out, however, we moved forward and, although attendance by spectators suffered, an amazing number showed up on Saturday when the skies were leaden gray, and even more on Sunday when the sun shone all day.

Since the battlefield could not be used, with the fall off of attendance on the Union side, the center of the grassy lawn in the encampment was open. We decided to have our battles there. The intensity of the engagement in such close quarters was amazing. (I have always considered the small battlefield at Huntington Beach to be not a serious limitation, but a reason for its success. It makes the action seem more intense when so many combatants are so close together.) I have seen Facebook comments this week where some individuals have said that they would prefer to fight on the grassy lawn in the future rather than on the battlefield because the battles felt more real. Of course, that won't happen since doing so does not give the artillery and the mounted cavalry enough opportunity to fully take part and, in a normal year, the spectators would be too numerous to cram into the viewing area.

I believe that this last weekend was the classic example of "when life hands you a lemon, make lemonade." We made the best of a bad situation, and those who took part had a great time after getting past the rocky start. We had 430 or so reenactors, a number unseen at any event except Long Beach and Huntington Beach this past year. Not too shabby with such weather.

I did hear some grumbling about the fact that there was no raffle on Sunday. Let me be clear, *I am the one who told the Rotary to forego it*. At that time, early afternoon on Sunday, the Rotary was still very concerned about losing money on the event. Balancing that with the fact that

- 1) the Rotary waived reenactor registration fees this year,
- 2) the prospect of breaking even was still up in the air,
- 3) the raffle is a custom but it is not guaranteed, and 4) I was told that only 10 Federals would show

up for the second battle which the Rotary needed desperately for the admission fees it would produce from late arriving spectators, I had no qualms about telling the Rotary to cancel the raffle. I felt that this was the least reenactors could do to help the Rotary out of the predicament it was in.

For the record, the "raffle" tickets, as some people call them, are given out in order to prove that a reenactor is registered. It happens to serve as a raffle ticket later. Given the precarious financial situation the Rotary was facing at the time the decision was made, I would make the same decision again. For those who still want to grumble, remember that all of you who left early on Sunday would have been ineligible anyway, since you have to be present to win.

Thanks to each of you who braved the elements in order to contribute to the event this year. Thanks to General Harrington and his staff for their fine services this weekend. Thanks to Jennifer Christy for her help with the civilian camp (and for her frog relocation efforts).

And here's a special thank you to those 40 or so (not 10) Federals, a Band of Brothers, who actually stayed for the second battle on Sunday and fought triumphantly against overwhelming Confederate numbers, thereby allowing the Rotary to reap the additional admission fees of those spectators who arrived late and expecting a second battle on Sunday.

Finally, thanks in particular to our hosts, Rick and Linnea Brecunier of Tierra Rejada Ranch, and to Dale Parvin, Lyle Pennington, Rick Tate, and the entire Moorpark Rotary Club for their fine efforts and financial support of what has clearly become the best event on the reenactor calendar. The money that the Rotary spends on this event is multiples of what is spent on the other events in Southern California, and both the reenactors and the spectators greatly benefit from this.

On behalf of the Moorpark Rotary Club and your host unit, the men and women of the Richmond Howitzers, thanks to each of you who participated this year.

Here's to a better (and dryer) 2012!

Ed Mann



Joe takes a hit while Bryen prepares to fire while at Moorpark

Four from the 5th Help a Boy Scout Help Some Deserving Local Seniors

A Letter of Thanks from Vince Callier

New York Volunteers!

On July 9, 2011, four member of the 5th NYDZ, Company C, responded to a call to arms from Thomas Callier, the son of Private Vince Callier, to assist in a community improvement project. First Sergeant Paul Chaffey, Second Sergeant Darren Hoerner, Private Steve Sturdevant and Private Vince Callier answered the call and showed up with work gloves and shovels to answer the call.

Young Master Callier is a Boy Scout working on his Eagle Scout rank, and the final requirement for him was to complete a civic improvement project. The plan was to rebuild a 90' walkway at the Santa Clarita Senior Center. The project involved removal of some old pavers, re-grading the ground, installing flashing against the building, redwood bender board and then layering in decomposed granite to form the walkway and bordering it with 3/4" gravel. Thomas had worked for a year in the planning and approval phases and now just needed some "boots on the ground." He got that from the 5th NY!

It was a full day of back bending work: digging, shoveling, wheel barrowing and tamping down the DG, but the crew of 30+ vols got it done in less than eight hours. The contributions of Chaffey, Hoerner and Sturdevant cannot be overstated. They worked all day and worked hard and all drove over an hour to get to the job. But the reward was worth it according to Sergeant Hoerner: a dip in the Ft. Callier watering hole, all the barley-like substance you could drink, and then Prv. Callier's famous tri-tip. Work hard, get it done right, and party harder - that is what the 5th NY is all about!



Steve, Vince, Paul and Darren help with Thomas Callier's Eagle Scout Project at the Santa Clarita Senior Center



Thomas Callier at the Santa Clarita Senior Center

It's Time for the Annual Christmas Party!!!

Once again, Scott and Robin will be hosting the unit Christmas Party. This year it will be on December 17th at 4 PM. As always, hats are the order of the day, as well as a wrapped gift to exchange with a value of no less than \$10. You can go over, but please do not go under, to keep things fair to all participants.

Sushi will be provided, so bring a dish along to share, which you can coordinate with Robin ahead of time so we don't get five of the same thing. Main courses and desserts are always popular.
(nothing that contains peanut, PLEASE!)

Once again, members who are in good standing (your dues for 2011 have been paid prior to the election) will be voting for next year's officers. Let President Tim know if you wish to run for an office.



Please, bring GOOD gifts to exchange!

ANNOUNCEMENT: *Volunteer needed to be new webmaster starting January 1, 2012!*

Photo Gallery



Kris and Lynn at Huntington Beach



Round Rolling Party



Lynn and Marianne are visited by The President at Long Beach



Long Beach battle

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5th New York Volunteer Infantry Company C & WCAR