



Bugle Calls



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2013

Hello all and welcome back.

I hope that your summer has been a good one and that you are all ready to start the second half of the SJVCWRT year.

We have a great presentation lined up for you at our September meeting. Walt Schulze will deliver a program about two of his favorite things, the civil war, and railroads. If you remember in the past, Walt put on a great program about the railroads in the civil war and he will now continue with the history of the railroads during the war. It should be very interesting.

The summer has had its ups and downs for our group.

First the ups. The South Bay CWRT has contributed \$500.00 toward the West Coast Civil War Round Table conference which will be held in November. This contribution was totally unsolicited, so the gift was a very pleasant surprise. Thank you South Bay CWRT.

We continue to work on the West Coast Conference and it is moving along. If you have already signed up for the conference and paid your conference fee you are in good luck. If you haven't paid the fee, on September 1, 2013 it went up from \$95.00 to \$150.00. The early bird special is over.

The Raymond battlefield [our special project] was recognized as the outstanding battlefield by the Civil War Preservation Trust for 2013. You will see more about this in another part of the news letter.

Our round table will be featured in the national civil war round table news-letter this fall. It's good to show what we are doing on a national level.

Now the not so good stuff:

I was disappointed that our summer get together at Shaver Lake was canceled due to lack of interest. The Clagues have been more than generous in offering their lovely home for our get together and we just didn't get the signup for the event.

I was supposed to have had a 9 day civil war tour which would have covered the battle of Chancellorsville and the run up to the battle of Gettysburg as well as the retreat. Like our Shaver Lake get together, it didn't go because there were just not enough people that wanted to go on the tour. Needless to say I was bummed about not being able to do the tour, but as they say, life goes on.

Now some reminders of upcoming events:

Patty is looking for volunteers for our table at the Civil War Revisited Reenactment in Kearney Park. We need your help if we are going to have a presence at this event. [See more information about this in another section of the newsletter]

The Round Table needs YOU to sign up for the West Coast Conference. Time is getting short for this November event and we need each and every one of you to be a part of this event. We are sponsoring it and need to make it a success. More information can be found on our conference web site civilwarcruise.org.

I hope to see each and every one of you at our meeting on Thursday, September 12, 2013. At the Clovis Denny's on Shaw Ave. If you want to order your own meal, please get there around 6:00 P.M. so that we have everyone taken care of before our meeting that starts at 7:00 P.M. We will have a short business meeting and then turn Walt loose on his presentation. We should be out by 8:30.

With all my best wishes

Yours:

Michael Green

President SJVCWRT

Attn: I need everyone to please step up and volunteer to staff our booth at Civil War Revisited October 19-20th. If there are not enough volunteers for it I will call Cindy at the historical society and cancel the booth for this year. Hopefully it doesn't come down to that. There are 2 months till revisited, your participation is greatly appreciated.

I also have great concerns over the future of our organization since there is a lack of participation at the monthly meetings and the July BBQ being cancelled and last but not least the conference in November. It is just my opinion, we need to consider the future of the Round Table because of the so few that attend our meetings. If you share the same concerns, have questions or comments please voice them at the Oct. Nov. Dec. meetings

Regards VP,
Pattie

AFTER ACTION REPORT
SJVCWRT MEETING OF MAY 9, 13

By Ron Vaughan

MEETING:

- * After dinner, the meeting was called to order by President Mike Green.
- * 9 persons were present.
- * Treasurer Walt Schulze was sick, but sent in a report: Our balance is \$2,111.
- * This is the last meeting until September, except for the July 13th Barbeque at the Clague's cabin at Shaver Lake. It will start at the museum, at 11:00 with Abraham Lincoln (Wayne Scott) reading the Gettysburg Address, plus another speaker on local history.

PROGRAM:

Mike Green spoke about the little known Port Hudson Campaign of 1863. General Nathaniel Banks was in command of a force intended to move up the Mississippi, in co-operation with Admiral Farragut's fleet, to capture Port Hudson and link up with Grant at Vicksburg. These were the only two river ports still in Confederate hands.

Port Hudson was a small town, but a major point of transferring supplies from the Trans-Mississippi to the rest of the Confederacy. It was important to sever this link, but also to open up the river, so that the five north-central states can use it for commerce again.

Farragut tried to pass his ships past the Confederate fort on the bluff at Port Hudson. He lashed ships together in pairs, for more power, and tried to sail close to the foot of the bluff, so that the defenders' cannons could not be depressed enough to hit them. However, some ships ran aground and others were disabled. Only two ships got through.

Meanwhile, Banks advanced to the west, in order to drive off General Richard Taylor's force. Then his forces utilized small boats to cross to the east bank of the Mississippi, north of Port Hudson, for an attack from that direction. The Confederate defenses were set up to oppose an attack from the south. Unfortunately, Banks was slow with his preparations, allowing the defenders to readjust. Finally, on May 27th, Banks ordered a hastily organized attack, without proper reconnaissance. Despite valiant efforts by the assault forces, the attacks were repulsed by General Gardner's 8,000 defenders. The rugged ravines and many bogs and ponds limited the areas where the over 30,000 Union troops could assault.

Farragut brought up several mortar boats, and together with naval and land siege guns, began a heavy bombardment of the defenders. On June 14th another attack was tried, but it too failed. On July 9th, Gardner heard of the surrender of Vicksburg to Grant, so he decided to capitulate. At long last, the Mississippi was open, and the Western Confederacy cut off!

150th GETTYSBURG RE-ENACTMENT

. Due to political differences among re-enactors, there were two re-enactments of the 150th Anniversary of Gettysburg-- one the last weekend of June and one the first weekend of July. Each had about 80,000 spectators and 10-12,000 participants. The second one reported re-enactors from 16 countries: Australia 8, Belgium 2, Canada 86, Denmark 3, Germany 9, Northern Ireland 1, Poland 5, Scotland 1, Spain 1, England 25.

150th GETTYSBURG RE-ENACTMENT VIDEO

. You can watch scenes of Pickett's Charge and other battle scenarios from the 150th anniversary of the battle, by signing up for gettysburgbattlecast.com. for \$12.00. It is only available until Nov 19th.

CIVIL WAR HUMOR

From The Blue and Gray Laughing

. "Just previous to the fall of Vicksburg, a committee solicitous for the welfare of our armies, took it upon themselves to visit the President and urge the removal of General Grant.

'What for?' asked Uncle Abe.

'Why,' replied the busy bodies, 'he drinks too much whisky.'

'Ah!' rejoined Uncle Abe, 'can you inform me, gentlemen, where General Grant procures his whisky?'

The committee confessed they could not.

'Because,' added Uncle Abe, with a merry twinkle in his eye, 'If I find out, I'll send a barrel of it to every general in the field!'"

CIVIL WAR NEWS ABOUT THE HUNELY:

A recent article in The Civil War Courier stated that scientists examining the Hunely have concluded that it was only 20 feet away from her torpedo when it exploded. This may be a clue to why the submarine sank.

Friends of
Raymond

FORward



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Board meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Please email us with any suggestions or ideas for historic preservation and promotion of historic sites in Raymond.

Inside this issue:

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Raymond Military Park selected 2013 Civil War Trust Adventure Trail of the Year

Raymond Military Park was selected as the Adventure Trail of the Year for 2013 by the Civil War Trust.

The CWT held its annual conference in Jackson, MS, on May 29—June 2, 2013, in Jackson, MS. The theme for the conference was Unvexed to the Sea: The Vicksburg Campaign. Conference attendees toured Raymond Military Park on Thursday, May 30, with our own Gen. Parker Hills acting a tour guide. Other tours included the Vicksburg National Military Park, Jackson, Vicksburg, Port Gibson, Grand Gulf, Dillon's Plantation, Rocky Springs, Willow Springs, Clinton, Champion Hill, and other battle significant sites.

Friends of Raymond is proud to participate each spring in the national Park Day event sponsored by the Civil War Trust and the History Channel.



Left to Right: FOR Board President Mickey Roth, FOR Board Member Dr. Ben Fatherree, and Brig. Gen. (ret.) Parker Hills