



## **BUGLE CALLS, NOVEMBER 2019**

### **SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

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#### 1. NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> MEETING:

Mike Carter speaking: "An Evening with Edward Porter Alexander."

DENNY'S RESTAURANT, 710 W. SHAW AVE., CLOVIS

6:00 Dinner & social hour

7:00 Meeting

8:30 Book Raffle and adjournment

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## 2. UP COMING EVENTS:

a. Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>: WEST COAST CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE, Sacramento (Hosted by Sacramento CWRT)

b. DEC. 12<sup>th</sup> CHRISTMAS PARTY at Gail's house

c. JAN. 9<sup>th</sup> Show & Tell

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## 3. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY MICHAEL SPENCER

Greetings,

Welcome to another fall edition of my message.

Some of you may or may not know, we lost a true champion of the round table General Ron Markarian. He was an avid supporter of the SJVCWRT as well as a member of AUSA, along with Ken Moats and Wayne Scott.

Mr. Markarian also helped secure the Clovis Veterans Memorial Building for a few conferences. He was also instrumental in getting the Veterans Home here in Fresno.

His obituary is in 10/25/19 Fresno Bee. If anyone would like to make a donation in his name, it goes to MG Ronald Markarian Charitable Foundation, PO Box 69 Washougal, Wa 98671.

Our next meeting will be 11/14 at 6pm dinner 7pm Denny's. This months speaker will be Mike Carter, and his topic is ( An evening with Edward Porter Alexander ).

Lastly, I contacted by Keith Poulter who is the editor of North & South magazine. It's been a while since I've seen a copy until I was at Barnes and Noble. He did ask if the SJVCWRT still exists, I said of course. I mentioned when we meet and he will be joining us at our next meeting.

Regards,

Michael

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#### 4. AFTER ACTION REPORT

##### SJVCWRT MEETING OF OCT. 10<sup>TH</sup> BY RON VAUGHAN, SECRETARY

Meeting called to order by Michael Spencer at 7:00. We learned the sad news that Fred Bomfauk passed away recently. He was involved in the beginnings of our club, and has come to speak many times. Twelve persons were present at this meeting.

Treasurer Gail Schulze reported our bank balance is \$1382.

Christmas party will be at Gail's house on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. The usual "Yankee Gift Swap" will take place.

Our speaker was Steve Madden, who traveled from Redlands, CA. He has attended almost every West Coast CWRT Conference for many years. In 1983 he visited Fort Tejon Civil War re-enactment, and was recruited into the 1<sup>st</sup> Texas Infantry. He is also a member of the Sons Of Confederate Veterans, and the Inland Empire CWRT (who donated \$2000 to our Conference last Nov. He is a docent at the Lincoln Shrine in Redlands.

Steve's topic, "Shades of Gray" explained the Southern view of their Constitutional rights to secede from the Union. His legal explanations were far too complex to relate in this space. He said that slavery was immoral, but it was also immoral to deny slave holder's property rights, guaranteed in the Constitution. Also, it was immoral for the Union to attack the Confederacy and free the slaves with much blood lost. He stated that two wrongs do not make a right.

We had a good discussion, which turned to the "what ifs" if the CSA had won independence. Steve said Virginia was industrializing and would have largely abandoned slavery. Tom Ebert opined that the CSA was not unified and would have come apart--Georgia was self-centered and uncooperative, South Carolina could not get along with anybody!

Our discussion was followed by the usual book raffle. Everyone who bought tickets came away with at least one book!

OCTOBER CIVIL WAR REVISITED:

Once again, I attended the re-enactment. I fell in with Captain Mike Gately's 69<sup>th</sup> New York "Irish". The weather was perfect for wearing wool, since the highs were only 75! For the first time in a long time, there were six Union artillery pieces. For the past few years there had been only two. The spectator crowds were smaller, but still very enthusiastic.

My only disappointment was when Linda and I walked over to the Saturday Dance scheduled at 7:00pm (despite my aching feet). The band and caller were there, but no dancers! Since we were both tired, we didn't want to wait around for the others to eventually show up, so we left.

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## 5. CIVIL WAR HUMOR:

(Cautionary Warning: These are really lame!)

1. Why didn't the Confederate soldier want to go to the baseball game?... He heard the Yankees were playing.
  2. The tourist: "Can you tell me why so many famous Civil War battles were fought on National Park Sites?"
  3. Never take a victory for Grant-ed.
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## 6. PRESERVATION NEWS:

The Battle to save the New Market Heights Battlefield is on! This is one of the lesser known fights of the Richmond – Petersburg Campaign of 1864. When I searched for the

location on Google Maps, I only got the town of New Market, in the Shenandoah Valley!

This battle of Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, 1864 was fought south-east of Richmond. It was a diversionary attack to help another operation near Petersburg.

A number of Union Colored Regiments were involved. In the bloody repulse of the attack. Their heroism at this fight is reflected in the 14 Medals of Honor that were awarded to the Black troops.

There is a chance to save 22 acres of that hallowed ground, by donating to the American Battlefield Trust.