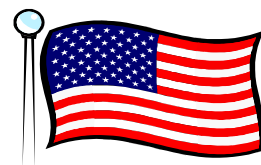




The Catalina Mountain Elks Bugle



Volume 19, No. 4/5

Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge No. 2815

website-www.catalinaelks.com

Office Phone: 825-0893 E-mail: bpoe2815@arizonaelks.org

July/August 2019

Catalina, Arizona

Lounge Phone: 825-7724



THREE TIME ALL AMERICAN LODGE
2008-09 2010-11 2012-13



2019-2020

LODGE OFFICERS

Exalted Ruler

Gloria Cisneros PER

Esteemed Leading Knight

Monty Derting

Esteemed Loyal Knight

Alane Asp

Esteemed Lecturing Knight

Doug Harpold PER

Secretary

Robin Danielson PER

Treasurer

Larry Valverde

Trustee—One Year

Dennis Donahue

Trustee—Two Years

Jack Baillargeon PDDGER

Trustee—Three Years

Belinda Waller

Trustee—Four Years

Harry Beatty

Trustee—Five Years

Steve Asp PER

APPOINTIVE OFFICERS

Tiler

Rhiannon McMahon

Esquire

Bud Meyer

Chaplain

Deborah Derting

Inner Guard

Larry Wittenborn

SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

Mediator

Frank Fieldhouse PDDGER

Justice of Subordinate Forum

Tom Sylvester

EXALTED RULER'S MESSAGE

Gloria Cisneros PER



Summer is finally here but we were sure lucky to have such a wet winter and cooler than normal spring.

According to many of the guests in attendance, our Flag Day ceremony was the most memorable yet! If you missed it, you have to make plans to attend next June 14th and I promise you will not be disappointed. The speakers, singers, Officers and dancers put their heart and souls into making it so moving. I thank each and every one of you for your dedication to this patriotic ceremony and especially to PER's Larry Megahan and Jim Cox for the many hours they put in to make this such a beautiful event.

At the printing of this Bugle, I will be in St Louis, MO at the Elks National Convention. It is an honor to represent our Lodge there and sit with all the other Exalted Rulers from all over Arizona. Arizona has great Elks pride and it shows at the annual convention as we wear our red vests and host an amazing hospitality room. There are meetings to attend every day as well as cheering on the Arizona Ritual team as they compete for the National Title. Thank you for entrusting me to go and vote on issues that affect the future of the Elks on the Lodge's behalf. I will give a full report in the September Bugle.

We will be trying something new for our Vice President's visit September 21st and that will be a poker run. This is open to members in cars, trucks and motorcycles. We will have three stops on our route which will include the Coolidge/Florence Lodge so if you have never visited them, the poker run would be a perfect opportunity to. If you have never done a poker run, you should come find out what it is about and join in, they are fun! There is a flier covering the event in this Bugle and you can sign up in the Lounge or call in. You can do the poker run and then join us for an Italian dinner that evening or just do one of the events.

Just a reminder that there will only be one Bugle sent out which covers July and August. You won't receive another one until September. We will also only be holding one Lodge meeting each of those months and it will be the fourth Thursday.

Have a great summer and hopefully you have some great vacations planned. The Lodge is nice and cool so stop by anytime and visit with our friendly staff and fellow members. Check the calendars out in this Bugle for all the fun events we will be having to keep you out of the heat!

2019–2020

LODGE COMMITTEES

Accident Manager TRUSTEE	Hoop Shoot Coordinator CHAVEZ, LISA	Scholarship Chairperson MASTRO, ROGER
Americanism Coordinator PETERSON, AL	House Committee Chairperson SLATER, PAUL	Sickness & Distress Chairperson COOK, BETTY
Auditing Chairperson NELSON, PEGGY	Indoctrination Coordinator BAILLARGEON, JACK PDDGER	Soccer Shoot Chairperson CHAVEZ, LISA
Blood Drive Coordinator HARPOLD, DOUGLAS PER	Investigation Coordinator DERTING, MONTY	Special Olympics Chairperson ASP, ALANE
Building Committee Coordinator FEIGUM, WHITEY	Lapsation Coordinator DANIELSON, ROBIN PER	Training Chairperson HARPOLD, DOUG PER
Cloth A Child Coordinator GARCIA ,JOYCE	Leather Chairperson PALMER, JOE	Veterans/Nat'l Service Chairperson WALLER, BELINDA /KIELSA, ROBERT
Community Activities Coordinator TRUDEAU, JAN	Lodge Activities Coordinator TRUDEAU, JAN / WILSON, TOM PER	Visitation Chairperson NIXON, CAROL
Dictionary Project Chairperson GARCIA, JOYCE	Lodge Bulletin Editor BRUNS, RAY	Youth Activities Coordinator CHAVEZ, LISA
Drug Awareness Coordinator PATRONSKY, NEAL PER	Major Projects Coordinator CHAVEZ, LISA	Bugle Webmaster Coordinator BEREGI, JIM
Elks Nat'l. Foundation Coordinator COOK, LEE PER	Membership Coordinator DANIELSON, ROBIN PER	Email Coordinator BEREGI, JIM
Flag Day Coordinator COX, JIM / MEGAHAN, LARRY PER'S	Memorial Day/Service Mgr. HARPOLD, DOUG PER	
Flag Display Chairpersons MEYER,BUD / FOLGUM,WHITEY	Office Supplies Coordinator DANIELSON, ROBIN PER	
Golf Tournament Chairperson WEDWALDT, HARRY	Protocol Coordinator DANIELSON, SIG PER	
Gvmt. Relations Coordinator COOK, LEE PER	Public Relations Coordinator COX, PAT J.	

PAST EXALTED RULERS OF CATALINA MTN. NO. 2815

Deceased Past Exalted Rulers

Bill McLane	2000-2001
Victor Garcia	2001-2002
Charles Dugas (Affiliated)	1999-2000
Jim Gillis	1982-1983
<u>Past Exalted Rulers Association</u>	
Kathy Anderson	2002-2003
Neal Patronskey	2003-2004
Frank Fieldhouse, PDDGER	2004-2005
Jim Cox	2005-2006
Jim Buell, PDDGER	2005-2006
Jack Baillargeon, PDDGER	2006-2007
Sig Danielson	2007-2008
Lee Cook, PDDGER	2008-2009
Larry Megahan	2009-2010
Richard Esparza	2010-2011

Past Exalted Rulers Association cont'd

Thomas Wilson	2011-2012
Earnest Cruce	2012-2013
Robin Danielson	2013-2014
Gloria Cisneros	2014-2015
Doug Harpold	2015-2016
Sig Danielson	2016-2017
Steven Asp	2017-2018
Robert Kielsa	2018-2019

Affiliated Past Exalted Rulers

James Gillis	1982-1983
Dave Webster	1987-1988
Ralph Welsh	1989-1990

The Catalina Mountain Elk Bugle is the official publication of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the USA, Lodge 2815, 16045 N. Oracle Rd., Tucson, AZ. The purpose of *The Catalina Mountain Elk Bugle*, published monthly, is to provide a ready means of communication within the Lodge. Contributions of interesting and pertinent reading material are welcome. The deadline is the 15th of the month preceding publication. All communication should be addressed to: The Mountain Elk, P.O. Box 8742, Tucson, AZ 85738. Subscriptions for non members are \$10.00 per year.

LEADING KNIGHT

By Monty Derting



Greetings all fellow Elks. Well, we know that summer is here because the temps are in the 100's and a lot of our Brothers and Sisters are smart and are heading off to cooler climates and to enjoy visits with families and friends, and just have some nice vacations. I just want to wish you all safe journeys and have a wonderful time. Hopefully, during your travels you will have opportunities to visit some of our other Lodges around the country and meet some new friends. While gone don't forget that your Home Lodge is here for you when you return.

We were blessed to recently receive a grant to purchase some food staples and deliver them to Impact for distribution to the needy in our community. I don't have all the details on that, as that is just one of the things that somehow just silently gets done behind the scenes.

As the Leading Knight, CHARITY is the motto of my station. I am totally amazed and almost overwhelmed at all of the good works that the Order of Elks and especially our Catalina Mtn. Elks Lodge do to help the needy, support our community, assist the Veterans, and just to uphold our standard.

ELKS CARE, ELKS SHARE

OUR POET LAUREATE

Jim Cox PER

<http://www.allthathymes.squarespace.com>



July and August

It's summer and it's hot and wet,
hardly a desired duet.
Vacations lure to flee the heat,
but many can be bittersweet.

Mountain or beach has problems, too...
the sand can burn, your clothes mildew.
Or, at the cabin in the woods,
bears can steal your earthly goods.

So, stay at home, turn on the air...
doff your clothes 'til nearly bare.
Pour yourself a tall Mai Tai,
and there's not much can go awry.



ELKS OF THE MONTH

Ron Trudeau – July 2019 Elk of the Month

There have been many upgrades and repairs being done to the Lodge that most members don't even notice. Parking lot lights, upgraded light fixtures in multiple buildings on site, many inside repairs, outdoor sign repair, tile repairs and many additional things. We have been very lucky to have Ron Trudeau do these things for us and so much more which is why he is July's Elk of the Month. Ron was born in Southern California and lived in Truckee, for 30+ years which is where he met his lovely bride of 14 years, Jan. He also met some other amazing Lodge members while there in Gunny and Steve Shero. Probably his most amazing accomplishment is raising two beautiful daughters, Rene and Kristin, and being a loveable Grandpa to 3 grandchildren. Ron is always willing to lend a hand with anything at our Lodge as well as in the Community. He is an amazing friend to many and is very much appreciated by us all. Ron, thank you for all you have done for our Lodge over the years and in the future as well.

Cynthia Ford – August 2019 Elk of the Month

The August Elk of the Month is a lady with a beautiful soul, Cynthia Ford. Cynthia is a native of Tucson who retired from the Amphi Schools in 2018 and now helps us out at the Lodge doing a lot of hard work. She is foremost a wonderful Mom to 3 kids and awesome Grandma to 4 Grandchildren who all light up her life. She is also a rock for "Mighty Fine", her husband Terry. Whether she has been working for hours at the Lodge or just walks in the door, she always has that beautiful smile that lights up the room. She is very kind to all members and would bend over backwards to help anyone in need of anything. When I come in early some mornings, it always starts my day out perfectly when I get to see her. I am so lucky to have been able to get to know this amazing fellow Elk and I hope she knows that she is an integral part of our Lodge in so many ways. Thank you for your smile, Cynthia, and for your great Elk heart!

VETERANS COMMITTEE

By Robert Kielsa PER / Belinda Waller



Wow, June was a spectacular month for generating clothes for our veterans. I'm happy to say our lodge has amassed and delivered \$23,269 men's and women's clothing, books and miscellaneous (small travel size) toiletries for the Southern Arizona VA Health

Care. All this has been accomplished from April 1st, the start of Gloria's ER year! **Our next two collection dates are Wednesday, July 10th at 1 PM, and Wednesday, August 14th at 1 PM on the back patio.**

We would like to remind all of our travelers, staying at motels while on their summer journeys, please save up and bring in all your unused mini toiletries for our homeless veterans.

As I've mentioned in the past, our homeless veterans need new underwear, back packs and socks. Our familiar green barrel will remain in the lounge for whatever you wish to contribute.

As I mentioned in the June report the HUD - VASH program is specifically designed to help veterans and their families transition into housing. These veterans receive food stamps; however, the stamps do not cover cleaning products. Specifically they need the following supplies: Toilet Paper, Dish Soap, Sponges, Wash Cloths, Laundry Soap, Paper Towels, Brooms, Mops, Dust Pans, Liquid Floor Cleaner, Small Trash Cans and Trash Bags. You may use the green barrel in the lodge for any donations you are able to make. Or, if you prefer, you may drop big items off in the Veterans Pod in our parking lot.

Dates to remember:

1. Mark your calendars, we have a welcome back luncheon scheduled for our Paralyzed Veterans on Saturday, July 27th.
2. You will have an opportunity to see two new veterans ceremonies this year. The first is the POW/MIA ceremony on Friday, September 20th at 9 AM.
3. The second new ceremony will be on Veterans Day November 11th at 10 AM. Both events are open to the public.

Co-Chairs, Belinda Waller and Bob Kielsa

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

In the interest of cutting down on lodge expenses, we are asking that if you don't need this paper copy of our bulletin and can or prefer to see just the online version via your email, please let us know by calling our lodge secretary at (520) 825-0893 or by email at bpoe2815@arizonaelks.org. Currently we are printing and mailing well over 500 copies of this bulletin and that's not including the labor involved. Thank you.

SECRETARY'S CORNER

By Robin Danielson PER



Now that summer is in full swing, so is the heat. I can hardly wait for it to get worse in the next coming weeks with the humidity during monsoon season, but we do need the rain.

Why not come to the Lodge and visit with your friends and take advantage of the mist system on the patio, enjoy our air-conditioned lounge or maybe enjoy a burger for lunch or a Wednesday night dinner.

The remaining dues payments are coming in very slowly. We have 54 members who have not paid their dues for this Lodge Year. The Lodge *needs us all*. The old saying goes it takes a village. This applies to the Lodge also, the more members equate to greater things for our Lodge and to all the good works, our Order stands for. Encourage any member you may know, who has not paid these dues, ask them to come back to the Lodge and see what is happening at "our" Lodge or help if they can.

Reminder: July and August newsletters are combined to give the newsletter staff a well-deserved vacation. Thank-you to you all for keeping us all informed on a monthly basis.

Have a great summer and try to stay cool!!

Lodge Stats

Current members: 534

Initiated: 11

Affiliated: 4

Reinstated: 3

In process: 3

Delinquents: 54

PER ASSOCIATION

By Robert Kielsa PER



Thanks to our members our Queen of Hearts funds grow each week through your continued participation. The funds the PERs collect is available for charitable purposes, lodge maintenance and/or improvements. The following are a few examples of your contributions at work. The latest numbers of our Queen of Hearts game 7 has allowed for a total of \$16,515 paid out to our lucky winners and \$9,967 spent on lodge priorities such as altar cloth, shelving, multiple donations to charity events, open house materials, food for various events, food for Impact of Southern Arizona, a fry table and flags.

I'm happy to report that the PERA of our lodge, along with our Veterans Committee, has provided \$1,620 for the support of our Paralyzed Wheelchair Veterans group this year. There will be a welcome back luncheon for those competing in the various events on Saturday, July 27th, which all are welcome to attend.

I'm happy to report, as of 7 PM Friday, June 28th, we have 9 cards remaining. The total pot should be approximately \$14,000 on July 5th. Good luck to all you players!

HOUSE COMMITTEE

By Paul Slater



Howdy! Summer finally is here, and soon the monsoons will make the Catalinas a beautiful green.

As I have been discussing in past Bugle articles, we are going to go live with our Credit Card program starting 1.July!! As with any new system, I am asking that everyone have a little extra patience as we get used to the system. Here are a few points that will make this process easier for everyone:

All sales in the lounge that are rung up on the register are eligible for Credit charge. There will be a \$10 minimum for Credit/Debit card transactions

The system will accept both Credit and Debit cards. However, we will not be offering the choice to get cash back on debit card transactions. In the future we will also accept Apply Pay, but at first we will stay with traditional cards

When paying by card, you will have to come to the corner of the bar where the machine is located, by the cash register, as you will have to sign on the device. You can also add a tip either in an amount of % of the total.

When you have completed the transaction, you can elect to get a receipt, by following the prompts on the device. We will be training the Bar Stewards the week of 24.June so things will be good to go on Monday, 1.July.

The Queen of Heart continues to grow, even with several large payouts! Congrats to those lucky winners, but the Queen of Hearts is still hiding behind one of the few remaining cards. With the larger pot, we are getting more visitors hoping to find the Queen, which is great? However, please remember that if you are visiting, to sign the visitor book, and to show the Bar Steward your current Elks Membership card. This will help avoid any misunderstandings, which we have had recently, and to improve the speed of service from the Stewards. In addition, you must be an Elk in good standing and have your signed Elks Card in order to purchase Queen of Hearts tickets.

Don't forget our Christmas in July on the 20th at 4pm. Bring a wrapped gift and have fun watching the exchange of the most wanted gifts! We had a blast in December so you will want to make sure that you participate this time!!

Here is an early "Save the Date" we are planning this year's Night Under the Stars and it is tentatively set for 26.Oct. This is the largest event that we do each year and is sure to sell out quickly, so you will want to sign up early. It will be a great night of great food and live music. Look for sign up sheets this month, and as always please pay when signing up.

This month's shout out goes to Cynthia Ford. Cynthia is our custodian and is the reason why the lodge is always spotless every day, regardless of the mess we make some evenings. □ Thank you so much Cynthia for making our lodge a great place to gather.

Take care,
paul

LODGE ACTIVITIES

By Jan Trudeau



Hello summer! The temperatures are up and the number of people in town is down. Snowbirds have fled to their northern climes, but we're still here enjoying the summer heat. We've got a few events planned to entertain all of you here in Catalina for July and August.

July begins with Independence Day on Thursday July 4th. We're putting the flags up at 7 AM, and taking them down at 5 PM. Come show your patriotic spirit and help with the flags. Bingo is scheduled for Saturday July 6th at 2 PM. Bunco happens on Saturday July 13th at 1 PM. Come join us for a fun and fast dice game. The Texas Hold 'Em card games are on Sunday July 14th and Sunday July 28th. Both games begin at 1:30. Please sign up in the lounge so we know how many tables to set up.

Xmas in July is happening on Saturday July 20th. The event time is between 4 PM and 6 PM. We're having a secret Santa gift exchange. Please bring a wrapped gift worth between \$10.00 and \$15.00 to play. We had a blast when we had this crazy gift exchange in December, so we thought we'd bring it back in July. We are thinking about also having a potluck this day. Let us know if you're interested. Contact Kathy Mikittish or Jan Trudeau for questions.

In August, we have these fun events to attend.

Bingo is on Saturday August 3rd at 2 PM. Come and join the fun. Texas Hold 'Em card games are scheduled for Sunday August 11th and again on Sunday August 25th. Please sign up in the lounge so we know how many people are coming. Bunco is planned for Saturday August 17th. It starts at 1 PM. Please come and check it out. It's really a lot of fun.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



Through the generous donation from the PERA of \$500.00, our lodge supplied the local food bank with food items needed to help feed some of our less fortunate neighbors. We purchased cans of tomatoes and lots of pasta to put into the basic food basket the food bank patrons receive every month. Here is a photo of Gloria and me delivering the goods to Impact.

SAVE THE DATE: 9/11/19. Again, this year our lodge will be cooking and serving the 10 local firehouses in our district full turkey dinners. This date is Patriot's Day and we remember our heroes-firefighters who lost their lives on 9/11/01, and our local first responders who protect us every day. There will be a sign-up sheet in the lounge. We need 10 teams of volunteers, so please consider being a part of a team to cook and deliver the meals. Contact me for any questions. Thank you in advance.

Flag Day – Flag Retirement

By Pat Cox

A Flag Day and Flag Retirement ceremony was held at Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge on Friday, June 14, 2019. The Oro Valley American Legion Post 132 Color Guard opened the program by presenting the American Flag followed by Mary Cartter singing the “Star Spangled Banner.”

PER Larry Megahan narrated the history of all the flags that have flown over our country as Lodge members presented each flag. The flag bearers were Leading Knight Monty Derting, Jan Trudeau, Treasurer Larry Valverde, Loyal Knight Alane Asp, Trustee Belinda Waller, Inner Guard Larry Wittenborn, PER Steve Asp and PER Tom Wilson.



ER Gloria Cisneros presented the story of the America Flag and its significance throughout history, followed by the singing of “My Country ‘tis of Thee” by PER Jim Cox.

PDDGER Jim Buell gave an impressive presentation about the Battle of Trenton during the Revolutionary War using pictures projected on a television screen with the assistance of Kathy Buell.

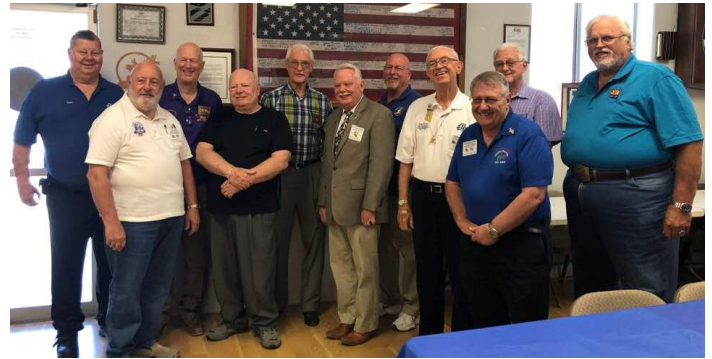


PER Doug Harpold presented the salute to veterans and introduced the Coyote County Cloggers, who performed their version of “Stormin’ Norman”, songs representing all branches of military service. The audience sang “God Bless the USA” in honor of recently departed Norm Beasley, who sang this song on Flag Day for many years, in acknowledgment and gratitude for the dedication and service of law enforcement officers and firefighters. The ceremony closed with the Cloggers performing “Patriotic Polka”, a medley of spirited, patriotic songs.

ER Gloria Cisneros thanked PERs Jim Cox and Larry Megahan, who co-chaired the event, and all those who contributed to the success of the program. The Oro Valley American Legion Post 132 retired service-worn American Flags with dignity and respect following the Flag Day ceremony.

DDGER LEE COOK “RETIRES”

Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers in the South District met on June 16 at our Lodge to “pass the torch,” (so to speak) from our own LM (life member), PER, PSVP (Past State Vice President), & PDDGER Lee Cook to the newly elected DDGER David Dean from Sierra Vista Lodge #2065.



July Birthdays

01 Whitey Feigum, Walter McConnell, **02** Joyce Garcia, **03** Ralph Cruz, Dennis Johns, **06** Wayne Curry, Elizabeth Shapiro, **07** Pat Cox, Melvin Hoisinger, Floyd Prentice, **09** Gregory Cahill, Gary Irwin, Dana Keller, **11** Richard Etzel, **12** Cleo Fazzino, Tony Jewett, **13** Michael Borah, Robert Yaquinto, **15** Ray Carter, **16** Doug Harpold, Robert Kielsa, Roxanne Sweeney, Norma Jean Voight, **17** Douglas Clark, Glen Robinson, **18** David Chase, Al Merino, Doug Wagers, **19** Richard Bernard, Richard Esparza, Dorothy Flanagan, **21** Delores Miller, **22** Alan Wilder, **23** Richard Ashwood, Rodric Raynor, Donald Tomlinson, **24** Paul Swane, **25** Shawn Redd, **26** William Harkins, **27** Geary Conover, Barry Miller, DeAnn Valdos, **30** Gary Boyd, Dennis Haley, **31** Wade Bingham.

August Birthdays

01 David Burnett, Larry Megahan, Sally Steele, **02** Clyde Smith, Kasey Thomas, **04** Robert Heyn, **06** Norman Bennecke, David James, Thomas Wilson, **07** Nancy Odson, **08** Robert Flanagan, Robert Gaston, **09** Glen Davis, Stephen Skinner, **11** John Lowe, **12** Termain Albright, John Coffey, Barry Emerson, David Webster, **14** John Cirelli, Alex Lopez, Carol Nixon, **17** Nedra Riddell, **19** Jeffery Perry, **20** Johathan Johansen, Loy Phelps, Frances Roberts, **21** Roland Leonard, David Shirey, **22** David Bartholme, **23** Cynthia Baca, Judith Strong, **24** John Olsen, Curtis Stowell, **25** Donald Brown, Michael Peattie, **26** Terry Ford, **27** Raymond Doane, Roger Hudson, Ronald Starjnski, **28** Wesley Osborn, **29** Frank Prokop, **30** Frank Crawford, **31** Harry Beatty, Belinda Waller.

JULY WED. NIGHT DINNER MENU

July 3rd	Breaded Pork Chops
July 10th	Taco Salad Casserole
July 17th	Pasta and Sausage
July 24th	Chicken Fried Steak
July 31st	Chicken Kabobs

AUGUST WED. NIGHT DINNER MENU

August 7th	Italian Sausage and Zucchini Soup
August 14th	Meatloaf with Mashed Potatoes
August 21st	Pot Roast Open Faced Sandwich
August 28th	Chicken Salad Supreme

AT THE BEGINNING OF EVERY MONTH WE WILL DRAW A NAME FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP LIST FOR EVERY WEDNESDAY IN THE MONTH FOR A FREE DINNER. CHECK IT OUT.

C'mon Down For Your Free Dinner

In July

July 3rd	George Allen
July 10th	Wally Ell
July 17th	Darrell Dwyer
July 24th	Marie Allamirano
July 31st	James Carver

AT THE BEGINNING OF EVERY MONTH WE WILL DRAW A NAME FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP LIST FOR EVERY WEDNESDAY IN THE MONTH FOR A FREE DINNER. CHECK IT OUT.

C'mon Down For Your Free Dinner

In August

August 7th	Linda Suddath
August 14th	Scott Moore
August 21st	Shellie Sportsman
August 28th	Theodore Starr

**Potatoes make french
fries, chips, and vodka. It's
like the other vegetables
aren't even trying.**

NEW MEMBER



Robert Yaquinto

Please welcome Robert
and all new members when you see them

Back To Back Chiropractic
Neck and Back Pain Relief

15615 N Oracle Rd.
Suite 135
Tucson, AZ 85739

(520) 818-3774
Fax (520) 818-3775

backtobackchiro@aol.com

Meggan A Medley, R.N., D.C.

Doctor of Chiropractic
DrMegganMedleyblog.com

The following article was written by Jerry Wilkerson on the 75th anniversary of D-Day

Normandy, France – June 5 and 6, 2019 By Jerry Wilkerson: Low hanging steel blue clouds pushed inland along the coast of Normandy on Wednesday, June 5, as final preparations for the 75th anniversary of D-Day was underway. In France, an unfriendly layer of marine breeze met my face, as I looked out at the choppy English Channel in the early dawn hours. There was a pale impatient morning glow obsessing on the horizon. Lights were winking on in small towns and villages up and down the coast. At that moment, it was eerily quiet while this writer gathered his thoughts, hopes, and prayers for such a historic occasion. Locals were going about their business as people from around the world were assembling for the many memorials scheduled over the next 48 hours. Old warriors from the past in wheelchairs, with walkers, and canes saluted each other with gnarled, trembling hands. Relics of uniforms from long ago were dedicatedly presented by the assemblage with great decency. Tears were abundant as they gazed out to the sea, minds full of memories recalling their experiences in this very place so long ago. These last living military heroes from D-Day realized they may never come this way again because of age and health. It was indeed a legion of honor. I was humbled by their sacrifice, spirit, and the very soul of their existence. The following day, the actual day of the invasion precisely 75 years ago, morning clouds gave way to a mostly sunny sky and warmer temperatures. In a way, it seemed to be God's great gift to mankind so that those assembled could remember in peace the glory of their being and what was accomplished across this part of the world after a continent lost its freedom. In the small towns, villages, and fields dotting the Normandy coast old, thin roads were jammed with people and vehicles. Most folks just parked where they could and walked the rest of the way to the cliffs overlooking all the vast landing beaches while crossing in the footsteps of retreating German soldiers as they fled their former stronghold shore defense line 75 years ago. That was when the war turned, and the Nazi's were forced out of France and back towards Berlin. Observances included a 21-cannon salute. There were fly-overs with antique, vintage and current aircraft, some trailing red, white, and blue contrails. Even parachutists jumped from WWII Airborne airplanes filling the sky with splendid round chutes dimpling across the landscape. Flags from participating countries snapped in the breeze, and beautiful floral wreaths were in abundance. At COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER, France, the American cemetery, the days' formal ceremony was held with heads of state, most who did not serve in the military, offering opinions and dialogues. The speakers provided commentary on their view of history, honor, duty, and value of sacrifice. Current military men and women in uniform attended to the old veterans who had returned to this killing field likely for the last time for a most glorious of glory days. Behind this seated group were the iconic 9,300 white crosses in perfect rows, splayed out for acres overlooking the beach below and the bright blue ocean. Men were on their knees in the green grass next to the stone markers, citing prayers, and moments of a personal note. And there were the two most beautiful, stately white flag poles on each side of the cemetery, the tallest I have ever witnessed, with immense American flags casting an ever-loving eye upon the lads interred below. They turned the tide of war, these gallant men. One hopes we, as a society of mankind, may never be forced to do it again. Standing silently, I listened to the stories, the personal memories of battle from these men and realized how small I am in their stead. But pride has no standing as to size, and the virtuoso of pride that I felt was well beyond my humble self.

Jerry Wilkerson, a member of our lodge, lives in SaddleBrooke. He is a former press secretary for two U.S. Congressmen, a prior Chicago CBS radio reporter and talk show host, who is a naval veteran, and served as a Police Commissioner



Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge #2815

Invites you to attend a POKER RUN AND/OR ITALIAN DINNER

Saturday, September 21, 2019

In honor of our distinguished guests:

Vice President East District: Dennis Appel and his Lady Deb

Pre-registration required-All Elks Welcome

limited to the first 50

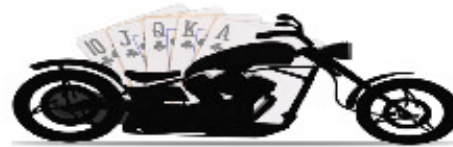
Sign up in the Lounge or

call in 520-825-7724

Poker Run: \$5 per sheet

PRIZES FOR THE WINNER

**Proceeds Donated to Elks National
Foundation**



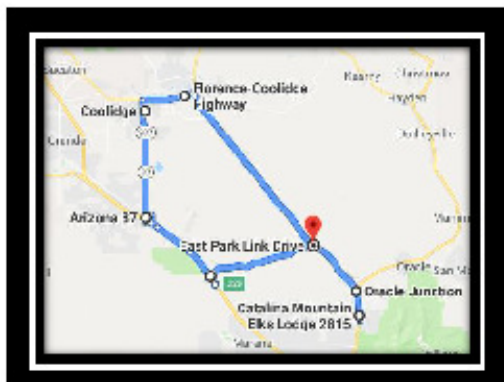
POKER RUN: Motorcycles or

Autos/Trucks Welcome

Sandwiches at Lodge 11am

Group take off at 12 Noon

Return Card to Lodge by 4:30 pm



Map subject to change

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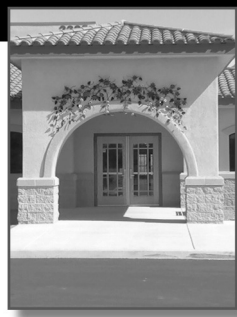
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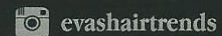
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