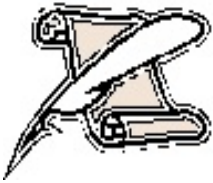


## Adjutant's Call



We are fast approaching that time of year when it is almost always impossible to keep up with events. There are parties to attend, gifts to buy, dinners to cook, greeting cards to send and, well, you get the idea. All too often in this mad rush, we sometimes overlook the simple and important things. Fortunately for you, there is me to help remind you.

**1. 2007 Dues.** If you do not already know, the dues that Post 66 must pay to the National organization will increase by \$4.50 by January 1. That means, for every dues paying member of \$25.00, the Post must send \$20.50 to the Department of Maryland and National. As of this writing, 249 members have NOT paid their dues. Eventually, this will cost the Post an extra \$1,120.50 needlessly. Please, check your membership card now. If it says "2006" across the top, you have not paid your dues. When sending greeting cards and other bills, a check to the Post for your dues would be greatly appreciated. Whether you are a regular attendee of the Post, a casual visitor, or have never set foot through the door, your membership is vital if we are to continue our activities.

**2. Newsletter.** Beginning with the January 2007 edition, the monthly *Rising Star* will be issued bi-monthly (that's once every two months for Marines). This is a cost reducing effort due to the rising costs of printing and mailing. Every effort will be made to keep the information timely and worthwhile to our Legion family. We have heard some grumblings about being short changed the April 1 edition, but do not fear, you will not be disappointed.

**3. Drop Off Boxes.** There is no reason to ever come to the Post empty handed. By the time you read this, the Post will have drop off areas for: unwanted cell phones (they get rewired for 911 emergency calls and given to the elderly), Toys for Tots, Bowie Food Bank, Care Package for Josh Muller (Post member serving in Iraq), and a Flag Collection Mailbox (outside) for used and worn flags that are ready to be retired. Particularly during this time of the year, please make a special effort to help those who may need a lift from time to time.

**4. Membership.** Increasing the membership to Disney-Bell Post is the only way for us to survive in this day and age. Our Post has grown significantly this past year, not in membership, but in the programs we undertake to help veterans and our community. Just as an example, the Children and Youth/Americanism Committee recently compiled an annual budget of more than \$25,000. It includes items for American Legion Baseball, Oratorical Contest, scholarships (we wish to add one in memory of Jim Pritchett), Scouting and much more. This is not possible without your help and an active membership. We offer activities and programs for every member of the family and we encourage you to participate in them. I challenge every member to sign up at least one new member during the next six months.

I wish you each a very Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year.

J. D. Larson  
Adjutant

## Unit 66 Report

The Auxiliary has been busy with dinners and parties and with the Christmas season fast approaching we are busy making plans. The Children's Christmas Party is Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.. There will be refreshments, a clown for the children's entertainment and, of course, a visit from Santa who will be bearing gifts. This year we will have a sign-up sheet for children attending. The sheet will be behind the bar starting November 27<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure to sign up as this helps us in food preparation and purchasing of gifts. Sign-up deadline is December 10<sup>th</sup>.

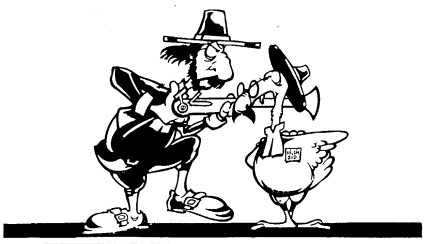


Ladies, we will be having our Annual Christmas get-together on December 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:00 p.m.. We are asking everyone to bring a covered dish and a gift (minimum \$10) for the gift exchange. A sign-up sheet for the covered dish will be at the bar. It should be a lot of fun so we hope to see you there.

A reminder that the Auxiliary is cooking breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. every Sunday during the Turkey Shoot. Whether you are shooting or not, why not come on up and enjoy a delicious hot breakfast prepared by our outstanding cooks. Also, the Auxiliary has been trying hard to have their dinner on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month so come on out and support the Auxiliary and help us support veterans' programs.

And a final note: the winner of our November "Cold Hard Cash" raffle was our own President, Juanita Thompson. Congratulations Juanita and thank you from the Auxiliary as Juanita donated her winnings back to the Auxiliary for our veterans' programs.

Judy Williams  
Secretary



Post 66 Weekly Turkey Shoot!  
Sundays, 9:00 a.m. to Noon-ish  
20 Shots STILL Only \$55  
Scatter Shots - 50/50 Raffles  
Breakfast at 8:00 a.m.  
Great Fun!

## Squadron 66 Report

I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving and is ready for the upcoming holiday season. The annual Christmas train raffle is underway and tickets are available at the bar. The cost of tickets is the same as in the past . . . one ticket for one dollar, six tickets for \$5.00. The drawing will be following our chicken dinner on December 15, 2006.

Good news! We will be starting up the Sandwich Nights on Tuesdays real soon (hopefully some time in December). Please check the post for details.

Several of our squadron members attended the SAL Southern Maryland District Draw Down on November 10<sup>th</sup> at Greenbelt Post 136. Sorry guys, but no one won any money. Still, we all had a great time and helped the District in this fund raising event.

We are selling scatter shots on Sunday mornings at the Turkey Shoots. Please look for Skip and try your luck. They are always looking for new shooters so maybe we will see you there.

We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.. I hope to see many of you there.

Have a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Joe Weik  
Commander



### TOYS FOR TOTS



The annual Disney-Bell Post 66 "Toys for Tots" drive is in full swing. All members of The American Legion family are encouraged to show your support for this generous project by donating a new, unwrapped toy for a needy child. There is a large collection box at the Post home just for this occasion. Please drop off your toy no later than Friday, December 15. Thank you.

## American Legion Riders



Another month has passed and the season for riding is drawing to close, but that hasn't stopped the American Legion Riders from being actively engaged in many activities. The major event was our participation in the Veterans Day Ceremony at the City of Bowie Veterans Park. We mustered 11 members and one guest to attend the ceremony and four of our members presented a wreath of remembrance, representing the entire American Legion Family (Legion, SAL and Auxiliary). One of our members provided photographic services for the Post, as Historian Myron James is still recuperating.

The Chapter has been asked to assist in establishing other American Legion Rider Chapters and have assisted Post 136 in Greenbelt and on December 7th, will visit Post 180 in Rosedale at the request of the Post Commander.

With the holidays upon us, our Candy Sales have taken off and given us a little more flexibility to assist those less fortunate than ourselves, so we are looking into Holiday Meals, the Toys-For-Tots program and other worthwhile endeavors. Keeping this in mind, the Riders are working to share our efforts across the four pillars of the American Legion, which are Veterans Rehabilitation, Americanism, Child Welfare and National Security. In this manner we hope to ensure that the goals of the American Legion are clearly seen in our every thought, word and deed.

Yours in Service,

Stephen "Big Bird" Williams

Director, American Legion Riders



### Meeting Schedule

**SAL Squadron 66 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday**  
**Post 66 Executive - 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday**  
**Auxiliary Unit 66 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday**  
**Post 66 Membership - 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday (No meeting in December)**  
**Post 66 Legion Riders - 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

## Busy Time of Year for Scouts!



Our troop added another scout to the “eagle nest.” On November 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron V. Mason became the 46<sup>th</sup> scout to earn the rank of Eagle Scout in Troop 1688. Baron is also a graduate of Boys State 2006 and an Air Force JROTC squadron commander at E. Roosevelt High School. Congratulation Baron!

Like the military promotion system there is a delay between selection and pinning each rank. For the rank of Eagle Scout the time lapse is often several months while the national scout headquarters review the records of each Eagle Scout application. The “pinning ceremony” is conducted at a special Court of Honor. On November 4<sup>th</sup> an Eagle Court of Honor was held to pin James Peters (son of Past Commander Doug Peters) and Kevin Fink. The 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> Eagle Scouts of 1688, these were the last two young men who earned Eagle under the tenure of James L Pritchett, Jr in his role as the Charter Organization Representative for the troop. James and Kevin dedicated their ceremony to Jim and his commitment to the youth of our post.

The troop continues to fill the calendar with support to the community and great trips. On November 4<sup>th</sup> they distributed “Scouting for Food” donation bags across the city of Bowie. The pick up date was November 11<sup>th</sup> and all donations were delivered to the Bowie Interfaith Food Bank. The 4<sup>th</sup> was also the first Saturday of the month which is “recycle collection day” at the Free State mall. This monthly event is not only a great community service but also a fund-raising event for the troop. Drop off your news print, computer paper, old telephone books and aluminum cans. It cleans up the clutter around the garage and also helps the boys save for summer camp expenses.

A few less scouts were present at the Bowie Veteran’s Day ceremony this year. Don’t worry they have not forgotten this important event and will be back in full force next time. This year the troop was invited to Fort Eustis, VA to sleep in a WWII open bay barracks, eat in an Army dining facility (mess halls to us old brown boot types), do physical training, and participate in Veteran’s Day ceremonies at the Fort. This might not sound exciting to us but for the boys it was a great trip.

We don’t see much of the Scouts in the winter months. They meet at the YMCA October through May but they are still active and will return to the Post in the spring.

Mark W. Ryan  
Charter Organization Representative

## American Legion Riders Veterans Day November 11, 2006



On Saturday, November 11, 2006 at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the day, a ceremony to honor all veterans of all wars and conflicts was held at the City of Bowie Veterans Memorial Park. The American Legion Riders mustered 10 members and one guest for the ceremony with the wreath laying being accomplished by the following individuals:

Richard Beckwell – Assistant Director and PGR Road Captain  
Dick Lanham – Post #66, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander and Honorary Legion Rider  
David Baust – SAL Member and Legion Rider  
Suzanne Baust – Auxiliary Member, Legion Rider and Gold Star Mom

At the conclusion the ceremonies, the group road back to Disney-Bell Post 66 for a reception and a time of reflection and fellowship. My personal thanks to John Williams and David Baust for taking pictures for the American Legion Riders and Disney-Bell Post 66.

Steve "Big Bird" Williams  
Director

**Post 66  
Christmas Party  
"Schedule"**



**Children's  
Saturday, December 16  
3:00 - 5:00 pm**

**Auxiliary  
Wednesday, December 20  
7:30 p.m.**

**Post  
(All Members)  
Sunday, December 24  
4:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
Christmas Eve**



**ONLY  
\$20**



**ONLY  
\$20**

### American Legion Racing Coffee Mug Gift Set

**Y**ou enjoy coffee...you enjoy racing...and now you can enjoy great coffee and support The American Legion racing program at the same time. Each American Legion Racing Coffee Mug set comes complete with your choice of either red or blue American Legion Racing travel mug, one package of your favorite flavor of Uncle Jack's Gourmet Coffee and an autographed picture of the #76 Freedom Car Driver Jerick Johnson. It makes a great gift for the "Hard to buy" people on your Christmas list. Racing fan or Legionnaire or both, this gift is sure to please. And remember, proceeds from the sale of these items help support ALL Legion programs. Complete the order form below and send to Team Johnson Motorsports.

Yes, please send me \_\_\_\_\_ American Legion Racing Coffee Mug Set(s) at \$20.00 each (plus \$5.00 for shipping)

Color: (check one)            Red \_\_\_\_\_            Blue \_\_\_\_\_

Coffee Flavor: (check one)    Uncle Jack's Regular \_\_\_\_\_, Decaf \_\_\_\_\_, French Vanilla \_\_\_\_\_, Amaretto \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Paid: \$

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number and Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Checks to:  
Team Johnson Motorsports  
P. O. Box 919  
Mooresville, NC 28115



American Legion  
Disney-Bell Post 66  
9605 Old Laurel-Bowie Road  
Bowie, MD 20720  
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Fax: (301) 805-6832  
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**The Rising Star**  
**December 2006**

**Merry Christmas**  
**and**  
**Happy New Year**