



## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS



As most of you know I recently stepped up from Vice President of the Redwood Empire Chapter to assume the Presidency due to the incapacitation of Tom Poulter. While I am proud to assume this position, I am also saddened by Tom's sickness with Lou Gehrig's disease. Tom was a hard working and dedi-

cated President and served us well for a short period of time until the disease go the better of him. We have appropriately proclaimed him President Emeritus in recognition for his valiant efforts over the past few months. Fortunately I have been able to garner the support and services of our two vice presidents, Lee Hoskins and Don Confer in order to keep the Redwood Empire Chapter running smoothly.

I was particularly impressed with the gathering at the Charles Schultz museum this past Friday especially the very talented three young ladies who entertained us. I am hopeful the MOAA representation at the event may have influenced some of the WWII veterans to join us in our chapter

Along with most everyone else, I am eagerly looking forward to the forthcoming Chapter luncheon at Two Rock. I hope everyone can make it.

CDR Jim Curtin  
President 2009

## CPT LEE HOSKINS TO ASSUME CHAPTER PRESIDENCY

CDR Jim Curtin has tendered his resignation, for medical reasons, as Chapter President, effective immediately (6/25/09), subject to acceptance by the full board which meets on 11 July.

CPT Lee Hoskins will assume the Presidency and CDR Don Confer will step up to 1st Vice President.

*Editor's Note: This second change in our leadership this year has to be some kind of record! Our heart and best wishes to out to both Tom Poulter and Jim Curtin and their families. We also want to thank Lee Hoskins and Don Confer for stepping up to fill these leadership positions. Special thanks also goes to Past President Pete Peterka for helping with these transitions at a time when he should be relaxing from this 3-year stint as Chapter President. This leaves a several more slots vacant on the board. We ask that Chapter members be understanding during this transition and that with the upcoming election, members should consider serving on the board or committees. Ed.*

### JULY LUNCHON AT USCG TRAINING CENTER PETALUMA (AKA TWO ROCK)

Come join us on Friday July 24,th for Fish Friday at Two Rock USCG Training Center Galley. Arrive early (11:30am), parking is limited. Check information page number 4.

## MOAA BOARD MEETINGS

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** Saturday, July 11th, 2009, 0900 hours - Santa Rosa Vet's Bldg Conference Room.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Saturday, July 11th, 2009, 0930 hours - Santa Rosa Vet's Bldg Conference Room.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings.  
Coffee and donuts will be served.



## MENDOCINO SUB-CHAPTER

The next luncheon meeting of the Mendocino County Subchapter, Redwood Empire Chapter, MOAA, will be at Silver's at the Wharf, Noyo Harbor, Fort Bragg, at 11:30 am, Saturday, July 18, 2009. Our guest speaker will be Major Don Thomas, USAF (Ret.). Don has had several very interesting careers. Our special guest will be Mrs. Ginny Craven, Founder of Operation Tango Mike (Thanks Much), that solicits volunteer, tax free, donations of funds, comfort items, and work, to obtain, purchase, gather, sort and pack comfort items, that are sent directly to military personnel world wide. You may see their web page by searching for OPERATION TANGO MIKE in your favorite search engine. The web page shows the incredible range of activities that Operation Tango Mike sponsors to express thanks to our brave troops, veterans and their families. You may order lunch and libations from the Wharf's extensive menu, while enjoying the magnificent views of the Noyo River and harbor, Noyo Bridge, fishing fleet and the Pacific Ocean, all in the company of our great members and guests. For planning purposes, please call either Myrna Hurst, Tel: 707-468-0146, or email: myrna@pacific.net or me, Tel: 707-964-2174 or email: booth@mcn.org , to let us know how many we can expect. To ensure a large and jovial meeting, we encourage you to phone or bring those who haven't been to our delightful meetings recently. We hope to see YOU there!

Ben Booth, Commander

## SONOMA VALLEY SUB-CHAPTER

Our next meeting will be in the meeting room at The Palms Grill at the intersection of Sonoma Highway and Verano Avenue on Thursday, July 9, 2009, starting about noon. We met there a couple of times in the past when it was Issa's restaurant, before we started going to Mary's Pizza Hut. The facilities have been thoroughly renovated, and it looks very nice. It is also more private and less noisy than Mary's meeting room, due to its location in the building and having a door which separates it from the main restaurant seating area. We will order from their standard menu, so there is no reason to make a selection beforehand. Then each person will pay individually. I have had breakfast and lunch there several times recently, and believe the atmosphere, food, and facilities are all very pleasing.

The presentation will be conducted by representatives of Paradise Valley Estates retirement commu-

nity near Fairfield, and will address not only the opportunities available at their facilities but the general assisted retirement living community business in general. We encourage everyone to come a little early and enjoy some camaraderie and perhaps a libation before we start.

LTC Dennis Meredith  
Subchapter Representative, Board of Directors

## LAKE SUB-CHAPTER

No Report this month

## HUMBOLDT/DEL NORTE SUB-CHAPTER

H. W. Gardner, Adjutant - No report

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Bob Mandelstam  
No Report

## AF SETS UP TOLL-FREE LINE FOR RETIREES

Air Force retirees and surviving spouses who are not connected to the Internet can use a new toll-free telephone number to get answers to their questions about pay, annuities, medical and health care, and other benefits. The number is (800) 558-1404. Persons with Internet access are encouraged by the Air Force to pass the phone number along to those who do not. Those with Internet access can still use [www.retirees.af.mil](http://www.retirees.af.mil) for benefits information.

## RADM "BUD" SPARKS PASSES

Rear Admiral Bennett S. "Bud" Sparks, U.S. Coast Guard (Ret.) passed away Friday morning, May 22, 2009 at his home in Windsor, California. He rose from enlisted man to flag rank through a 47 year span of active and reserve service.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, June 13, 2009 at the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts in Santa Rosa, California at 12:00. Interment was at Shiloh Memorial Cemetery in Windsor, California. Full military honors were rendered at the graveside by the United States Coast Guard Honor Guard from Arlington National Cemetery.

We are all sorry to lose such a close friend and wonderful man. There is an online memorial at:

<http://memorialwebsites.legacy.com/BudSparks/homepage.aspx>

## 2009 DATES TO REMEMBER

Jul 09  
11th 0900 hrs Executive Committee Meeting  
11th 0930 hrs Board of Directors Meeting  
24th 1145 hrs Luncheon Meeting

Aug 09  
4th Executive Committee Meeting  
\* Chapter Annual BB  
15/16th Air Show - Schultz County Airport

Sep 09  
1st Executive Committee Meeting  
25th Lobster Feed  
29th Executive Committee Meeting  
\* POW/MIA Recognition Day

Oct 09  
3rd Board of Directors Meeting  
22nd General Membership Meeting  
Election of Officers

Nov 09  
3rd Executive Committee Meeting  
11th Veterans Day Parade - Petaluma  
No Luncheon Meeting in November

Dec 09  
1st Executive Committee Meeting  
7th Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day  
\* Holiday Social  
\* - Dates to announced/confirmed at later date

## DONATIONS MADE IN MARCH, APRIL, AND MAY 2009

### SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Ann Bulawsky  
George Conners  
Amy Gamble  
Jack Krout  
Blanche McQuaid  
Renee Rubin  
Hal Warren  
Bob Wicklund

### MILITARY SUPPORT FUND

Jack Krout  
Gary Meagher  
Owen Reeves  
Renee Rubin  
Bob Wicklund

Publication Title: **MOAA VOICE** is a newsletter of the Redwood Empire Chapter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). Statement of Frequency: Published monthly. Authorized organization's name and address: MOAA Redwood Empire Chapter, PO Box 2801, Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801. Cost of publication: **FREE**

## NEW VETERANS RESOURCE

In May, Governor Schwarzenegger's office announced a new Veterans component of the Network of Care, a database that provides links and information on a variety of human and social service topics. Sonoma County already participates in the Public Health and Behavioral Health components, and is pleased by the addition of the new Veterans module.

The Network of Care for Veterans & Service Members is part of a growing awareness and effort to take a community approach to the needs of returning veterans, to ensure that they are a valuable part of a healthy community and that the community is a meaningful part of the health of the veteran. The Network of Care for Veterans & Service Members is an online resource for virtually all services, information, support, advocacy, and much more. This public service is an attempt to bring together critical information for all components of the veterans' community, including veterans, family members, active-duty personnel, reservists, members of the National Guard, employers, service providers, and the community at large.

The new Veterans component has information in the categories of:

- Service Directory
- Library
- Social Networking
- Legislative Bill Tracking
- Assistive Devices
- Personal Health Record
- Other Links

The Network of Care is intended as a supplement to, not a substitute for, other Veterans programs and services. It makes online information about Veterans programs and services available to Veterans and their families. For more information, visit:

<http://sonoma.networkofcare.org/Veterans/home/index.cfm>

## DECEASED MEMBERS

### MRS DELORES COMALLI, AUX.

Wife of the late CDR Earnest Comalli.  
June 16, 2009

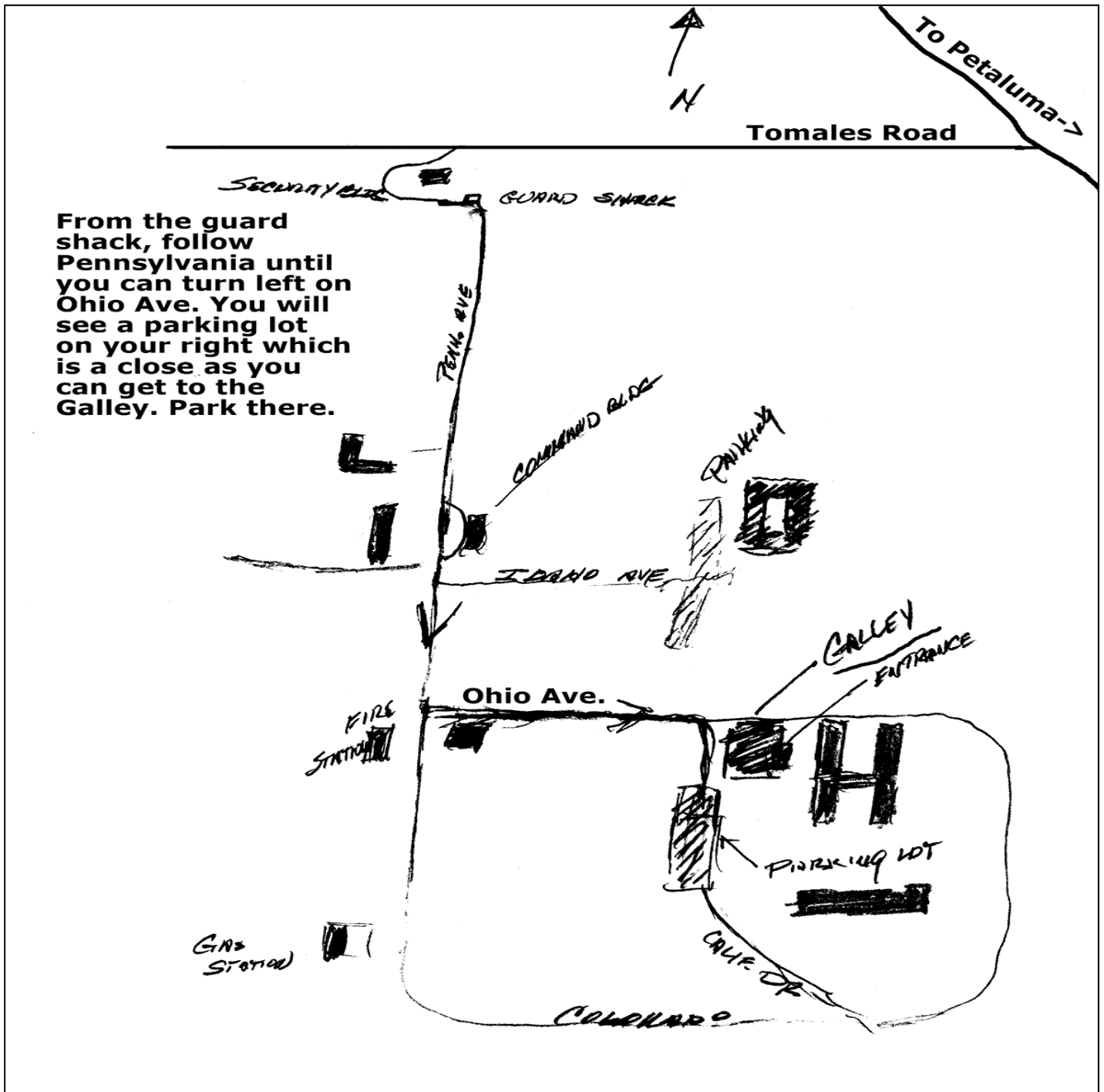
### RADM B.S. "BUD" SPARKS, USCG

May 22, 2009

THE REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER OFFICERS AND MEMBERS EXTEND OUR SINCEREST SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF OUR DEPARTED LOVE ONES.

## MOAA VOICE

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Distribution USPS Mail Bob Safreno 707-795-3963  
email Tim Morgan blkcloud@sonic.net  
Online <http://www.redwoodwmpiremoaa.us>



From the guard shack, follow Pennsylvania until you can turn left on Ohio Ave. You will see a parking lot on your right which is as close as you can get to the Galley. Park there.

### FISH FRIDAY INFORMATION

The point of contact is **Hal Warren 707-763-6957**.

Because the Coast Guard Station is a security facility, we will have to go in as group. Please show up by 11:45 so that you can get your name tags and go in as a group for lunch at 12:15. Hal must know who is coming so he can provide the list of names to the security office ahead of time.

If you don't make a reservation, you will be unable to go in with the group to the reserved tables, i.e., you're apt to be on your own.

Getting through security:

If your car has a sticker you should have no problem with entry to the base.

If you don't have a sticker you will need proof of insurance, car registration, and your driver's license to gain access.

It is possible for you to be ferried from outside the gate to the facility if you get there by 11:30 but again please notify Hal ahead of time.

**HAL SAYS — THAT CAR POOLING IS ADVISED AS PARKING IS LIMITED AT THE GALLEY**

(A Sonoma County Main Chapter event; all members are more than welcome)

## **FISH FRIDAY AT TWO ROCK - JULY 24, 2009, 11:45**

**U.S. Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma (Two Rock)**

**At the Galley - See directions and other important information on page 4.**

Getting to the Coast Guard Station, take 101 to Petaluma, turn west on East Washington Blvd, follow it until it become Bodega Avenue and follow this until Tomales Road

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

- **Menu: Fish plus the things that go with it...**

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ **\$5.00** each, Total\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Please make name tags for:**

**Questions? The point of contact is Col Hal Warren, 707-763-6957**

**No speaker.**

**Note; the actual cost is \$4.25 per person with the remaining \$0.75 going towards the MOAA Scholarship Fund**

**Reservation must be received not later than** Friday, July 17, 2009. If you don't have a reservation, you will not be able to go in with the group and you will need to contact Hal Warren by Friday July 17, 2009 to let him know you are coming any way.

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the Col. Brey Scholarship Fund And/or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the Military Support Fund

Make check (s) payable to: **MOAA, Redwood Empire Chapter**

*Please list the names of all guest, so that we can make NAME TAGS for them too, thank you.*

Mail To: Secretary, MOAA, Redwood Empire Chapter, P.O. Box 2801, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

### **NEWS FROM THE AFFILIATE**

BY TINA LEWIS

DEERS members are urged to make sure their information is up to date. If you need to change information such as phone number, mailing address, or email address (if DEERS has an email address for you), there are various ways to do this. If you want to update information in person, to find the office nearest you, visit [www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl) or call 800-538-9552, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Eastern time, except on federal holidays. Other ways to change information are to call 800-538-9552; visit [www.tricare.mil/deers](http://www.tricare.mil/deers); fax 831-655-8317; or mail information to Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office, Attn: COA, 400 Gigling Rd., Seaside, CA 93955. Even if you have a permanent or indefinite ID card, your information must be kept up to date. One last bit of information: Only a sponsor can add or delete family members, but all beneficiaries are authorized to update their contact information.

### **MILITARY HUMOR**

Tom retired in his early 50's and started a second career. However, even though he loved his new job, he just couldn't seem to get to work on time. Every day, he was 5, 10, 15 minutes late. But he was a good worker and really sharp, so his boss was in a quandary about how to deal with it. Finally, one day, his boss called him into the office for a talk.

"Tom, I must tell you, I truly like your work ethic, you do a bang-up job, but being late for work nearly every day is quite annoying to me as well as your fellow workers."

Tom replied, "Yes, sir, I know. I'm sorry, but I am working on it."

"That's what I like to hear," his boss said. "However, the fact that you consistently come to work late does puzzle me because I understand that you retired from the United States Marine Corps, and they have some pretty rigid rules about tardiness. Isn't that correct?"

"Yes. I did retire from the Marine Corps, and I'm mighty proud of it!" said Tom.

"Well, what did they say when you came n late?" asked his boss.

"They said, 'Good morning, Colonel.'"



Secretary/Treasurer - MOAA, Redwood Empire Chapter  
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## MOAA WIVES CLUB

*(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)*

### 2009 Officers

President Tina Lewis	539-5546
Vice President Liz Warren	763-6957
Secretary Mary Tillman	584-8350
Treasurer Shirley Reeves	539-7839

The regular meeting of MOAA Wives Club will be on July 8th at the Flamingo. As usual, we will gather at about 11:30 and lunch will be served at 12 noon. We have Thai Chicken Salad or Grilled Chicken with vegetables and, always, a scrumptious dessert. Still \$20, beverage, tax and gratuity included. This is our BINGO meeting and if you have something wonderful to donate as a prize it will be welcome. Peg Smith and Marion Van Eschen will be our hostesses and we'll bet Barbara Confers will serve again as our wonderful "Caller". No report from Family Services, Terry Silva, so we trust everyone is doing well. If you missed the MOAA barbecue on June 13th you missed a super party. The food was outstanding, chickens were tender, moist and sufficient! - the Wives did a great job with the fixin's.

Connie Miller, Publicity 563-8311  
 konkrest@aol.com

## REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2009

<b>President Pro-Tem:</b>	CPT Lee P. Hoskins, USA	538-5167
<b>1st Vice President Pro-Tem:</b>	CDR Don D. Confer, USN	763-8198
<b>2nd Vice President Pro-Tem:</b>	Vacant	
<b>Secretary:</b>	CPT Robert R. Safreno, USAR	795-3963
<b>Treasurer:</b>	LTC Pete Rizzo, USA	539-3346
<b>President Emeritus</b>	CPT Tom Poulter, USA	576-0513
<b>Past President:</b>	Col Louis Peterka, USA	542-4076
<b>Membership:</b>	Vacant	
<b>CAL-MOAA Director, Area 1:</b>	LCOL Bob Huss, USAF	530-876-1090
<b>Directors-at-large - Term 2009 - 2010</b>		
	Vacant	
	Martina E. Lewis, AUX	539-5546
	LT William P. Matz, USN	837-2161
	LTC Gary T. Meagher, AUS	544-4089
<b>Directors-at-large - Term 2009</b>		
	Vacant	
	LCOL Kevin Connolly, USAR	544-9338
	CDR Leighton M. Royston, USN	578-4464
	Col Harold R. Warren, USMCR	763-6957
<b>Directors Representing Sub-Chapters:</b>		
<b>Humboldt/Del Norte:</b>	LCDR Howard W. Gardner, USN	443-9627
<b>Lake:</b>	CAPT Daniel W. Christensen, USNR	263-3297
<b>Mendocino:</b>	Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst, AUX	468-0146
<b>Sonoma Valley:</b>	LTC Dennis M. Meredith, USA	996-8819