



The Scuttlebutt

The Award Winning News Letter of The Marine Corps League

Major B.F. Hickey Detachment #57 PO Box 15503, St. Petersburg, FL 33773 www.stpeteMCL.org

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Date: July, 2017

Our Next Scheduled Meeting

Thursday July 13 at 7:00 pm
VFW Post #4364
5773 62nd Street N, Pinellas Park

If you need a ride to the meeting, arrangements can be made by contacting George Cooper at (727) 415-9315 a couple of hours or more before the meeting and we'll get you there.

Service for the Unattended

Tuesday July 11 at 3:00 pm
At Bay Pines National Cemetery

All hands are requested to attend and render honors.

Uniform is Red cap and shirt, black trousers.

Contact: Bob Cannon
bobusmc25@juno.com

Saturday Shoot

Saturday, July 19 at 10:00 am
Wyoming Antelope Club

Contact: John Gluck
guntchr1@tampabay.rr.com

The Scuttlebutt is edited by
George Cooper
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The Gadsden Flag

In 1775, Colonel Christopher Gadsden was in Philadelphia representing his home colony of South Carolina at the Continental Congress and presented this new naval flag to the Congress. It became the first flag used by the sea-going soldiers who eventually would become the United States Marines.

This flag first saw combat under Commodore Hopkins, who was the first Commander-in-Chief of the new Continental Navy, when Washington's Cruisers put to sea for the first time in February of 1776 to raid the Bahamas and capture stored British cannon and shot.

Detachment 57, Officers for 2017

Commandant	George Cooper	cplcoop@tampabay.rr.com
Sr. Vice Commandant	Don Bostrom	donabost@gmail.com
Jr. Vice Commandant	Eric Hopkins	ehop14@yahoo.com
Judge Advocate	Bob Morris	bobmor501@gmail.com
Adjutant /Paymaster	Bob Decker	bdecker@bdeckerassociates.com
Sgt at Arms	Mike Garafalo	raesg@msn.com
Chaplain	Ed Pringle	eddiepringle@yahoo.com

Another Rose Sale a Success Because of The Few

The Detachment held a Rose Sale on June 17-18 at the Publix Market at Bay Point Plaza, 5295 34th St. S. The event was another success for The St Pete Leathernecks in spite of the scorching temperatures. The crew shut down operations earlier than planned when the rose supply dwindled to zero.

The success was due in no small part to those Detachment Marines who were able to come out and support the effort.

Many thanks and Semper Fi to the following Marines

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Ken Friend | Don Bostrom |
| Wayne Fortier | Walt Smyth |
| George Blick | Eric Hopkins |
| Pam Bostrom | Penny Weston |



Charm personified! Eric Hopkins and Pam Bostrom



What a crew for a fundraiser! Don Bostrom, Penny Weston and seated in front is George Blick. One of them will beat it out of you, another will yell it out of you and the other will steal it from you.

Newest Eagle Takes Flight



The Boy Scouts of America's newest Eagle Scout, Ethan Smith is shown on the right after having received The Marine Corps League's Good Citizenship Award. The award was presented by Detachment 57 Commandant George Cooper at a Court of Honor at The Holy Family Church in St Petersburg. Congratulations Ethan!

Detachment News

Tim Bulu continues his chemo battle and is maintaining the "Semper Fi" attitude. Give him a call and say "Hey!"

Ray Skillen is out of the hospital and home after his scary incident.

Brian Bower and **Eric Hopkins** took some time last Wednesday to attend the Detachment Bingo night. The word is they did a great job motivating the players but management drew the line at extra "PT". Well done Marines.

Have you noticed that with a few exceptions, the same Marines keep showing up at the Rose Sales. Two of them are **Walt Smyth** and **George Blick**. To them "Semper Fidelis" are not just words.

Another member whose work goes mostly unnoticed is our Quartermaster/Sgt at Arms, **Mike Garafalo**. When you see Mike again say "Thanks".

Two Marines who have been away far too long are back with the detachment and active again are **Phil Kimmel** and **Brian Bower**. Welcome back! Its good to see you.

J.D. Pate continues his volunteer work to help veterans who have fallen foul to the court system. It's a tough job but JD is the man. Semper Fi!

JD Pate is also the man to see if you need ammo for the Saturday shoot. You just need to contact him a week ahead.

We need volunteers to work on the following committees:

Car Show Committee (See Coop or Bob Decker)
Birthday Ball Committee (See Coop or Jerry Wilkes).



3rd ANNUAL MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DET. 57 WEST COAST NATIONAL

VETERANS SALUTE BENEFIT CAR & TRUCK SHOW

St. Petersburg College, Seminole Campus
9200 113th Street N., Seminole, FL

A Judged Show
Open to all years, makes & models.

November 11, 2017



Free Admission for Non Entrants

50/50 Raffle

Food & Drinks

THE CAR SHOW IS
LOOMING AND IT WILL
SOON BE TIME TO
"SADDLE UP, GET OUT
THERE AND SELL
SPONSORSHIPS.

The Origin of Taps

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Elli was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia . The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Elli heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment.

When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead.

The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted.

The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral.

The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate.

But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician.

The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted.

The haunting melody, we now know as 'Taps' used at military funerals was born.

The words are:

Day is done.
Gone the sun.
From the lakes
From the hills.
From the sky.
All is well.
Safely rest.
God is nigh.

Fading light.
Dims the sight.
And a star.
Gems the sky.
Gleaming bright.
From afar.
Drawing nigh.
Falls the night.

Thanks and praise.
For our days.
Neath the sun
Neath the stars.
Neath the sky
As we go.
This we know.
God is nigh

I never knew the story behind the song and I didn't know if you had either so I thought I'd pass it along.



The Documented That Started It All

In the spirit of the upcoming Independence day celebration I thought I'd go back and read The Declaration of Independence. The entire document is rather long as it lists all the grievances the colonies had against the British Monarchy. I've included the opening section for your edification.

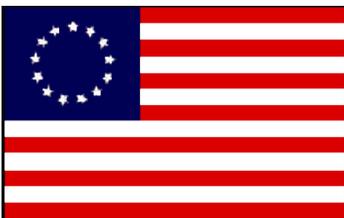
One has to be impressed by Thomas Jefferson's eloquence in telling King George III "we're outa here!"

The Declaration of Independence

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. —That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, —That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

The Betsy Ross Flag



According to tradition, in June of 1776, Betsy Ross, who was a widow struggling to run her own upholstery business sewed the first flag. Upholsterers in Colonial America not only worked on furniture, but did all manner of sewing work, which for some included making flags. According to the legend, General Washington, Robert Morris, and John Ross showed her a rough design of the flag that included six-pointed stars. Betsy suggested a five-point star because it was easier to make, and demonstrated how to cut a five-pointed star in a single snip. Impressed, the three entrusted Betsy with making our first flag.

Ping is giving free clubs and lessons to wounded Vets

We've all heard about the benefits of custom fitting, and the emphasis on fitting is certainly an important part of the February issue of Golf Digest, where for the first time we name America's Best Club fitters. But the leading manufacturers in the game are making some special efforts in the area of custom fitting when it comes to golfers with special needs, including several programs for wounded heroes of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Few companies are a match for Ping when it comes to fitting clubs to each golfer's unique individual specifications. Under the leadership of founder Karsten Solheim, the company instituted a color-coded system for matching lie angles and lengths to a golfer's measurements three decades ago, and today, that fitting system is still the most comprehensive among the game's major manufacturers. Still, that level of sophistication was put to the test recently as the company fit quadruple amputee Jeff Lewis, who lives in Mesa, Ariz. Lewis called the company about the possibility of clubs that could be made special for his needs, and one day later he was on the range at the company's Phoenix headquarters. Ping's engineering team, led by research project engineer Paul Wood, figured out the measurements and a mechanism to lock clubs into his prosthesis.

"I'm hitting the ball very well," Lewis, who lost his spleen after he was shot some 20 years ago and then lost portions of his extremities when a strep infection could not be controlled because he had no spleen, [told the Arizona Republic](#). "I don't hit it that far. I've had a few pars, a lot of bogeys but no real chances for a birdie yet." Ben] looked me in the eye and said that being fitted for those clubs was one of the best things that ever happened to him and he was determined to learn to play golf well enough to deserve the gift Ping had given him," the email reads. See the e-mail here ([G11411.pdf](#).)

According to Pete Samuels, director of communications, Ping has custom fit 130 wounded veterans since 2008. "We feel it's the least we can do considering the sacrifices these soldiers are making," he says. "Using golf to help someone like Ben Woods get through the rehab process makes us feel good as a company but more importantly helps improve his quality of life."

Of course, Ping is not alone in its efforts to help wounded veterans through the game of golf. For example, Callaway has donated \$5 million in golf equipment to 250 military bases through Phil Mickelson's involvement in the [Birdies for the Brave program](#), says Tim Buckman, senior director of global communications.

TaylorMade also has played a big role in the effort to bring golf to injured veterans in the San Diego area. The company donates equipment and instruction to the San Diego-based program Operation Game On! The program, organized by Tony Perez, the father of PGA Tour pro Pat Perez and the annual starter for the Farmers Insurance Open, works with wounded veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan at the Naval Medical Hospital in San Diego.

The idea grew out of Perez's initiative to get wounded veterans to serve as honorary starters at the San Diego tournament a few years ago. When they told him they had been interested in golf before serving and being injured, he began developing the program today that features four 10-week sessions for as many as 20 wounded veterans a session. He even has taken them to the TaylorMade Performance Center, known as the Kingdom, at the company's headquarters in Carlsbad, Calif., where they've received instruction from noted teacher Jim Flick.

"These guys are no different than the rest of us," says Perez. "One good shot and they're hooked. They forget about their disability and they're really enthusiastic about getting better. They're warriors, and that can-do, will-do attitude comes out."

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