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SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2012

It has been a while since last I wrote one of these reports and a lot has taken place since the last report.

First our executive board has had some interesting health situations. Walt Schulze and his wife Gail have been under the weather most of the summer. It looks like they are well on their way to recovery but their illnesses have curtailed some of their participation in our activities this summer. I have also been under the weather this summer. I suffered a stroke in May and I have been working my way through learning to walk again and to be able to use my left hand and arm. Because the stroke has made it interesting to type, this report will be a little shorter [I know some of you will really appreciate that] and I will not be doing my Civil War Month by Month column.

The Round Table had the pleasure of hosting Richard and Mary Hatcher for dinner on June 3. Mr. Hatcher is the historian at Fort Sumter National Park in Charleston South Carolina. Mary's brother lives in the Fresno area and was getting married in Yosemite in early June. Richard contacted me to see if there were some civil war things going on in the Fresno area at the time that they would be here. After discussing it with the executive committee, we decided it would be a nice idea to

invite them to dinner. Patty did an excellent job of making the arrangements and we had about twenty people in attendance. It was a very nice affair which ended up getting us three speakers for our conference in 2013. More about that later.

In July Brian and Linda Clague hosted the annual get together at their house at Shaver Lake. As usual a good time was had by all. We stand eternally grateful to the Clague's hospitality. We spent some time talking and planning for the 2013 conference. Several people indicated that they would be attending the conference.

I'm excited because I just got a 95 page book entitled "Vicksburg National Military Park ART OF COMMEMORATION. It was written by a friend of mine, General Parker Hills. It is the definitive work on the statues and monuments found in one of the nation's premier Military parks.

What Parker has done is to research the statues and monuments in the park, looking into each of the sculptures that have work in the park and also explain the symbolism that is found on the monuments. It is quite a work of scholarship and information. One of the things about the book is that it allows you to follow the roads of the park as well as giving GPS positions of each of the objects that are talked about.

The book is extensively illustrated with photographs. What is so exciting for me is that I have at least 30 of my photos in the book and Parker was kind enough to recognize my contribution in the introduction. So I am now a published photographer. Wow.

Now to the conference. It will be held on a Carnival Cruise ship sailing from San Pedro and going to Mexico. It will leave on Friday afternoon November 1 and return on Monday morning November 4. The cost of the cruse per person will be \$400.00 double occupancy for an inside cabin and \$440.00 per person double occupancy for an outside cabin. We will dock in Ensenada Mexico on Saturday. All the meals are paid for and many other activities are included in the cost.

At this time we have four speakers who have committed to be with us as we look into the Civil War in 1863. The speakers include General Parker Hills, Ranger Richard Hatcher, Mary Hatcher and Jean Hutchinson [The ladies do social history power point programs about the impact of the A: coming of the war B: effect of the war on women of the south and C: effect of the aftermath of the war on Southern woman. It should be an interesting series of programs.]

We are also attempting to bring other speakers to the conference. Unfortunately I was not able to secure Ed Bearss as a speaker. Ed called me and was very apologetic but he was already booked for that date. We still have several other top flight speakers that we are trying to get to commit.

It will be very important that we get as many of our group to commit to the conference as possible. We need to make sure that we can get a good start on our conference.

The executive committee has been working hard getting things into place. We will be calling on you in the near future to lend a hand.

The executive committee has also heard your concerns about our meeting venue. We have been looking at several places in Fresno that might make for a better location. This change will not take place until the beginning of the year, so if you have some suggestions, please let us know.

This will be the year that we elect our officers. Jonathon Schulze is going into the army so we will need a new secretary. We all want to thank Jonathon for his fine work over the past two years. You have done an excellent job. We would also like to wish you God Speed and thank you for your willingness to protect this country.

The Executive Committee has asked Ron Vaughn to step into the position for the remainder of the year. Ron was gracious enough to accept our request. Thank you Ron.

All of the offices are up for election. The term is for two years and I would encourage anyone that would like to run for an office to put their hat into the ring. The elections will be held at the December meeting.

This leads me to the next request. We are still looking for someone to host our December meeting. It was decided at the beginning of the year to go back to an annual holiday get together. But we still do not have anyone who has stepped up and agreed to host the event. Please contact Patty if you are willing to help us out.

Alex will be our presenter this month and his topic is political cartoons during the Civil War. Sounds like fun.

Remember the meeting will September 13, 2012 at the Denny's on Shaw Avenue in Clovis. If you want to eat please get there around 6. The meeting will start promptly at 7 and hopefully Alex will start his program at between 7:15 and 7:30.

Respectfully submitted

Michael Green

AFTER ACTION REPORT SJVCWRT MEETING OF 7/14/12

By Ron Vaughan

The barbeque party at the the Clague's cabin was enjoyed by sixteen persons. The food and the environment of the cabin and outdoors was great.

Instead of a speaker, the Clagues offered a CW quiz for everyone to attempt.

The winners received prizes: 1st place winners were Ken and Barbara Moats, 2nd place Ron V., and even the person with the least correct received a prize.

In the afternoon, a report was made of the recent executive board meeting: It had been discussed whether it was worth it to spend \$100 for a booth at the Kearny Park Re-enactment. Last year we only gained \$80 from raffle ticket sales. Ken said that in the past the tickets were 3 for \$5, and that brought in \$250 last year. We hope to have a better location for the booth next time. The concensus was that the public exposure was important, and even if we only gain a member or two, it is more than we would otherwise have. The vote was to try a booth this year.

Mike Green has sent in paperwork for the non-profit 501 3C status.

The <u>2013 West Coast Civil War Sesquicentennial Cruise</u> (we are hosting) was discussed: (See below) Theme is 1863. Speakers so far are Richard Hatcher & General Parker Hills, plus two ladies who will speak about civilian life during the war. Invited are Craig Symons, Jack Davis, and others.

4 nights of fun and speakers: Nov. 1st to 4th. Carnival's Baja Mexican Cruise.

- . Interior Cabins \$400 per person
- . Ocean view Cabins \$440 per person

Deposit: \$150 per person. Final payment due 65 days prior to departure.

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BOARD MEETING OF 8/15/12

The board has been discussing a possible change of meeting location, due to sometimes crowded slow service at Denney's. We met at Revolucion restaurant on Cedar, to see what their meeting room was like. The service was excellent, but the room a bit small, and some thought the menu choices were limited and not low priced. I had an enchalada with beans & rice, plus soda for \$14. Brian ordered a steak that was so huge, he had to ask for a doggie bag!

After the meeting we drove to Hometown Buffet on Shaw. The price for seniors is \$10.49. The food choice is very extensive. The meeting room had a folding divider, but upon closing it, I noted one could still hear the conversation of the party next door. A boisterous group would make things difficult.

It was mentioned that Marie Callenders on Shaw has a large meeting room next to the bar. It requires a refundable \$50 deposit for a reservation. This would be

good, as it would be more secure against a possible double booking. One can order whatever they want off the menu, which includes a great salad bar.

Other choices such as Ramada or Yosemite Falls required a 20 person minimum for a meal.

<u>Please Email Walt your opinions and preferences</u>, and we will also take comments at the upcoming meetings before we decide to make a change later.

CIVIL WAR HUMOR

From "The Blue & Gray Laughing."

"President Lincoln went with a young woman to a hospital in Washington, where she became much interested in the condition of a young soldier, and the following conversation ensued:

Lady: 'Where were you wounded?'

Soldier: 'At Antietam.'

Lady: 'Yes, but where were you wounded?'

Soldier: 'At Antietam.'

the Lady then begs the President to help her, as she feels a deep interest in the poor soldier.

President (Taking the the young lady by both hands affectionately): 'My dear girl, the bullet that hit him, would have missed you!'"

Photos from Rick Hatcher's dinner

























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