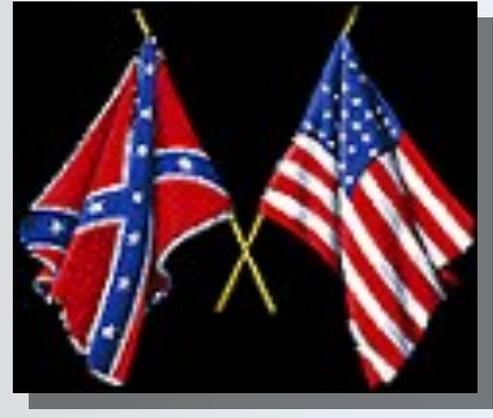




BUGLE CALLS



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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President's Report

May 2012

I guess the best way to describe this last month would be "the Good, the Bad, and thank God, not "the Ugly".

Let's start with the Bad.

For the second time in as many months, our speaker didn't show up for our meeting. Two months ago, we had a two day warning, and I was able to throw something together for the meeting. This time we just sat there trying to figure out what was going on. Our speaker just didn't show up. We found out later that he had the wrong date scheduled for the meeting. He thought it was the next Thursday. We were extremely lucky that Brian Clague had done his homework in preparation for the meeting and was able to deliver a nice presentation on the USS Monitor. A few of the other members chimed in after Brian's presentation, and it ended up being an interesting discussion. It just goes to show that we have a great group of members who are very interested in the war and are willing to go above and beyond to make the information come alive.

Thank you, Brian, for coming to our aid without any warning that it was going to happen. You are outstanding.

Now for the Good things that have happened.

First, we now have information about the cruise that we are looking at for the 2013 Civil War Round Table West Coast Con-

ference. The dates will be departure at 6 P.M. on November 1, 2013 and return at 9 A.M. November 4, 2013. The cost per person for an inside cabin [double occupancy] will be \$400.00 which includes room, all meals, shipboard activities and tip. For an outside cabin it will be \$440.00. This looks reasonable for our purposes. We are still looking at the cost that we will charge for the conference.

Second, we already have one speaker confirmed for this conference. General Parker Hills has confirmed that he will be willing to speak at the conference. I have been in contact with people who are getting me information about contacting Ed Bearss as a speaker. The people that I have talked to indicated that Mr. Bearss enjoys warm weather in the winter and that the idea of a cruise may be a good enticement for him. We are also in the process of contacting at least two more people to be presenters on the tour. We are hoping to get a well-known speaker to help in drawing people into the conference.

Third, we are in the process of looking into becoming a nonprofit organization. If we get that status, the cruise line will kick back to us \$15.00 for each of the people that sign up for the cruise and conference. Of course this will mean more money that we can donate to battlefield preservation and restoration.

Fourth, we are looking into chartering buses that will bring participants down from Fresno to the dock. This will reduce the cost to each participant because they will not have to pay for the parking costs at the pier.

Fifth, I received an email from Ranger Richard Hatcher, who is the historian at the Fort Sumter National Civil War Site. Richard was a presenter at the San Francisco conference. Richard informed me that he and his wife would be coming to Fresno to participate in a wedding that would be held in Yosemite. After talking it over with the board, I invited Richard and his wife to join the Round Table for dinner while they were here. We have set the dinner for Sunday June 3, 2012. We would love for you to join us and have the opportunity to talk to Richard and his wife. We have yet to decide the venue for the dinner, but we will let you know in plenty of time. I would love to see as many of you as possible to come out and extend a big Fresno welcome to Ranger Hatcher. It should be a fun evening.

I am looking forward to seeing each and every one of you at our next meeting which will be on May 10, 2012 at the Denny's on Shaw Ave in Clovis. As usual, if you want dinner please be there by 6:00 P.M. The meeting will start promptly at 7: 00 and we hope to have you out by 8:30.

Yours

Michael Green, President

SJVCWRT

AFTER ACTION REPORT

SJVCWRT MEETING OF 4/12/12

By Ron Vaughan

- Our meeting night was the 151st anniversary of the firing on Ft. Sumter. Unfortunately a number of our members were missing, including our guest speaker!
- Walt Schulze was home recovering from a toe amputation. However, we did have a new person join us-- retired professor Harry Kennedy.

. The date for the CW Revisited at Kearney Park is Oct. 26 & 27th. It was decided to continue to set up a booth, pending positive discussion with the Historical Society. It would be helpful if one or more of our members joined.

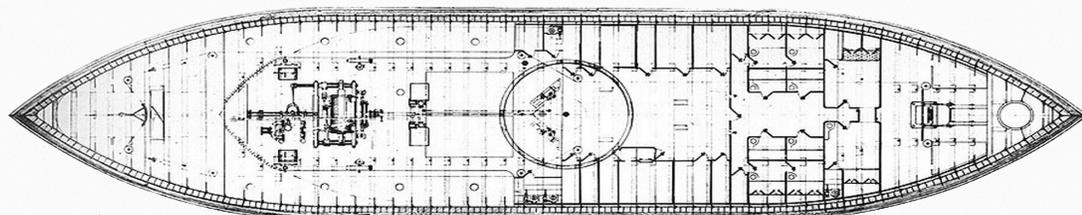
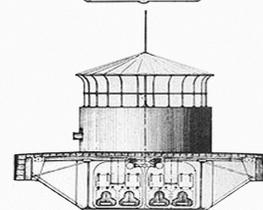
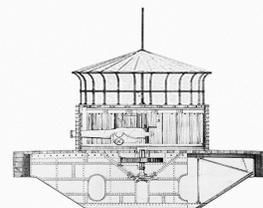
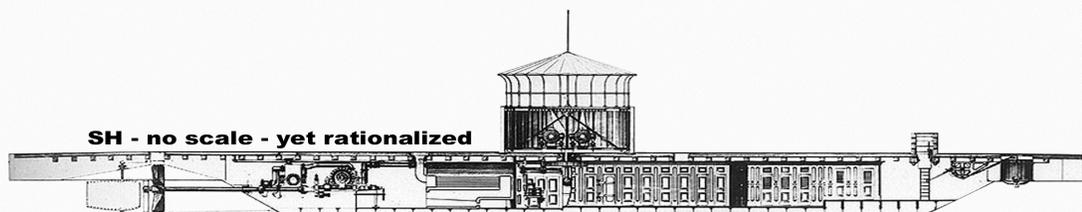
. We discussed our "C.W. Sesquicentennial Seminar Cruise" for the 1st weekend in Nov 2013. A suggestion has been made that we could arrange for a shuttle bus to take us to the dock in San Pedro. Another idea was to see if the University system would be interested in offering credit for students who go on the cruise.

. Although we did not have a speaker, Brian Clague had come prepared with a fact sheet about the Monitor. The restaurant made some copies, so we had a nice discussion.

. The USS Monitor was the first ironclad warship commissioned by the US. It was built in response to the Confederate construction of the ironclad CSS Virginia, built upon the hull of the sunken USS Merrimac. The Monitor was designed and built by John Ericsson, the inventor of the screw propeller. The ship had several innovations, including a rotating armored (8") turret-- truly "revolutionary"! Her keel was laid on Oct. 25th, 1862, and she was launched 118 days later, an amazing time-frame for building an experimental vessel.

. The Monitor would battle the Virginia at Hampton Roads, March 9, 1862. It was the first battle between armored ships. Many people think they were the first ironclads, but actually the French had deployed steam-powered armored floating batteries in the Crimean War. Later the French built "La Gloire", and the British the "Warrior". Both were conventional appearing steam vessels with auxiliary sails, but with armor plating. Actually the first armored warship was invented by Korean Admiral Yi in the late 1500's-- the "turtle ship" which had armor and cannon, but was oar powered.

USS TWIN CANNON MONITOR



CIVIL WAR HUMOR

From Blue & Gray Laughing

"Mrs. Partington says there must be a great many children killed on our battlefields, as there are always so many small arms found after a fight."

She also says that a quartermaster is --"The man who gives the poor soldiers one quarter and keeps the rest himself."

The Battle of Seven Pines - June 1, 1862 May 31 - June 1, 1862

On May 31, Gen. Joseph E. Johnston attempted to overwhelm two Federal corps that appeared isolated south of the Chickahominy River. The Confederate assaults, though not well coordinated, succeeded in driving back the IV Corps and inflicting heavy casualties. Reinforcements arrived, and both sides fed more and more troops into the action. Supported by the III Corps and Sedgwick's division of Sumner's II Corps (that crossed the rain-swollen river on Grapevine Bridge), the Federal position was finally stabilized. Gen. Johnston was seriously wounded during the action, and command of the Confederate army devolved temporarily to Maj. Gen. G.W. Smith. On June 1, the Confederates renewed their assaults against the Federals who had brought up more reinforcements but made little headway. Both sides claimed victory. Confederate brigadier Robert H. Hatton was killed.



Civil War

May 1862

Hello again. I will continue with our look month by month of the American Civil War.

May 1: In the West: Benjamin Butler's troop assumes control of New Orleans.

May 3: In the East: Confederate forces withdraw from around Yorktown. Confederates number about 55,000 the Union forces are over 100,000. McClellan still believes he is outnumbered.

May 4: In the East: Army of the Potomac forces enters Yorktown and advance toward Williamsburg. Skirmishes take place between Union troops and Confederate troops commanded by Generals Longstreet and D.H. Hill.

In the Valley: Stonewall Jackson's men boarded trains and headed for Staunton. They arrive about 5 P.M.

May 5: In the East: Heavy fighting took place around Williamsburg. Joseph Johnson continues to retreat up the peninsula

May 6: In the East: Federal troops occupied Williamsburg Va.

May 8: In the Valley: The Battle of McDowell takes place in western Virginia. Jackson's 10,000 troops were attacked by 6,000 federal troops from Fremont's command. The federals retreated toward Franklin.

In the East: The confederate forces started the evacuation of Norfolk. The CSS Virginia and her escort boats were proceeding up the James or York River.

May 9: In the West: Flag Officer Foote was relieved of command due to his injuries received at Ft. Donelson.

May 10: In the East: The Confederates set fire to the Norfolk Navy Yard. The Union army took over the town.

In Florida: After the loss of Island 10 on the Mississippi and the loss of New Orleans, the Confederate forces evacuated Pensacola and burned the Navy yards and burned all the ships that were under construction.

In New Orleans: Ben Butler seized \$80,000 in gold from the Netherlands Consulate.

May 12: On the Mississippi: Natchez Mississippi surrendered to Farragut's Fleet. He kept pushing up the Mississippi trying to link up with Foote's river fleet. The noose was drawing tighter around Memphis.

May 14: Around Corinth Mississippi: General Halleck continued his snail's pace toward Corinth and its important rail crossroad. This was the first and only combat command that Halleck ever controlled and he failed miserably.

May 15: In New Orleans: Butler issued his infamous order 28 which regulated the way that the ladies of New Orleans were to treat the union troops. Previously the ladies of New Orleans were extremely rude and offensive to the Union soldiers. With order 28 any women treating Union soldiers with disrespect could be arrested as "women of the town, plying their avocation." In other words street walkers working the street. The women got their revenge by having Butlers likeness painted on the bottoms of chamber pots.

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May 20: Richmond VA: President Davis announced that Richmond would be defended against the advance of McClellan's army.

May 23: In the Valley: The Battle of Front Royal was fought. Jackson attacked from the south and surprised General Bank's troops. Most of the 800 Union troops were either killed or captured. The battle cause a great stir in Washington. Jackson's "Legions" were on the move.

May 24: In the Valley: Jackson followed Banks toward Winchester. The union forces were so panicked that they left large quantities of provisions and equipment. These materials were sorely needed by Jackson's men.

Lincoln ordered McDowell to send 20,000 men towards the Shenandoah to capture Jackson. He also ordered Fremont to enter the Valley to cut off Jackson's retreat to the south.

On the Peninsula: The removal of McDowell's 20,000 troops gave McClellan another excuse not to press his attack on the Peninsula. He still believed that he was facing over 100,000 Confederates.

May 25: At Winchester in the Valley: Banks held Jackson and Ewell for a while but eventually broke and ran for Harper's Ferry. This provided another great haul of supplies and munitions for the Confederates. Jackson's forces now numbered 16,000 and the Valley was in Confederate hands again. Well at least for a while.

In Washington: Lincoln wired McClellan that either he attack Richmond or he bring his army back to defend Washington from Jackson.

May 27: In the Valley: Jackson pushes toward Harpers Ferry. There are skirmishes taking place on Loudoun Heights which is right outside of the town of Harper's Ferry.

In Corinth: Halleck continues his painfully slow advance. Union soldiers can hear the sound of trains arriving and departing with great rapidity. The thought is that either the Confederates are leaving or they are getting large numbers of support. It will turn out that it is a full scale retreat.

May 29: Around Harpers Ferry: Jackson's 16,000 men now faced Bank's 8,000 located in front of them but behind them Fremont had 15,000 men and McDowell's 20,000 men were heading toward the valley with great speed. Jackson was located in Halltown

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May 30: Around Corinth: General Halleck still doesn't know that General Beauregard had moved most of his forces south to Tupelo. Halleck will call it a victory but some will wonderer.

In the Valley: Jackson starts his retreat from Harpers Ferry.

May 31: On the Peninsula: McClellan has one of his corps on one side of the Chickahominy River and two corps on the other side. Joe Johnson's confederates attack the two corps at Fair Oaks Plantation [Seven Pines] The attack was not well coordinated but it was driving the Union forces back until Union corps commander, Sumner, not waiting for McClellan's orders, moved his corps into the battle and stopped the Confederate advance.

At this point a bullet changed the course of the war in the East. Johnson was wounded and President Davis replaced him with General Robert E. Lee.

In the Valley: Jackson makes his escape much to the dismay of President Lincoln.

Because it couldn't negotiate the river up to Richmond the CSS Virginia had to be destroyed.

