

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SOCIETY



Company Dispatch

Official Newsletter of the American Civil War Society

American Civil War Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of our history for future generations.

Signed editorials and letters are the views of the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the American Civil War Society.

January 2012





ACWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Dave Grimsrud
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Vice President – VACANT

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Confederate Division – Lt. Col. James R. Tebbetts
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Union Division – Lt. Col. Ken Dacey
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Civilian Corps – VACANT

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The ACWS is a non-profit organization with the purposes of charitable and educational activities for the general public that demonstrate the language, conduct and manner of daily living of the civilian population and military forces during the American Civil War period (1861–1865) and the issues they faced during that conflict.

News Letter - Michael Akkerman

qaman249@verizon.net

COMPANY DISPATCH
20170 Ross Road
Wildomar, CA 92595

Next General Board Meeting
January 22, 2012

FOR ALL OPEN BOARD POSITIONS PLEASE CONTACT ANY CURRENT BOARD MEMBER



Federal/Union Division:

Division Commander: Lt. Col. Ken Dacey

Adjutant: VACANT

Infantry Brigade Cdr.: VACANT

Infantry Sgt Maj: Michael Quinlan (Degregorio)

Artillery Brigade Cdr.: Maj. David Bolin

Artillery Adjutant: VACANT

Division Chaplain: Rich Holt and Anthony Delgadillo

Cavalry: VACANT

Confederate Division:

Division Commander: Lt. Col. James Tebbetts

Chief of Staff: VACANT

Assistant Adjutant General: Capt. Dave Grimsrud

Quartermaster: Lt. Ira Lack

Confederate Brigade Staff:

Infantry

Brigade Commander: Major James M. Style

Brigade Adjutant: 2nd Lt. John Sanchez

Brigade Sgt. Major: Sgt. Major Marcus Brannan

Cavalry

Brigade Commander: Major Scott Peca

Brigade Adjutant: Lt. John Riddler

Brigade Sgt. Major: 1st.Sergeant John Quessenberry

Artillery

Brigade Commander: Major Mike Collins **Brigade Adjutant:** Lt. Doug Carroll

Brigade Sgt. Major: Sgt. Major Sam Frankl

Editor's Note:

If you have an interesting story to share please send it to me. My email is qaman249@verizon.net . I hope to hear from you at the upcoming events. Have fun, be safe, and love one another. Remember, ACWS is **people** and **pet friendly** (yes, your dogs are welcome). I want to thank everyone who has come out to our events.

❖A Word or Two From the PRESIDENT❖

We sure ended the year on a high note with La Quinta. I have heard nothing but good things from everybody involved. I want to thank everyone involved in making a new event so trouble-free.

It's time to start thinking about 2012. The calendar is set through April. Our first ACWS event is our annual one at Calico Ghost Town on Presidents Day weekend, February 17-20. In addition to our regular activities, we do have some new ideas in mind. I want to add to the schedule a membership meeting. This would not be a regular board business meeting, but a chance for the members to meet the board, ask questions, and make suggestions. We have had for years a rifle raffle for the military members, but I want to add a civilian member raffle for next year. So, starting at Calico and at all the ACWS events, we plan on having at our constable's camp a sign-in sheet. All civilian and wives of military members can sign in, and at next year's Calico we will raffle off a civilian prize.

The board has a few positions open, Vice President and Civilian Director, so for those that are inclined we really could use the help. Every board member has a job to do, and some of us are doing double duty. It's not time consuming, and it's for the good of the membership.

We have some other changes in the works for the year, we have the website, a Facebook page, and the newsletter to keep members informed, plus I have an open door policy. At events or online please feel free to contact me. By working together we can make the ACWS events the envy of the reenacting community.

I wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Regards,

David Grimsrud

¤ MILITARY DISPATCHES ¤

Confederate Command:

From: James R Tebbetts, Lt Col, ACWS Confederate Command

To: Readers and Members of the Confederate Command

Date: December 15, 2011

Subject: Confederate Command Report

Winter Quarters Upon Us - We are now in winter quarters. Time to be with loved ones. Time to think of future events. Time to clean, repair, and/or purchase items for out kit.

Membership Renewal - ACWS Membership renewals were due by December 31, 2011 in order to take \$5 off your renewal costs (Individual is \$20, Family is \$25, with the discount). After January 1, renewal costs increased by \$5 (Individual is \$25, Family is \$30). Being a member of the ACWS makes one eligible for the yearly rifle raffle, assuming the military member attends at least one ACWS sponsored event.

Safety Testing - Once you have your membership card, ensure that it is 'stamped' that you have taken and passed the PACWR/ACWS Safety Test. If you have not taken the tests, they can be found at: <http://www.pacwr.org/safety.htm>. Everyone (anyone that 'dresses up' at an event, both military and civilian) needs to take the 'general' safety test. Military members also need to take the test that you represent: Infantry, Cavalry (mounted too), and Artillery. If you do more than one impression (i.e., Infantry and Artillery) you need to take both tests. FYI – the tests are Open Book, which means you can look up the answer for each question. Once you have taken the test, ensure that your Unit Commander signs it showing you passed the test and submit to Capt. Grimsrud. Capt. Grimsrud has the stamps and a listing of those who have passed the tests in past years. Membership cards with endorsements will be checked at each ACWS event.

Annual Rifle Raffle - There will be a rifle raffle to be held at the Calico event after the 2nd battle on Sunday, February 19th, time TBD. To be eligible for the raffle you must be an ACWS Member for 2011 and have attended at least one ACWS Event in 2011 (Calico, Costa Mesa, SMR, La Quinta). One ticket is put into the hat for each day of an event a member attends (Maximum of 9--attended ALL ACWS events, minimum of 1 for attending one day of an ACWS event). In addition, another ticket is put into the hat for each time a soldier accomplished 'extra' duties associated with ACWS requirements, such as guard mount (Maximum of 4, minimum of 1). Winner need not be present. If you win, we will contact you from information found on your ACWS membership application. Here is who/whom we have as attended an ACWS event in 2011 AND are current (2011) ACWS members, along with the number of tickets 'earned' this past year:

9 - Atkins, Thomas

8 - Black, Donald, and Stytle, James

7 - Collins, Michael, and De Nubilo, Paul

6 - Daniel, Ray; Hopper, Edward; and Smith, Ken

5 - Frankl, Samuel

4 - Herbeck, Ray; Justiniano, Jose; and Sanchez, John

2 - Barth, Michael; Coleman, Sharon; Elkins, Scott; Fernand II, Jerry; Gulledge, Rodger; Hammersness, Mark; Humphries, Terry; Hunter-Inman, David; Ibarra, Dakota; Mercado, Alfredo Jr; Nelson, Andrew; Nobles, Donald; Ochoa, Angel; Peca, Scott; Richardson, Bradley; Rutter, Rob; Sais, Mark; Sanchez, Jacob; Siegel, Daniel (continued) Simmons,

Scott; Slagle, Robert; Torres, Alfredo; Tucker, Shylah; Valencia, Paul; Webb, Andy; Wiswell, Brian; and Wiswell, Darren.

Please note that neither I (as Confederate Commander) nor Dave Grimsrud (as President of the ACWS) are eligible for tickets, so we were the ones that consolidated the morning and extra-duty reports with the ACWS member listing to determine the number of tickets each individual is eligible for and reviewed the ACWS membership (members as of December 12, 2011). If there is an error (missing name, not correct events attended, etc), you need to let your commander know and have them forward the correct information to us, so that they might fix it.

Any changes (additions, deletions, etc) must be made by February 1, 2012. Please provide any documentation that shows the changes (i.e., membership information, morning reports, etc.).

Recruiting Station

The ACWS is working to reinvigorate a Recruiting Station at ACWS events. Here units can place recruiting flyers and such. So, plan on bringing your unit's recruiting flyers to the Calico event.

Upcoming Reenactment Activities:

IVLHA/ACWS Live Fire

The Imperial Valley Living History Association along with the ACWS will be sponsoring a live fire on January 14-15, 2012. The event is held in the Seeley area, west of El Centro, Ca. They have a variety of shooting events that include infantry, cavalry, and artillery. There are team and individual events, and on-site dry camping available, though it can get a bit cold. Motels and such can be found in El Centro. For more information on the event (i.e., directions, registration forms, etc) contact Dennis Gibbs at den_gibbs@prodigy.net . (Note underscore between den and gibbs). Monday is a holiday (MLK birthday) so you may have the day off. Try and attend if you can.

Calico

To be held on February 18-20. Monday is a holiday, so if you can stay over, please do so. This year it is being opened to all ACWS units and their members and invited non-ACWS units and their members. So, camping areas may be a bit tight. Please minimize your camp areas so we can get as many in there as possible. All non ACWS members must fill out a Visiting Reenactor form, pay a couple of bucks, and get a pass. As the ACWS has opened up the Calico Event to both ACWS Units and their members and certain non-member units and their members, prior to the event, I hope to obtain Visiting Reenactor Forms and passes so that I can send out the forms to the Company Commanders (both ACWS and non-ACWS units) so they can send the forms to their members. This way the reenactors can fill out the form prior to attending the event so they don't have to wait a long time to get the forms.

Costa Mesa

To be held on April 14-15 (so get your tax paperwork done before the event). Setup can begin after noon on April 13 (yes, Friday the 13th). Two battles each day. It will be held in 2 weeks after Prado and 1 week after Easter, so it will not conflict with any other events. KOCI 101.5 radio will be setting up a satellite web cam and a live board cast so the event can be heard and seen on their website and radio station. Please make sure you add B.O.C.M. to your event calendar, you don't want to miss it! Items of interest include:

Breakfast available Saturday & Sunday; Saturday night dinner; Saturday Night dance; Sunday raffle (after Sunday's first battle); The battle field will be mowed this year; and horses are welcomed.

150th Anniversary of the Civil War

A repeat of the information found in the last newsletter.

March 10-11, 2012 - Picacho Peak, Arizona Territory.

A fairly "local" 150th event. What is the feeling of the Confederate Command and members to have a company level presence at the event? I don't think there will be enough attending as a Battalion, but what about attending and fight as a composite company? Will be discussed at a future event amongst Battalion and Company Commanders. This event hands out 'participant' medals, with a special medal for the 150th. If you have not gone, go and start your collection now. At this event you can wear your 'yahoo' clothing. Most all Confeds wore their normal frontier Texan clothing, very few had full and complete military uniforms. The site has RV hook ups, showers and the like. Event info can be found at: <http://azstateparks.com/Parks/PIPE/events.html> . More info dealing with general rules and such can be found at: http://azstateparks.com/volunteer/v_historical.html. Consider carpooling to reduce costs. Site is just off the I-10, between Phoenix and Tucson.

May 3-6 2012 - Glorieta Pass, New Mexico Territory.

Info can be found at <http://newmexicocwcommcongress.org/>. The battles include Glorieta and Apache Canyon. Event to be held at El Rancho de las Golondrinas Living History Museum, which is about 20 miles southwest of Santa Fe, New Mexico. From the general LA area, figure an 830 mile trip (about a day and a half of driving - Could leave early on Thursday, arrive Friday afternoon. Leave late Sunday and be home either late Monday or early Tuesday.).

CALLING ALL LIVING HISTORIANS:

On Sunday, February 5, the Lincoln Memorial Shrine will be having its annual Lincoln's Birthday observance, and welcomes Civil War reenactors to set up small encampments and displays, and meet and greet the public. If you are interested, please contact David Grimsrud at btgabe@antelcom.net or (661) 944-5421.

UNION DIVISION:

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Union Division:

I want to wish each and every one of you a safe and happy holiday season.

As we get ready to start off the new reenactment season, I wish to remind everyone to start going thru their kit and do any necessary repairs.

We have a few events lined up for the first few months of the year, starting with the Live Fire event down near El Centro on the 14-15th of Jan. Then in February we have Calico, and I want to see all of our units there and as many participants as we can get for all 3 days. In March we have St Catherine's and also the Picacho Peak event in Ariz. We would like to get a group to attend this one.

At Calico, the Sgt. Major and I plan to have a meeting of the commanders and sgt's. to go over several items we would like to improve on. We would like to get everyone's input. This should also include our civilian leaders' input as well.

Now to close, I toast you all. You have all been a fine group to command this past year. I thank you all.

Your Obedient Servant,
Lt. Col. Kenneth Dacey
Commanding ACWS Union Division

❖ Membership Directors Report❖

Happy New Year!! As of December 31, 2011, I received applications for approximately 75 new and renewed members. Members took advantage of the 'Early Bird' discount and saved \$5. The new application format seemed to be helpful to members in that the apps were completed with few, if any, problems. Before sending yours in, be sure it is completed entirely on both sides to avoid processing complications.

Be reminded that a family membership includes parents/guardians, and minor children. Any children 18 years of age and over must apply separately as a single member.

Being that Calico is just over a month away, I strongly encourage those of you who have not submitted your renewals to do so as soon as possible so that I can send your membership cards in time. I need to receive applications by February 10 in order to get cards in the mail by February 13. Combatants especially need their cards in order to 'take the field' at Calico as unit commanders will be checking diligently for those authorizations. I will have day passes and temporary release forms at Calico for both visiting combatants and civilians.

In order to promote the ACWS membership at events, I ask that some of you volunteer between battles to help out at the membership 'booth', which is my encampment of the town constable and the Society of Sobriety. Many interested visitors ask questions about unit requirements and participation that I cannot always answer, and units are encouraged to leave flyers with information that can be distributed as well. Please contact me at

micowl@aol.com , with subject line as “membership booth” to volunteer at least 30 minutes during the event.

Your obedient servant,
Michele Akkerman
Membership Director

Tentative General Membership Meeting--

At Calico on Saturday after the day's activities, a general meeting is tentatively planned. Come and meet your ACWS Board, and bring along your questions and suggestions. We look forward to seeing you there!



Winter Quarters, VA 1861-1862

CIVIL WAR HISTORY

by Michele Akkerman

When I meet people and tell them that I am a Civil War reenactor, they ask “Why would a Californian participate in reenacting an event that took place back east?” This could be because public school American history books inform about the Civil War only as a North/South conflict, so few people know that California was involved as well. Until I became a reenactor, I knew nothing about California’s involvement. With the sesquicentennial commemoration of the Civil War, however, more information has become available about California being in the Civil War.

The 2011 theme for the California Council for History Education’s annual conference held October 14-15 was “The Civil War and California.” In its “Conference Gazette,” the CCHE explained that “while no major battles took place on the west coast, California did play a significant role in the conflict. The southern part of the state was home to a large number of transplanted southerners with strong Confederate sympathies. California had its own secession crisis in the 1850s when pro-slavery sympathizers attempted to achieve statehood separate from Northern California. Abraham Lincoln won just 39.8% of the popular vote in the 1860 presidential election, and only 32.3% statewide. Volunteers from California fought for both sides in the Civil War, and in the early years of the conflict, the Confederacy hoped to invade through the New Mexico and Arizona territories (which were part of the CSA for a while) and seize gold mines in the northern part of the state. Although the threat of invasion ended by 1862, local secessionists continued to plot to seize gold and silver from California for the Confederacy.”

At that same conference, Dr. C. Douglas Kroll spoke about San Francisco’s fears during the Civil War. He stated that California literally funded the Union war effort as more than \$173 million in gold passed out of California via San Francisco, as well as silver from Nevada. Mare Island was the largest naval shipyard on the west coast in 1861, and the U.S. Mint had a center in San Francisco. San Franciscans had good cause to be concerned about a Confederate invasion by sea. An even greater fear was about CSA sympathizers and two secret Confederate organizations in San Francisco. Other fears included fires being started in what was mostly a wood-structured city, and in 1863, a plan was revealed whereas Confederates were going to use schooners loaded with explosives to capture a US steamer mail ship, and transfer ammunition and artillery to it to use for an attack. Fortunately, this did not occur.

General Winfield Scott initially responded by sending reinforcements to Alcatraz Island, which had been fortified in 1860 and was heavily armed. By the middle of the Civil War, 111 cannons had been placed on Alcatraz, and on occasion they fired upon unmarked ships entering San Francisco Bay. Other protection was in the form of six ships that patrolled the Pacific Ocean, but not coastal towns. The Department of Defense did not send major ships to protect the city because ships were needed for the blockades on the Gulf and Atlantic coasts. In 1864, the US Navy built an ironclad, the *Comanche*, intended to protect San Francisco. The ship was built on the east coast, disassembled, and sent to the west coast to be reassembled. Unfortunately, the transporting ship was sunk by a storm after it entered San Francisco harbor, and down went the ironclad.

France and Britain’s involvement in the Civil War is well known, but few people know about Russia’s role. As Russia was negotiating the sale of Alaska to the US at this time (to keep it out of British hands), it wanted to be on good terms with us. The

Russian ship *Bogatyr* provided defense to San Francisco as a gesture of good will. Russia liked its neutral status to be able to use San Francisco Bay in case it went to full-on war with France and Britain, and had to fight in the Pacific. While in San Francisco, celebrations of cultural exchange took place between Russians and Americans.

The Confederacy eventually made an attempt to attack. In 1865, an armed battleship, the CSS *Shenandoah*, headed to San Francisco. When it received word that the war had ended, the *Shenandoah* never fulfilled its mission but rather hoisted up a British Union Jack and went to Liverpool to become part of the British naval force.



Fort Point, San Francisco Bay, ca. 1860

ACWS 2012 Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	
Jan 14 -15	Live Fire, El Centro, CA	IVLHA/ACWS
Feb 18-20	Calico – Presidents Day Weekend	ACWS Sponsored
Apr 14-15	Costa Mesa	ACWS
Mar 10-11	Picacho Peak, Arizona Territory	
May 3-6	Glorietta Pass, New Mexico Territory	
More dates TBD in Jan 2012		

Additional organizations and links of interest:

PACWR: <http://www.pacwr.org/events.htm>

Fort Tejon: <http://www.forttejon.org>

NCWA www.ncwa.org

SWCWA <http://www.swcwa.com>

We Are History: <http://www.americanheritagefestival.com/ACWS>

The History Channel Club: www.historychannelclub.com

Civil War Trust: www.civilwar.org

