



BUGLE CALLS, APRIL 2022

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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- 1. APRIL 14TH MEETING, ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Bernie Quinn will tell about the Battle Actions of the U.S. Sharpshooters.

Denny's Restaurant, 710 W. Shaw, Clovis

- 6:00 Dinner hour
- 7:00 Meeting & Speaker
- 8:15 Book Raffle

2. COMING EVENTS:

*MAY: 12th: Meeting topic to be determined.

*AUGUST: ? Barbeque at Shaver?

*SEPTEMBER 8th: MEETING: Ron Vaughan on the first Union Black unit (Not... who you think!)

*OCTOBER 13th: MEETING

*NOVEMBER 4 - 6 WEST COAST CONFERENCE (See website page)

*NOVEMBER 10th: MEETING

3. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MICHAEL SPENCER

Good Day Members,

Our next meeting will be on April 14th, and Bernie Quinn will do part 2 on the Berdan Sharpshooters. If you were not there, his well-done presentation was very educational. I am looking forward to the second half. Also, Brian Clague was able to watch via cell phone and face time. I have just started using zoom; I hope we can work out a way for others to get our programs via zoom.

Dennis Kohlman of the Sacramento Round Table passed away. If you wish to send condolences to his wife Garda, her address is

8059 Glen Creek Way, Citrus Heights, CA 95610

Best regards,

Michael Spencer

4. AFTER ACTION REPORT, 3/10/2022 MEETING

BY RON VAUGHAN

We had 14 persons at the meeting! New attendees were John & Christine Hendon. They saw my letter in The Bee that listed our meetings. They are members of the Sons of Union & Confederate Veterans, which meets in Fresno! (More info about this will be coming.) Also present was Henry Howison, who we had not seen for a long time.

Treasurer's report is that we have \$1,500 in the bank. I attempted to again apply online for nonprofit status, but when I carefully typed in the password I had just created, the site said it was wrong!! I will check with a CPA I know, to see what the charge would be for her to do it. Next, I reported on attending a Civil War Congress zoom meeting on whether our CWRT should have liability insurance. Since we do not sponsor tours, and our meetings are in a restaurant with its own coverage, we might not need this.

Our speaker was Bernie Quinn, who gave a great presentation on the organization of Berdan's Sharpshooters, AKA 1st & 2nd U.S. Sharpshooters.

Hiram Berdan was a champion target shooter who had invented a breech-loading rifle that could fire up to 10 shots per minute. He recruited a unit of the best competition sharpshooters. To be accepted into the unit, they had to hit a small target off hand with 10 shots at 100 yards, and the same at 200 yards with all shots no more than 5 inches of each other.

The War Department did not want to issue the expensive Berdan Rifle, so Berdan showed it to President Lincoln, who ordered the rifle issued. The riflemen were enlisted into the U.S. Regular Army, as the 1st U.S. Sharpshooter Regiment. Later a 2nd Regiment was raised. They were issued a green uniform, with black buttons, so that in cover, they could blend in.

The Sharpshooters were utilized as Skirmishers, to scout, screen, and probe the enemy, and to silence their artillery. Bernie reported that the two regiments caused more Confederate casualties than any other unit. The USSS started the war with 2,000 men and ended with only of them 500 left.

Next month he will tell the stories of their battles.

5. CIVIL WAR HUMOR

From "The Blue & Gray Laughing"

"Early in the war, a couple of Fire Zouaves strolled over the Long Bridge into Virginia, when they came across a small party of Secession scouts. One of the new recruits, beckoning a scout aside, asked him if he belonged to the 'chivalry.' The scout replying in the affirmative, the recruit proceeded to examine him

very minutely, taking off his cap, lifting up the skirts of his coat, etc., after which he turned, and said to his companion, ‘Why, damn it Joe, he’s just like other men!’”