

The
Ancient and honorable
Order of
E CLAMPUS VITUS

Al Packer Chapter 100
Chartered in the Centennial State of Colorado

PBC Guide and Handbook

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PBC Rules

1. A PBC must never wear or touch the color red. This includes every Clamper. Red items of clothing and/or jewelry should not be worn until the initiation is completed.
2. A PBC must attend all scheduled and spontaneous PBC meetings and activities.
3. A PBC must complete all assigned and scheduled duties and tasks.
4. A PBC must get to know all Officers, Redshirts, and especially their fellow PBCs.
5. A PBC must show unity and loyalty to their fellow PBCs.
6. A PBC must attend the plaque dedication and parade.
7. A PBC must participate in PBC entertainment. This may include telling a joke, singing a song, and answering all questions presented to him during entertainment or interrogation.
8. A PBC must be sober for the duration of the initiation. (Serious Shit.)
9. A PBC must help clean the clamp site prior to leaving the function.
10. A PBC is under the complete authority of the Hangman and his Vigilantes.
11. A PBC must study the following: PBC Rules, PBC Etiquette, the Code of Clamper Conduct, the list of Al Packer Graybeards, Officers and Plaques, and the histories of ECV, Al

Packer Chapter 100, and the man himself, Al Packer. PBCs should also memorize any other material presented to him (verbally or otherwise) before the initiation.

12. **NO GUNS, EXPLOSIVES, LONG KNIVES, TASERS, BEAR SPRAY, WASP SPRAY, HAIR SPRAY, OR ANY OTHER SPRAY, FIGHTING, BAD ATTITUDES, DRUGS, WIDDERS, ORPHANS, DOGS, CATS, RATS, SNAKES, BUGS, VERMIN, VIRUSES, OR WOMEN'S CLOTHES ARE PERMITTED AT ANY TIME.**
13. When in doubt, a smart PBC will always... **ASK the Hangman or the Vigilantes.**

PBC Etiquette - How to Survive the Initiation

1. A PBC should always address a Redshirt as: **“Sir, Mr. Clamper Sir, yes Sir — I am a dirty rotten stinking PBC.”**
2. A PBC should always take his responsibilities seriously.
3. A PBC should always enjoy himself while working or rendering satisfactory service. He must maintain a cheerful disposition at all times.
4. A PBC should never offend, anger, or irritate any Redshirt or Officer.
5. A PBC should always ensure that a Redshirt or Officer is comfortable and given satisfactory service. A warm beer could easily ruin a Redshirt's day.
6. When fetching a drink, a PBC should always locate the coldest one (usually at the bottom of the ice chest) and present it cheerfully.
7. A PBC should never stand upwind from a Redshirt or Officer.
8. A PBC should never let a hangover interfere with his work.
9. A PBC should never embarrass his sponsor.
10. A PBC must never, ever, ever touch the color red.
11. When in doubt... **ASK!**

Code of Clamper Conduct

1. Members shall conduct themselves in a manner that does not bring disgrace upon themselves or the organization while wearing the organizational colors. (Your Red Shirt) The manner of conduct will be determined by the situation.
2. No Clamper or PBC shall make disparaging remarks about another's race, creed, color, ethnic, or religious background.
3. No Clamper or PBC shall harm or threaten bodily harm to another.
4. No Clamper shall physically touch a PBC beyond what is considered good taste.
5. No Clamper or PBC shall take property belonging to another chapter or member without permission.
6. No member shall remove artifacts or damage protected plants or animals.
7. No Clamper shall engage in lewd conduct or disgrace the order.

8. No Clamper shall use controlled substances (Drugs for those from from Yorba Linda) beyond prescription medication during any function.
9. **NO GUNS, EXPLOSIVES, LONG KNIVES, TASERS, BEAR SPRAY, WASP SPRAY, HAIR SPRAY, OR ANY OTHER SPRAY, FIGHTING, BAD ATTITUDES, DRUGS, WIDDERS, ORPHANS, DOGS, CATS, RATS, SNAKES, BUGS, VERMIN, VIRUSES, OR WOMEN’S CLOTHES ARE PERMITTED AT ANY TIME.**

Monthly Chapter Meetings

First Saturday of the month — Robin Hood Bar & Grill, Nevada Ave., Colorado Springs, CO.

High Noon (or thereabout).

Other locations as determined by the Humbug.

Ex Grand Nobel Humbugs

And

Their Plaque events.

Year	Humbug	Plaques Dedicated
1994	Murk Mansel	No Plaque
1995	Dick Thompson	No Plaque
1996	Dave Kohn	Hotchkiss Museum
1997	Dick Thompson	Como Roundhouse
1998	Jim Conan	Victoria Tavern
1999	Terry Sherwood	McPhee Reservoir
2000	Terry Sherwood	No Plaque (Charter Doin’s)
2001	Jim “Bandit Jack” Powers	Town of Siloam; Town of Rico
2002	Vic “Slick Vic” Watras	Jackson Hotel
2003	Bruce Christiansen	Bauer Mansion; Escalante Canyon
2004	Lee “No Guidance” Roith	Fort Uncompahgre; Cripple Creek Mining District
2005	Robert “Elevator Bob” Lloyd	Roswell Roundhouse; Lake City Museum
2006	Ken “Bird Man” Jaques	Salida Steam Plant; Cross Orchard Farm Living Museum
2007	Ed Kaiser	Navajo Hogan Roadhouse; Bross Hotel
2008	Skip Reasoner	Victor Courthouse; Silverton Depot
2009	Dameon Walker	Sunnyside Cemetery (Victor)
2010	Johnnie Walker	Sunnyside Potters Field
2011	Eddy Duran	Victor Elks Lodge
2012	Matt “Maestro” Larson	Dave Kohn Memorial Firepit

2013	R.J. Johnson	Brothers to Golden Hills; Rocky Flats Plant
2014	James “Jimbo” Nelson	“Old Max” Territorial Prison
2015	James “Jimbo” Nelson	Victor Park
2015	Mike Trejo	No Plaque
2016	Keith Butts	Alfred Packer Gravesite
2017	Keith “K2” Kelser	Tesla
2018	Wayne “Mudfoot” Hughes	Al Packer Café
2019	Kelly “Condor” Schwarts	Silver Cliff Mine
2020	Dustin “Yeti” Hughes	Bassick Mine
2021	Lauren “Oki” From Muscogee	Train Depot in Victor
2022	Erick “Stickman” Larson	Phoenix Mine
2023	James “Big Sexy” St. James	Bliss Homestead; Silver Cliff Cemetery; Siloam, CO (Re-dedication)
2024	Eric “Goggles” King	Last Chance Mine
2025	Dan “The Professional” Osborn	Prospect Heights Jail

A Brief History of E Clampus Vitus

The Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus is a male-only organization dedicated to the study and preservation of the history of the West, particularly the history of the Mother Lode and the mining regions of the West. There are currently chapters in California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and Colorado, as well as outposts in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Members call themselves “Clampers,” short for *E Clampus Vitus*. The meaning of *E Clampus Vitus* is a well-guarded secret.

The history of the organization is steeped in mythology. It is said that the order was created in the 1840s in West Union, West Virginia, when tavern and stable owner Ephraim Bee was given a commission from the Emperor of China to “extend the work and influence of the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus.” Bee claimed to have received his commission from Caleb Cushing, the American minister to China. West Union has a monument to Ephraim Bee on the site of the old Beehive Tavern, where the Rail Trail now passes. The original tavern was destroyed in the late 1800s during a flood.

Bee felt that an organization was needed that was less exclusive than the Masons, Elks, and Odd Fellows. He opened membership in ECV to any “upstanding” man who had come of age. It is reported that there were E Clampus Vitus chapters in Pennsylvania, Georgia, Illinois, and Missouri.

The organization is said to have been brought to California by an ECV member named Joe Zumwalt, who first heard of it in Missouri. Zumwalt opened an ECV lodge in Mokelumne Hill in

1851, establishing Mokelumne Hill Lodge No. 1001. Some argue that earlier lodges existed in Hangtown, Downieville, and Sierra, but none became permanent.

As more “established” organizations such as the Masons arrived in the mining country, they looked down upon the rowdy nature of E Clampus Vitus. In response, Clampers mocked the ceremonial attire of upscale fraternities by dressing in red long johns and pinning on badges made from cut-out tin can lids. This practice, known as “wearing your tin,” continues today, though badges are now professionally made and members typically wear a red miner’s shirt, black hat, and Levi jeans.

ECV titles reflect the tongue-in-cheek nature of the organization. Officials were called the **Noble Grand Humbug**, **Roisterous Iscutis**, **Grand Imperturbable Hangman**, **Clamps Vitrix**, and **Royal Gyascutis**. All members are officers, and all officers are, as the order professes, “of equal indignity.”

Clamper meetings were held in the **Hall of Comparative Ovations**, usually the back room of a saloon. Some chapters even built their own halls; one still stands in Murphy’s. The Clamper flag was a hoop skirt emblazoned with the words: “**This is the flag we fight under.**”

Meetings were held “at any time before or after a full moon.” New members, called **Poor Blind Candidates**, were required to present a poke of gold dust, though the value was left to the discretion of the brotherhood and often waived if the candidate could not afford it.

Despite the humor and rowdiness, Clampers took their brotherhood seriously. When a member became sick or injured, the group collected food or money to help him. They often trekked through the Sierra Nevada to bring Christmas cheer to lonely miners. The society also cared for the widows and orphans of fallen members.

At ECV’s peak around 1870, so many miners were members that entire mining towns shut down during Clamper celebrations—some towns even had two chapters. In one famous incident, Lord Sholto Douglas, a British peer leading a troupe of actors in Marysville, was preparing to leave town due to poor ticket sales. When a Clamper learned of the troupe’s trouble, Lord Sholto was immediately initiated, and the brothers bought enough tickets to fill the theater. A 20th-century chapter was later named in his honor.

Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) was a member, and it was at an ECV meeting that he heard the story that became *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*.

Members of note included Philip Armour (meat packer), John Studebaker (wagon and automobile manufacturer), and John Hume (California state assemblyman). ECV also *claims* Ulysses S. Grant, J. Pierpont Morgan, Horace Greeley, and Horatio Alger as members—along with Solomon, Julius and Augustus Caesar, Henry VIII, Sir Francis Drake, George Washington,

Andrew Jackson, and even Adam (the first “Clam patriarch”). These fanciful claims reflect ECV’s habit of not taking itself too seriously.

As the mining industry declined in the late 19th century, ECV faded as well. It was revitalized in 1931 by San Francisco historian Carl Wheat and his friends G. Ezra Dane and Leon O. Whitsell. They were contacted by one of the last surviving members of the original ECV, who passed on what he remembered of the rites and legends. The three founded a new chapter, **Yerba Buena No. 1**, the *Capitulus Redivivus*. Wheat described E Clampus Vitus as:

“The comic strip on the page of California history.”

Expansion of E Clampus Vitus and the Rise of Al Packer Chapter 100

Growth and Creative Numbering of New Chapters

New chapters sprang up in Los Angeles and other major cities in California, and were originally numbered sequentially. However, once Chapter 10 was established in 1936, members pointed out that it was illogical for such a rowdy organization to maintain such a neat numbering scheme. In true Clamper fashion, creativity took over.

The **Pair-o-Dice Chapter** in Paradise, for example, is Chapter **7-11**. The noble **De La Guerra y Pacheco Chapter**, located halfway between Chapter 1 in San Francisco and Chapter 2 in Los Angeles, is Chapter **1.5**.

There were once chapters in British Columbia and Hawaii, though they no longer exist.

The Current ECV

Today, there are approximately **forty active ECV chapters** across:

- California
- Nevada
- Utah
- Colorado
- Arizona
- Washington

Along with:

- an offshore chapter (the **Floating Whang Chapter**)
- proposed chapters in Oregon and Idaho
- a cyberspace chapter, the legendary **CyberWhang Chapter 68040/481.5**

The organization has placed **historical plaques** throughout the West — often marking sites overlooked by traditional historical societies, such as saloons, bordellos, mining camps, and other colorful locations. Each plaque dedication is followed by a traditional “**doin’s**”, a celebration blending history, camaraderie, and Clamper humor.

In the Gold Country, a Clamper-placed plaque is never far away.

The fraternity still jokes about its identity, often asking whether it is:

- a **historical drinking society**, or
- a **drinking historical society**

The truth, as always with ECV, lies somewhere in between.

The Beginnings of Al Packer Chapter 100

Al Packer Chapter 100 in Colorado was chartered in **2000** — the year **6005** on the ECV’s idiosyncratic calendar. The chapter maintains **four encampments statewide**, giving members opportunities to gather, socialize, and uphold the traditions of the order.

In the early 1990s, lost souls wandered the shining mountains of Colorado seeking the true light of Clamperdom. A town crier posted “**Wanted Notices**,” and a gathering was held near the lower slopes of Pikes Peak. Men in faded and tattered red shirts assembled, forming the nucleus of hardy souls who founded the statewide **Al Packer Outpost**.

After many pilgrimages to the Sierra Nevada — complete with bribes and proper obeisance to the elders of the **Grand Council** — a charter was finally granted at the end of the reign of **Terry the Sherwood**, in the land of the Grand Mesa.

The Story of Alferd E. Packer

“The Colorado Cannibal”

This is the story of a man who, if he did not have bad luck, would have had no luck at all. Many truths and myths surround Alferd Packer, and one of the most controversial is his name. Some say he was named for an uncle, “Alferd,” while others claim the name was misspelled on a tattoo. The truth is lost to time, but he will always be known as **Al Packer**.

Packer was born in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. He served in the Civil War on the Union side, presumably in an Iowa regiment, but was mustered out due to epilepsy. A book titled “**Lone Survivor**” is said to contain his memoirs, found in the possession of a daughter of one of his victims. Recent forensic studies of the massacre site have given some credibility to his account.

On **February 9, 1874**, Alferd Packer and five other men departed from the camp of **Ute Chief Ouray**, near present-day Montrose, Colorado. They were resuming a trek that had begun months earlier in Provo, Utah, hoping to reach newly discovered gold prospects in Breckenridge. Although the original party was much larger, only Packer (as guide), Israel Swan, Shannon Wilson Bell, George Noon, James Humphrey, and Frank Miller dared to risk the brutal Colorado winter.

They should not have.

Shortly after leaving Chief Ouray's camp, the group was engulfed in a **furious blizzard** near what is now Lake City, Colorado.

Packer Reappears — Alone

On **April 16, 1874**, Packer staggered into the Los Pinos Indian Agency with little more than a rifle and a skinning knife belonging to other members of his party. He claimed that after the storm hit, he set up camp while the others went ahead to look for food — and never returned.

After recovering, Packer traveled to Saguache, Colorado, where he suddenly became a **big spender** at the local saloon. Unfortunately for him, several men from the original Utah group were in town and immediately doubted his story.

Confessions, Escape, and Capture

Indian Agent **Charles Adams** took Packer back to Los Pinos for questioning. On **May 8, 1874**, Packer gave his first confession:

- Israel Swan died first
- The starving men ate Swan
- Three others died from exposure
- Packer claimed he killed Shannon Bell **in self-defense**

Packer was jailed outside Saguache — not in the town jail, as often claimed. In **August 1874**, he escaped.

On the same day, the mutilated remains of the missing prospectors were discovered near Lake City. Evidence showed violence, not starvation.

Packer vanished for nearly **nine years** until **March 1883**, when Frenchy Cabazon recognized him in Douglas, Wyoming. Packer was living under the name **John Schwartze**.

Trial, Sentence, and the Famous Quote

Packer was tried in Lake City for the murder of Israel Swan. The jury quickly found him guilty.

Judge Melville B. Gerry delivered one of the most legendary lines in Western legal history:

“Damn you, Alferd Packer! There were seven Democrats in Hinsdale County, and you ate five of them!”

(Another version swaps “Democrats” and “Republicans,” depending on the storyteller.)

Packer was sentenced **“to be hanged by the neck until you are dead, dead, dead.”**

The Colorado Supreme Court later overturned the conviction. Packer was retried, found guilty of **manslaughter**, and sentenced to **40 years**.

Parole and Later Life

After serving **17 years**, a grassroots campaign in Denver pushed for his release. In **1901**, Governor Charles S. Thomas granted Packer parole.

According to his memoirs, Packer worked as a **bodyguard** for two Denver newspaper editors. Some say he became a **vegetarian** later in life.

He moved to Littleton, Colorado, where he lived quietly and was reportedly well-liked. He died on **April 23, 1907**, possibly of natural causes — though some claim he was poisoned by a victim’s relative. Another legend claims his **severed head** ended up in a Ripley’s Believe It or Not museum.

Ballad of Alferd Packer

In the state of Colorado — in the year of seventy-four, They crossed the San Juan Mountains — growing hungry to the core. Their guide was Alferd Packer — and they trusted him too long, For his character was too weak — and his appetite too strong.

(Chorus) *They called him a murderer, a cannibal, a thief; It just don’t pay to eat anything but government-inspected beef.*

Along the Gunnison River — an Indian camp they spied.

An Indian chief approached them, to stop them he did try.

He warned them of the danger — in the snow that lay around,

But the danger was in Packer, for his hunger knew no bound.

(Chorus) *They called him a murderer, a cannibal, a thief; It just don’t pay to eat anything but government-inspected beef.*

Two cold months went slowly by; Packer came back alone.

“My comrades all froze to death — I’m starving,” he did moan.

The Indian chief knew how he lied — he spat upon the ground,
For his belly hung over his belt: he'd gained some thirty pounds.

(Chorus) *They called him a murderer, a cannibal, a thief; It just don't pay to eat anything but government-inspected beef.*

Well, for nine long years he ran away — but finally he was tried.

He claimed he didn't kill them — he only ate their hide.

That county had six Democrats — until that man arrived;

Well, only one lived past that day: he ate the other five.

(Chorus) *They called him a murderer, a cannibal, a thief; It just don't pay to eat anything but government-inspected beef.*

Eighteen years he stayed in jail — it was a dreadful fate,

For he suffered indigestion — every time he ate.

Still, it's hard to blame this hungry guy — who went searchin' for the mines,

For when he ate his friends — he'd never heard of Duncan Hines.

(PBCs only — sung loudly, enthusiastically, and melodiously): *They called him a murderer, a cannibal, a thief; It just don't pay to eat anything but government-inspected beef.*

I came to Colorado — a stinking PBC,

I know they're going to hang me — from the nearest tree.

If I fail to meet the test — I know now what I'll be,

You'll see me at the meal tonight — a Packer dinner entrée.

NOTE:

This ballad may be sung in part to the tune of “**Oh Susanna**” and mostly to the **Gilligan's Island** theme. Learn it well — but all better sing it to the same tune.

Final verse written by Bandit Jack Powers, XNGH, Al Packer Chapter 100 — Colorado

Most Important Word List

and Other Effluvium & Offal

(Cleaned, corrected, and formatted)

The following is a list of words you will frequently be required to say without wrapping your tongue around your eye-tooth so you cannot see what you're saying. Learn them well — for one day you may be called upon to say them with dignity.

Clam Patriarch

(Klam-pay-tree-ark) — The most important elder.

Clampfunctionaries

(Klam-funk-shun-air-eez) — Chairmen of the most important committees.

Clampotent

(Klam-po-tent) — Really serious business.

Coadjutors

(Ko-ah-joot-er) — Helpers; assistants.

Coruscated

(Kor-us-kay-ted) — Glittering, shimmering, giving off flashes of light.

Credo Quia Absurdum

(Cray-do kwee-ah ab-sir-dum) — You will find out in time.

Ecstatically

(Ek-static-al-lee) — Having the nature of, or characterized by, ecstasy.

Espied

(Eh-spy-ed) — Discovered, found, or saw.

Ignominiously

(Ig-no-min-ee-us-lee) — Shameful, dishonorable, contemptible, despicable. In other words: an all-around nice guy.

Imperturbable

(Im-per-turb-a-ble) — One who cannot be disturbed, excited, or disconcerted; impassive.

Incestuous

(In-sest-you-us) — You already know what this means, or you wouldn't be joining Clampers.

Ineffable

(In-ef-a-ble) — Too awesome or overwhelming to be described in words.

Irrevocably

(Ear-rev-oke-a-blee) — You can't change your mind now. You've had it.

Miscreant

(Miss-cree-ant) — Villainous, evil, heretical, unbelieving.

Obeisance

(Oh-bay-sense) — A gesture of respect or reverence, such as a bow or curtsy.

Orphanibusque

(Or-fan-ih-bus-kay) — You will be told later.

Palpitatingly

(Pal-pih-tay-ting-lee) — To throb, quiver, or tremble.

Per Caritate Viduariibus

(Pear kar-ih-tah-tay vid-you-air-ih-bus) — Again, you will find out later.

Roisterous Iscutis

(Roy-stir-us iss-kyoo-tis) — A Clampfunctionary.

Sedulously

(Sedge-oo-lus-lee) — Working hard and steadily; diligent.

Tempestuous

(Tem-pes-choo-us) — Violent; turbulent.