



# Bugle Calls



## SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2015

**M**y goodness where did the summer go?

We had our last meeting in May and bam the kids are going back to school and they're starting to play foot-ball again.

**I** just received word that one of our long time members, Ken Moats has had surgery and is in the hospital. We wish Ken and Barbara all the luck and pray that Ken comes out of it OK.

**We** had a wonderful time at Brian and Linda Clague's house. It was a fine get together and a good time was had by all. I know that Ron will be going into depth on what happened at the dinner.

**R**on suggested that we might need something about the war and asked if I could put something together. I went through my power point programs and came up with a program about two of the things I have great joy in pursuing.. The Civil War and photog-raphy. My program was on how to capture what is going on around you by taking pictures of it. I had a good time putting it on and I would have had the pro-gram finished in my announced 15 minutes if Linda hadn't asked so many questions. As it was it ran 18

minutes.

**R**on and I have been working hard getting ready for our conference. Thanks to the work of Mike Spencer who compiled all of the lists that we had of previous attendees to the conference, we were able to send out almost 300 letters and emailed about 100 invitations to the conference. This really started the ball rolling.

**O**n the other hand, we keep getting curve balls thrown at us in that speakers we had counted on as being at the conference either have opted out or have been capricious about honoring their commitments. It makes it hard to finalize our program but as they say "The show must go on."

**A**t the present time it looks like we have about 60 people who have sent in their checks or have committed to present. With the last deposit, we have taken in almost \$10,000.00. Of course we still haven't paid for almost any of the expenses that we are incurring to put the conference on. We hope to at least break even on the event.

**W**e have been very blessed that the South Bay Round Table has contributed \$500.00 toward the expenses of the conference and that one of our members from Visalia has funded some of the expenses of one of our speakers who is coming in from out of state. We also have had members donate books, paintings, photos, boat trips, and many other things to our raffle.

**I**f you can find it in your heart to help out in any way, remember anything we make WILL be going to battlefield purchase, restoration and interpretation.

**I**f you are a member of this Round Table, we really need you to step up and help out in one way or another. We need a good showing of our people at our conference.

**I**n my last president's report, I relayed my travels as far as Columbus South Carolina. After leaving Columbus, I traveled to Wilmington N.C. and viewed forts Fisher and Anderson. The taking of these two forts were crucial in the end game for Sherman.

**I** stopped off at a revolutionary war battleground called Moore's Creek. This is a very interesting place and well worth your going out of your way to see.

**T**hen it was on to Raleigh to meet up with my Blue and Gray tour. Our guide was Mark Bradley, who is the expert on Sherman's North Carolina campaign.

**T**ime and space doesn't allow me to go into depth about what we did. If you are interested, come to the conference and see what I did.

**A**fter the tour was over, I stuck around a couple more days and traveled back down to Bentonville and Averagesboro to finish up on what I needed for my program. All in all it was a worthwhile trip.

**I** was deeply honored this summer in that some of my photographs have been

selected to be part of an upcoming National Geographic Book on battles of the Civil War. I'm not sure when the book will be published but, when it is, I will let you know.

**R**emember many of you are still arrears in your 2015 dues. Lisa will have a list of the dues paying member of the Round Table in Octobers Bugle Call.

**O**ur next meeting is Thursday September 10 at the Denny's on Shaw in Clovis. As usual the no host dinner starts at 6 P.M. and the business meeting will begin at 7 P.M. and our speaker will start about 7:15. We should be on our way home by 8:30.

**W**ell this has gone on FAR too long.

**L**ooking forward to seeing you on the 10 th

YOS

Michael Green

## **AFTER ACTION REPORT ROUND TABLE BARBEQUE 8/8/15 BY RON VAUGHAN**

**F**ourteen persons were entertained at the lovely Clague home at Shaver Lake, with a temperature of 78 degrees or less. Brian barbequed beef and lamb kabobs (maybe for the last time, as they are going vegan). Attendees brought a delicious assortment of side dishes, salads and desserts.

**W**hile the meat was cooking, Mike Green showed a short (18 minutes) slide show program of various beautiful battlefield pictures. Basically it was "what to look for and think about when taking a battlefield photo. Included were a few taken at local re-enactments, and I was surprised to see myself in some of these—Hurrah!

**I**t was good to see the Kykendalls again. We missed Ken Moats, whom, Barbara said, is recovering from a toe amputation.

## **Nov. 13-15 WEST COAST CW ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE REPORT:**

**A**t the end of July we mailed out 290 letters to attendees of past conferences. I have been receiving two to six registrations per day since then. People are coming from San Diego, LA, Bay Area, and Sacramento, even 6 from Tulare! As I write this we are about 60% sold out. So if you want to participate, do not wait too long to send in your registration check, and reserve a hotel room (If you do not want to

spend \$85 a night, Motel 6 and the Red Roof Inn are only \$44.), as we are trending to be totally sold out!

Sat. the 15<sup>th</sup> my house became an art gallery! Doug Rogers dropped off 13 framed art pieces for the conference raffles! There were 5 different pictures with 2 or 3 of each. All were pictures of the CSS Shenandoah, including one which is a copy of a sketch by Capt. Waddell, the skipper of the ship. In addition, Doug donated 9 books about the Shenandoah to go with the pictures. I am over-whelmed by his generosity.

## **CIVIL WAR HUMOR**

### **FROM "THE BLUE & GRAY LAUGHING"**

" 'Hermes,' a correspondent of the Charleston, S.C. Mercury, related the following incident:

At Sharpsburg, General Lee, meeting one of the many stragglers, inquired, 'Where are you going, Sir?'

'Going to the rear.'

'What are you going to the rear for?'

'Well, I've been stung by a bung, and I'm what they call demoralized.'

This was enough, General Lee hadn't the heart to say more to an innocent who had been 'stung by a bung'—meaning, probably, that he had been stunned by a bomb shell."

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## **EMERGING CIVIL WAR**

**I** strongly recommend that you take time to check out this blog. There are new entries almost daily on interest facts and stories of the war. The editor is Chris Mackowski, who almost was a conference speaker, until decided that he was under-qualified to speak on our topics. This surprised me, as he has edited several books of Ted Savas's Emerging CW series, that deal with our 1865 topic. I think he is too modest, as he is doing a great job with the books and blog. One of the contributors to the blog is one of our conference speakers, Edward Alexander.

**A** recent article by Mr. Alexander contained surprising information that he had discovered: In 1861 a Union Engineer, Henry Victor, sent a letter to General McClellan proposing that Victor could help devise a way to develop poison gas shells. They could silence Rebel artillery batteries just prior to an assault. McClellan filed the letter and apparently never contacted Victor. Mr. Alexander believes this is the first (but not only) mention of the possible use of poison gas in the war.

**We** talk about the Civil War being the first modern war, so here is another first!



## Alcatraz Living History Day

Saturday September 26, 2015

Go to [www.friendsofcivilwaralcatraz](http://www.friendsofcivilwaralcatraz) for details

Activities on the island begin with the arrival of the first boat on the island and continue throughout the day until 4 pm. All activities are free to the visitor and are designed to give the visitor a sense of what life was like on Alcatraz when it was an important seacoast defensive fort during the American Civil War.

These activities include:

- (1) Music of the Civil War period.
- (2) Periodic tours of Fort Alcatraz, showing the remnants of the fort, its history.
- (3) Military drills, as would have been done by Union troops on the island;
- (4) Union recruitment - find out what the requirements were to enlist in the Union Army
- (5) Prisoners under guard - see how Alcatraz soon became a prison not only for disorderly soldiers but also for Confederate sympathizers
- (6) Women's roles - see how women applied their skills in sewing, weaving, medicine, laundry and cooking to support the Union troops

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE EVENT We have made registration easier. Notify John Nevins (Event Coordinator), or Brad Schall (Co-Chairman of FOCWA) that you will be participating by email or telephone (CONTACT INFORMATION is below) Be sure to include:

- Your Name

- Best Telephone Number to Contact You
- Email Address
- Name of Emergency Contact
- Best Telephone Number for Emergency Contact
- The impression you plan on portraying

John Nevins, Event Coordinator, FOCWA Email: [scss1co@comcast.net](mailto:scss1co@comcast.net) Telephone (best): 916-560-8505 Alternate Telephone: 916-599-6642

Brad Schall, Co-chairman, FOCWA Email: [dschall@starstream.net](mailto:dschall@starstream.net) Home: 916-408-4482 Cell: 510-867-5106

